

North Tonawanda City Schools



Capital Project News

NT Spirit May 2024

This comprehensive capital improvement project will be completed in two phases over the course of the next four years and will involve all District buildings. Voting in May 2024, the public will vote to approve a \$39.9 million referendum. Listed on pages 2-3 are a highlight of the major project scope items at each building. The main focus of the capital project is on Building Condition Survey items from the recently completed 2021 Building Condition Survey.

No Cost to Taxpayers

The proposed Capital Project uses NYS Building Aid. These State revenue sources are specifically earmarked for capital projects. The local share comes from the District's Capital Reserve Fund, which is a fund designated for Capital Projects. The use of this fund keeps the **local tax impact at 0%**. More funding information on pages 2-4.

Message from your

Board of Education President - Matthew Kennedy

As we welcome back spring, the Board of Education has been hard at work on our budget for the 2024-2025 school year. This has been the most challenging budget season that I can recall as the district faces proposed drastic funding cuts from the Governor. In the face of budgetary cuts, I am proud to say that NT continues to offer innovative and creative programming while staying under the tax cap once again.



Additionally, we have been strategic in right-sizing our operations to keep taxes lower for our community members, understanding the importance of financial stability for all. The district also implemented a capital improvement project at no cost to taxpayers. This project will enhance our schools and generate revenue from the state without impacting your tax bill.

The district remains committed to creating a stable learning atmosphere for our students. Safety is a top priority, and we have made significant upgrades to our buildings and invested in School Resource Officers to ensure the well-being of everyone in our schools. As we look ahead, I urge you to come out on May 21st to support your schools and exercise your right to vote. Your participation is vital as we continue to strive for excellence in education and community engagement.

Matthew Kennedy, President
North Tonawanda City Schools
Board of Education



Capital Improvement Project, 2024

Public Forum

Residents are invited to learn more about the project and ask questions at the community forum.

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.,
Fine Arts Center
405 Meadow Drive, N. Tonawanda, NY

Vote

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Fine Arts Center
405 Meadow Drive, N. Tonawanda, NY
Voter identification is required

Stay Informed

For more information on the project,
Visit our website: www.ntschoools.org

Like us on facebook:

[Facebook.com/NTCitySchools](https://www.facebook.com/NTCitySchools)

Follow us on Twitter: [@NTCitySchools](https://twitter.com/NTCitySchools)

North Tonawanda City Schools

Scope of Work

District Requested | \$9,701,250

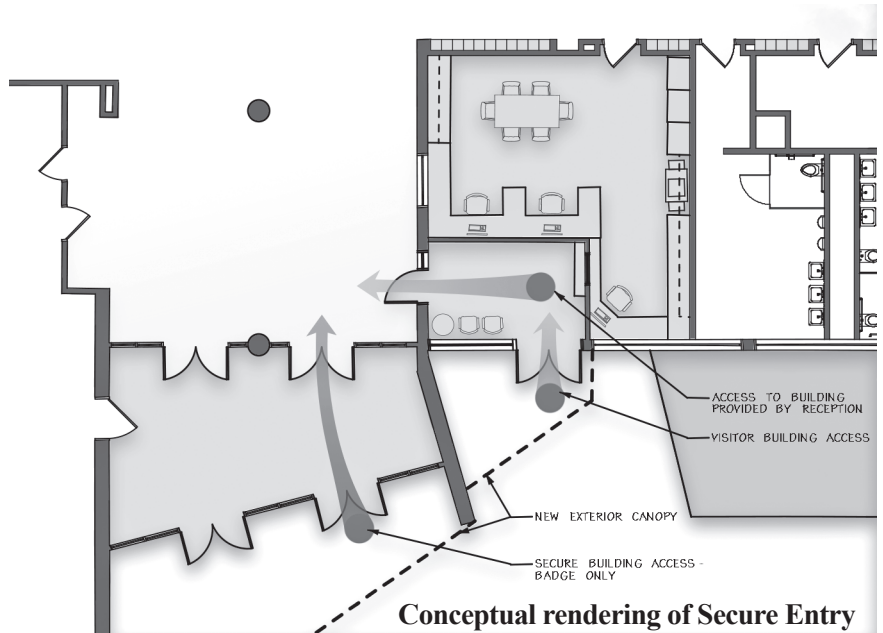
- HS Secure Entry renovation
- HS Main Entry renovations
- HS Nurse's Office renovation
- HS Art Room relocations / renovation
- HS FACS relocation / renovation
- HS Clean Tech Area renovations
- HS Wood Shop renovations
- HS Music Suite renovations
- HS Science Department relocation / renovation
- HS 3rd floor gang toilet rooms renovation
- NTI Pool upgrades
- NTI Front Office boiler piping

Middle/High School | \$3,539,613

- Provide grease exhaust fan/hood
- Provide exhaust fan for elevator room
- HS Cafeteria roof replacement
- Brick repointing/replacement
- Provide gas fired MAU unit - MS Café
- Replace split system ACCU on roof
- Replace dryer exhaust fan
- Replace upblast exhaust fan on roof
- Roof repairs and fall protection
- Replace aluminum windows/shades
- Flooring replacements - VCT
- Pool equipment replacements
- Provide new floor drains
- Replace domestic water service piping
- Replace translucent windows
- Replace roof duct insulation - Mammoth
- Replace storm drain pipes - Tremco
- Provide LED sign at road

Intermediate School | \$1,213,759

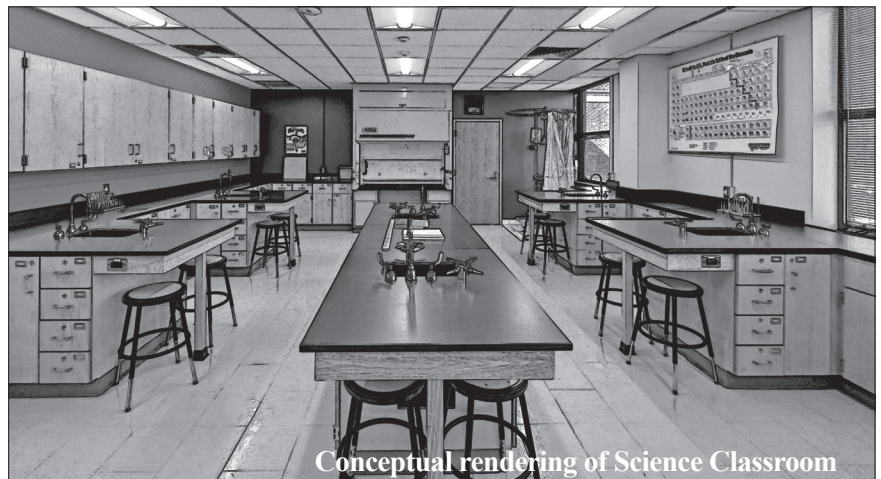
- Replace stage rigging/curtains
- Replace panelboards
- Replace stage lighting
- Replace theater sound system
- Brick repointing/replacement
- Replace shut off valves
- Add gas main connection to generator
- Folding gym partition replacement & bleachers
- Remove PTAC units in entirety
- Provide LED sign at road



Conceptual rendering of Secure Entry



Conceptual rendering of Art Room Renovation



Conceptual rendering of Science Classroom

North Tonawanda City Schools



Existing



Existing



Existing



Existing



Existing



Existing

Drake Elementary | \$2,999,632

- Exterior stair replacements
- Extend roof curb w/ roof
- Replace aluminum windows/shades
- Replace galvanized water piping
- Provide fiberglass insulation
- Roof replacement – fluid over EPDM
- Replace duplex sump pumps
- Sink replacements
- Sink and cabinet replacements
- Replace theater lights
- Replace panelboards
- Replace gas piping
- Concrete sidewalk replacements
- Locker Room Office renovations
- Provide LED sign at road

Ohio Elementary | \$278,750

- Sink and cabinet replacements
- Replace stage lighting
- Replace panelboards
- Provide LED sign at road

Spruce Elementary | \$4,207,500

- Brick repointing/replacement
- Auditorium renovations
- Replace aluminum windows/shades
- Gang toilet room renovations
- Theater lighting replacements
- Gym renovations
- Provide one new water heater
- Sink and cabinet replacements
- Sidewalk replacements
- Kitchen equipment renovation
- Replace panelboards
- Mop sink replacements
- Wall finish repairs from sweating brick at windows
- Cafeteria expansion into classroom
- Provide LED sign at road

Transportation Center | \$2,021,538

- Gutter replacement
- Office renovations
- Replace exterior metal insulated panels
- Roof replacement
- Door replacements
- Replace gravel with asphalt parking area
- Toilet room renovations
- Replace asphalt pavement
- Overhead door replacement
- Sink replacements
- Toilet replacements
- Urinal replacements

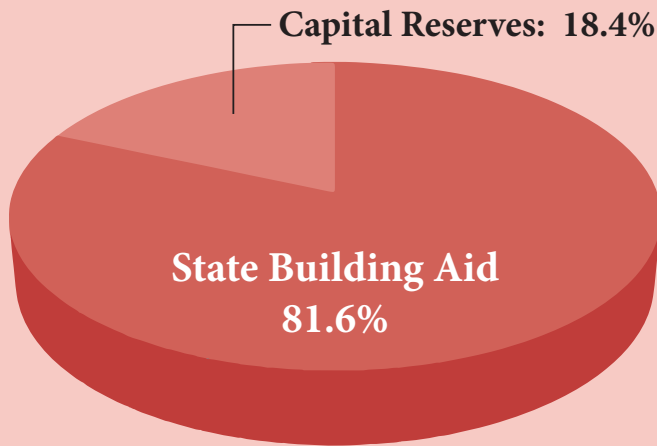
North Tonawanda City Schools

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2024

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2024 | \$39.9M BUDGET

North Tonawanda is eligible for 81.6% State Building Aid. This is a form of state aid a school district can receive specifically for Capital Improvement Projects. The District's Capital Reserve Fund will be used to cover the cost of the capital improvement project not funded by the State Building Aid.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



LOCAL PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

NO TAX IMPACT
\$39.9M BUDGET



NTCSD Shows Bishop Gibbons Residents Some Love

Drake Elementary second graders along with NTHS National Honor Society visited Bishop Gibbons in February to spread Valentine's cheer.

The National Honor Society and their advisor, Mrs. Stawisuck, collected more than 40 gift bags full of treats and goodies to distribute to the residents. The residents were all so grateful and appreciative!



Assemblyman Conrad Visits STEAM Classroom at Ohio Elementary



With an upcoming budget cut looming over North Tonawanda City School District, there are going to be hard decisions to make for Superintendent Greg Woytila. If the budget holds, the economic strains may force cuts on some of the great programs that students have enjoyed and excelled at.

Recently, Assemblyman Bill Conrad, paid a visit to Ohio Elementary where he observed students enjoying the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) classroom. The space dubbed “The Discovery Den” engages students and helps to prepare them for the workforce of the future. “We believe programs like this are vital to the overall success and development of our students. It helps them become better-rounded while focusing on creativity and innovation,” says Mr. Woytila.

Assemblyman Conrad says he plans on keeping education a priority and will work with the district and his colleagues to petition Governor Hochul in finding solutions that will help schools keep these necessary programs.



Mission

Empower students to reach their fullest potential by cultivating a community of lifelong learners who think critically about the world around them.

Vision

Students reach their academic and social emotional goals through an inclusive learning environment.

Our Values

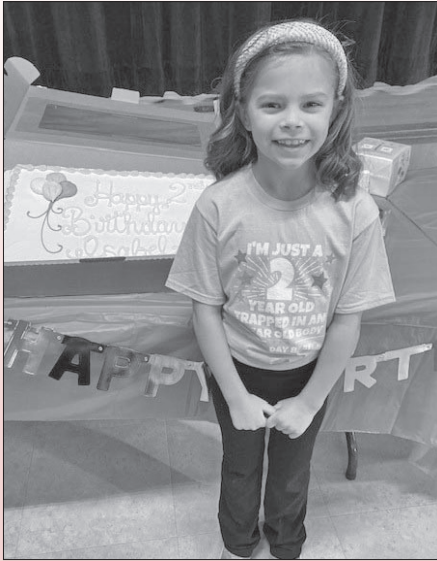
- Perseverance
- Confidence
- Community
- Empathy
- Knowledge
- Inclusion

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.



Drake Student Celebrates “2nd” Birthday



While being born during a leap year is a pretty cool and unique thing, it means your birthday only rolls around every four years.

Drake Elementary student, Isabel Witek, who was born February 29th had the honor of celebrating her “second” birthday with her classmates. The 8-year-old enjoyed studying about the leap year with her school friends and the entire building sang “Happy Birthday” to her over the announcements. The Friends of Drake parent group generously provided a sheet cake for the whole school to honor Isabel, which her parents served during the lunch period. Happy Birthday Isabel!



Middle School Students Explore Careers in Culinary

On Monday March 4th, teacher Madison Duchnik and the FACS for Life students (full year Family and Consumer Science class) went to the Middle School cafeteria kitchens to learn an array of skills as well as help prepare lunch for students the following day.

Through this experience students learned the importance of safety and sanitation, the use of certain heavy-duty equipment, the importance of correctly preserving food and most importantly the importance of teamwork/communication. This experience exposed our students to have a new appreciation for our food service workers. Thank you to our amazing kitchen staff for allowing this to happen.



Students Take in Show at Ghostlight Theatre

In March, the eighth-grade students visited the historic Ghostlight Theatre in North Tonawanda to see the show *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. This show is part of their new Winter Discovery Series.

Originally written by Celeste Raspunti, the show tells the story of the children of the Terezin concentration camp in Prague. Over 15,000 Jewish children passed through Terezin, and only about 100 were still alive at the end of the war. The show is based on the poetry and artwork that was created by the Jewish children in the camp and follows the story of a young girl struggling to both survive and cope in the Holocaust.

English teacher, Marissa Bloomfield, says, “At NTMS, our eighth graders are embarking on the Holocaust unit in both English class with *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and in Social Studies as they examine World War II and the surrounding world events. This was an excellent interdisciplinary opportunity for our middle schoolers to visit a hidden gem in North Tonawanda and watch history come alive on stage.”



Tri-District Student Leadership Conference Shines Spotlight on Hate Crimes

Niagara Wheatfield resident and Town of Niagara councilman, Johnny Parks, recently stood in front of student representatives from Niagara Falls, Niagara Wheatfield and North Tonawanda and their district administrative leaders. Mr. Parks was there to share with students the racial hate crime that was perpetrated against his family and his experience growing up.

On May 14, 2022 a mass shooting occurred at a Tops Friendly Market location in Buffalo, New York. Ten people were murdered and three injured that day in a racial motivated attack. The incident shook the nation and particularly the Western New York Region to its core. Two days later, on his way home from the local Tim Horton's, before heading into work, Mr. Parks spotted the violently racist graffiti on his fence. "It was horrible," said Mr. Parks. "I felt like I let my family down and could not protect them."

Living in a tight-knit community, he and his family could not imagine who would have vandalized his property. His children posted their story on social media, with 12.6 thousand views the story made the national news. Once the Niagara County Sheriffs and the FBI did their investigation, they gave the Parks family permission to clean up the fence. What happened next was truly heartwarming, the community, family, friends and neighbors came together to help support them. Niagara Wheatfield Superintendent, Daniel Ljiljanich, was one of the first people on scene and asked if there was anything the district could do to help. "My kids went to Niagara Wheatfield schools and I will never forget Mr. Ljiljanich walking up my driveway with refreshments and offering assistance. I was at a loss for words." Mr. Parks also received a call from the local Home Depot who offered to replace his fence for free. "I love Home Depot. I have to say not all heroes wear capes. In my case, they wore tool belts. They even delivered food. It was incredible."

Thanks to a security camera, law enforcement arrested one of Parks' neighbors who was sentenced to seven years in jail. Mr. Parks used money donated through GoFundMe to hold a Unity Day in a local park where there was food, drinks and a DJ. "We were so heartbroken and disgusted by what had happened and to have all that support made us feel loved. We wanted to bring everyone together to thank them for the support."

When Mr. Ljiljanich invited Mr. Parks to speak to the students, he gladly accepted. Mr. Parks not only spoke of the recent racist incident, but also of his life growing up as a person of color and the adversaries he and his family faced. "My mother was a single parent raising three children. We were on welfare, but she did an outstanding job raising us and living within our means. We were living hand to mouth, but she made sure every Sunday we had a good meal. We were lucky to have free lunches at school and many times I would trade doing homework for part of other students' lunches. We all worked for anything extra we wanted or needed so my mother wouldn't have to dip into her pocketbook. She made it clear that we were to keep away from the local drug dealers who drove around in their flashy cars and waved money around. That was not the life she wanted for us. She ran a very tight ship."

Mr. Parks attended LaSalle High School where he went out for the football, baseball and basketball teams. It was made clear that the color of his skin would keep him from advancing on the sports teams. When he told his school advisor what he was experiencing, he was told "That is how life goes, be prepared." He counts himself fortunate that his advisor helped him throughout his high school years, as well as the basketball coach who was a mentor to him, teaching him how to coach and motivate the players. It is a skill that has helped him be successful in life. "I have been giving back for 25 years by coaching modified football at Niagara Wheatfield (NWAA), coaching Little League and refereeing at the Special Olympics."

You could see the impact that visibly moved the students as Mr. Parks shared the stories of the challenges he faced throughout his life. After the presentation, students from the various high schools met in small groups to discuss what they had learned and ways to avoid this sort of negative behavior. Mr. Ljiljanich says he and the rest of the administrators hope that the presentation will reverberate for the rest of the students' lives. "Hatred and violence in any form threatens the values of our community and our schools. It is our job as educators to look out for the physical safety and mental well-being of all our students and to let everyone in our district know that it will not be tolerated. Our hope with Mr. Parks sharing his story is that it will help connect our students and give them a forum to reflect on their own experiences and learn from others. Through collaborative problem solving they can make their communities a better place."



Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday,
May 21st

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
405 Meadow Drive,
Fine Arts Center



Assistant Principal Guest Speaker at Restorative Circle

Ms. Johnston, an 8th grade RISE teacher, leads a weekly Restorative Circle at the Middle School. Recently, Middle School Vice Principal, Mr. Mueller, was a guest participant in this community circle discussion.

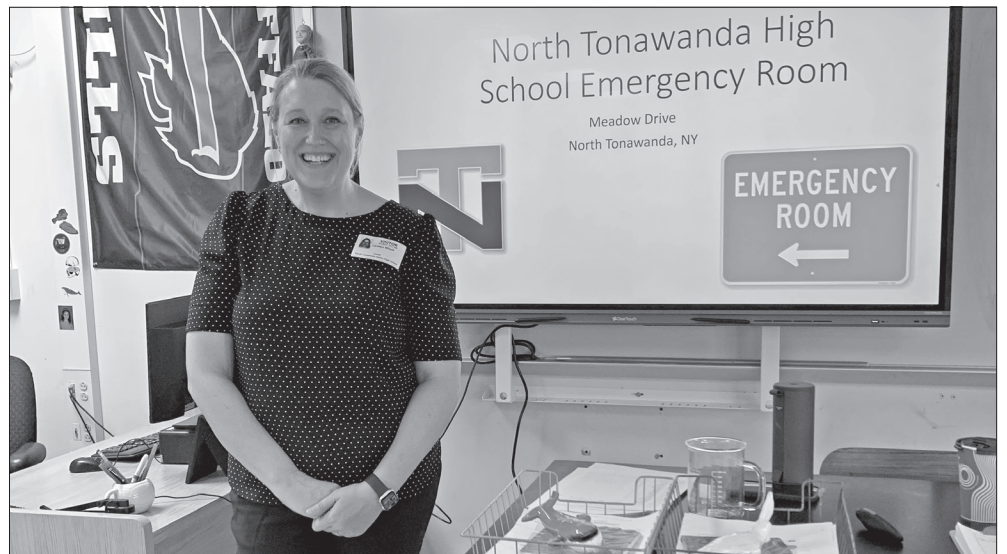
The topic was "Homework Help", where students had an opportunity to share their own tips, strategies, and distractions while doing school work from home. These restorative circles have helped build connections within the program and create an open forum for students to express their feelings and voice their opinions on a number of chosen topics.



ER Doctor Makes House Call

On behalf of the North Tonawanda High School Career Center, NT Alumni, Dr. Carolyn Wiech, gave an interactive presentation on what it is like to be an emergency room doctor.

Dr. Wiech graduated from North Tonawanda High School in 1999 and continued her education at the University of Buffalo and UB Medical School. She currently works at Buffalo General Hospital, Veteran's Hospital, and is an instructor at UB Medical School.



Affirmation Fridays at the Middle School

By: Emilie Pitts (7th Grade English Teacher/Team Aries)

Affirmations are positive statements that aim to boost self-esteem and spark positive change in oneself. As part of a secondary-level social-emotional learning practice, students use affirmations to uplift their self-confidence. These encouraging statements use I, me, or my, such as “I am capable of great things,” “My feelings and emotions matter,” and “There is no one better to be than myself.” With a self-esteem boost, our affirmations reflect the North Tonawanda School values: perseverance, confidence, community, and empathy. Students vocalize these statements together with the goal to overcome negative thoughts, embrace the good, and promote students to be the best they can be.

Every Friday at the beginning of ELA class, students spend 2-3 minutes sharing affirmations out loud. We do this in a variety of ways, including reading from the board, using “The Affirmations Song”, or making our own to share and repeat. With the “Affirmations Song,” students are able to get out of their seats and sing and dance along. After completing our practice, students are more focused, engaged, and ready to do their best on the next class activity or assignment. While it may seem like a minor practice, students look forward to these few minutes every Friday.

Some of these students have reflected and shared their thoughts on our affirmations practice. Destiny says “Affirmations help me get through the day because it starts my day off with positive statements—and positive is always better than being negative! I look forward to affirmations because I love to go home and share this with my family.” Carly says “Affirmations are interesting because Miss Pitts is the first teacher to do something like this on a weekly basis. It is a fun routine, and it gets us up and moving. By the end of the day I am tired and I appreciate the opportunity to be up and active while being positive!”



Would You Like Fries with That?

Spruce Elementary School staff and community members had an amazing time at MCTeacher Night at our local North Tonawanda McDonalds on Meadow Drive.

Teachers, support staff and administrators were working the registers, ice cream machines, grills, drive thru and selling cookies, all to benefit Spruce students and families. It was a fun-filled evening, for students and staff members to see each other outside of the school building.

A special thank you to those families who came to support our school, the SPTO and all the local McDonalds employees!



NT School District's Experiments Winners Ready for International Space Station Mission

A team of 11th grade students from the North Tonawanda City School District received some exciting news. On February 26th, North Tonawanda CSD alumni Aaron Mentkowski was on hand to announce and congratulate the winners and honorable mentions who made it to the final round.

Students Madeline DeVantier, Natalie Scheifla, Emma Clancy, Tavery Cater and Cailee Cinquino, along with their mentor and Biology teacher Melissa Elliott, were thrilled that their submission will be conducted on the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) Mission 18. They submitted a proposal titled "The Crystallization of the Spores of *Bacillus Thuringiensis* in a Microgravity Environment" and will be partnering with researchers at SUNY Buffalo for data analysis and lab use. The students will be working with Dr. Stephen Koury, and Dr. Sandra Small from the UB Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences through the National Institute of Health's Science Education Partnership Award Program (SEPA). Dr. Koury and Dr. Small will support the student group as they grow, pack and send their experiment to the ISS, and assist them in analyzing their results once the experiment returns to Earth.



11th Grade Team: (LtoR) Madeline DeVantier, Natalie Scheifla, Emma Clancy, Tavery Cater, Cailee Cinquino, Melissa Elliott, Dr. Sandra Small (UB Jacobs School of Medicine) and Aaron Mentkowski.

"We are so excited to be working with NASA," says Cailee Cinquino. "It is such a great opportunity for all of us and maybe we will be able to see a lift off into space." Ms. Elliott says the students are conducting trials right now on whether bacteria can make spores and crystals while in a microgravity environment. "This is important because on earth spores and crystals can grow. This is so exciting that the students are going to have this unique experience. We can't wait to see how our trial with the experiment goes."

Several teams from the district decided to participate in the (SSEP), which is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education in the United States and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education Internationally. SSEP is a pre-college STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education program that is both a U.S. national initiative and implemented as an on-orbit commercial space venture. SSEP is enabled through a strategic partnership with Nanoracks LLC, which is working with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory. The program originated in 2010 to address national strategic needs in workforce development for the 21st century designed to inspire the next generation of U.S. scientists and engineers.

The student teams were asked to address experiment design, choice of fluids/solids to be flown, requested special handling during transport of the experiment, number of days needed for experiment and analysis protocols. Participation in the esteemed program is a great example of the STEM education initiatives the district is known for. "We have a vision to create a continuum in the district where students are immersed in STEM education here," says Michael Tambroni, Director of Student Services. "Ultimately our goal is for kids to leave high school better for the experience they got in K-12. This SSEP mission is really the gravy on top of our commitment to a very comprehensive and robust science curriculum that we have been able to strategically build to give our students the tools to bring it to life and make it relevant in the teaching and learning that happens in all our classrooms."

Honorable mentions were the Middle School team of 7th graders: Zoe Link, Emma Turk and Natalie Lisinski, under the mentorship of Ms. Kelsey Gedra and Mrs. Janet DeCicco. Their submission pondered the question "Does compost decompose in microgravity?" "The Effect of Microgravity on

continued on page 11

the Development of Artemia Ssalina” is the experiment title submitted by the North Tonawanda Intermediate School’s team of 6th graders: Andrew O’Sullivan, Everett Zachritz, James White, Xavier Deschamps. Their mentors were Mrs. Jennifer Kendt and Ms. Chelsea Moore. Steve Sabo, STEM Pathways Coordinator at the Middle School and Joel May, STEM teacher at the High School spearheaded the initiative. “The kids were super excited that they were able to participate in this real-world procedure,” says May.

At the beginning of the school year all student teams and their teachers, who were interested, were given a demo mini lab to demonstrate the design, assembly and operation so they could design their flight experiment for the ISS crew. Joel May says the opportunity was presented to all students in 6th to 12th grade. “There were a lot of constraints. The experiments were designed specifically to see what effect microgravity effect would have on it. They had to make sure that there were no mixing of ingredients allowed, and no reactions would happen while it was on its way to the Space Station. It’s essentially flash freezing something in time. It was a difficult thing for the kids, they really had to work hard to design something that was just going to be impacted by the environment of the Space Station.”



Intermediate School Team 6th Graders: (LtoR) James White, Everett Zachritz, Andrew O’Sullivan , and Xavier Deschamps.

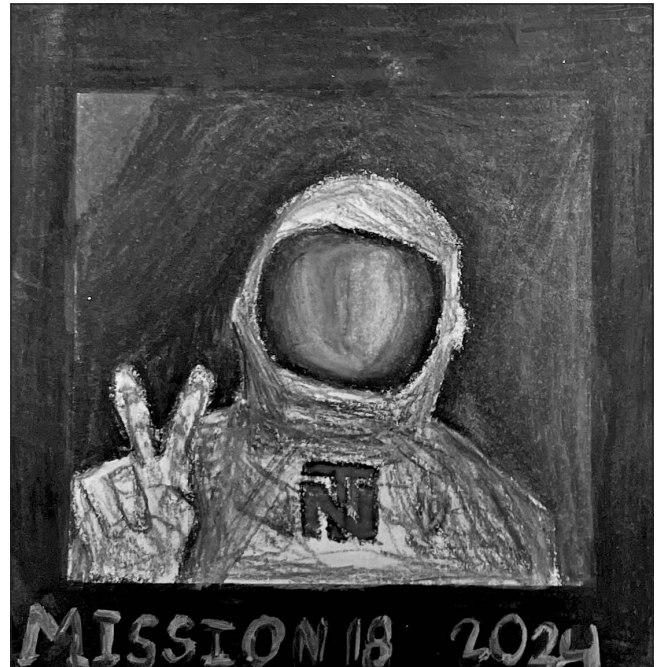
The teams submitted a five-page proposal for consideration by the National Center for Earth and Science Education (NCESSE). NCESSE creates and oversees national initiatives addressing STEM education. The objectives of the center’s programs are to help ensure a scientifically literate public and the next generation of US scientists and engineers – both of which are of national importance in an age of high technology.

A huge congratulations to Ariana Rose (10th grade) for her patch design that will be going into space as well. Thank you to all our talented artists who submitted designs. The 29 finalists were voted on by the community, students and our Fine Arts teachers. A shout out to our top five: 2nd place Carrie Haran, 3rd place Alice Miller, 4th place Lily Lapp and 5th place Chloe KB.

It’s great to see the North Tonawanda CSD students shooting for the stars! The mission is scheduled to fly sometime this summer/fall.



Middle School 7th Graders: (LtoR) Zoe Link, Natalie Lisinski and Emma Turk with Middle School Principal Dr. Josh Janese.



Ariana Rose’s patch design.

PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$83,510,000 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources provided by law.

☐ Yes ☐ No

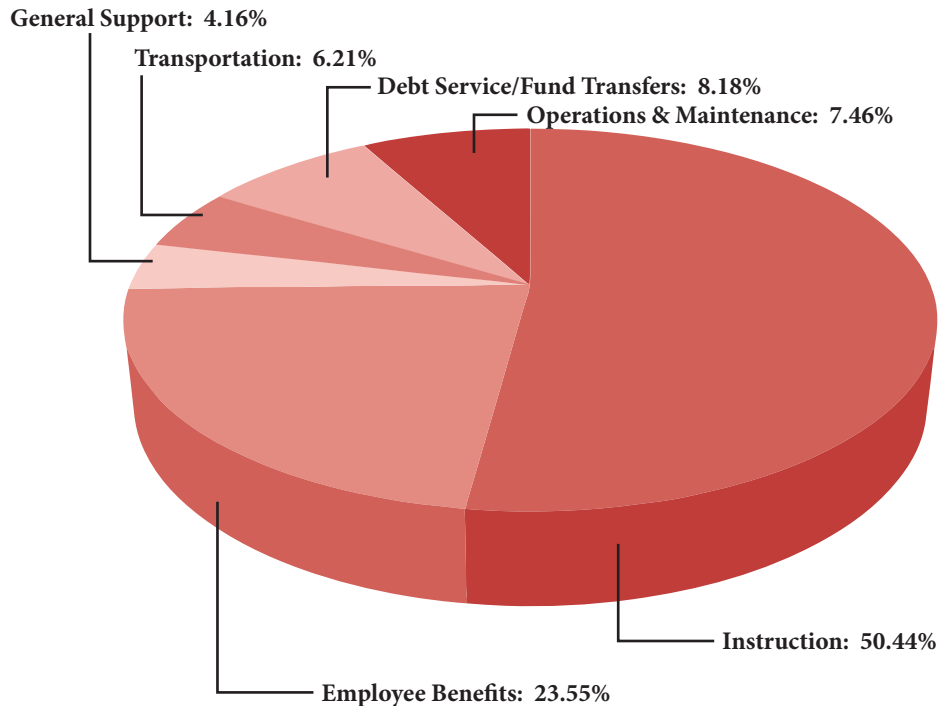
PROPOSITION #2 VOTE ON CAPITAL PROJECT

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (the "Board") of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized (1) to undertake (subject to the approval of the voters of the District) a Capital Improvements Project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various district buildings and facilities and the sites thereof (collectively the "Project") at an estimated maximum cost of \$39,900,000; (2) to expend or apply toward the project \$6,000,000 from the District's Capital Improvements Reserve Fund, 2021; and (3) to issue serial bonds of the district in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$33,900,000 to finance the balance of the cost of the project, and delegating the power to issue bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of such obligations to the President of the Board of Education of the District.

Transportation Capital Expenditure

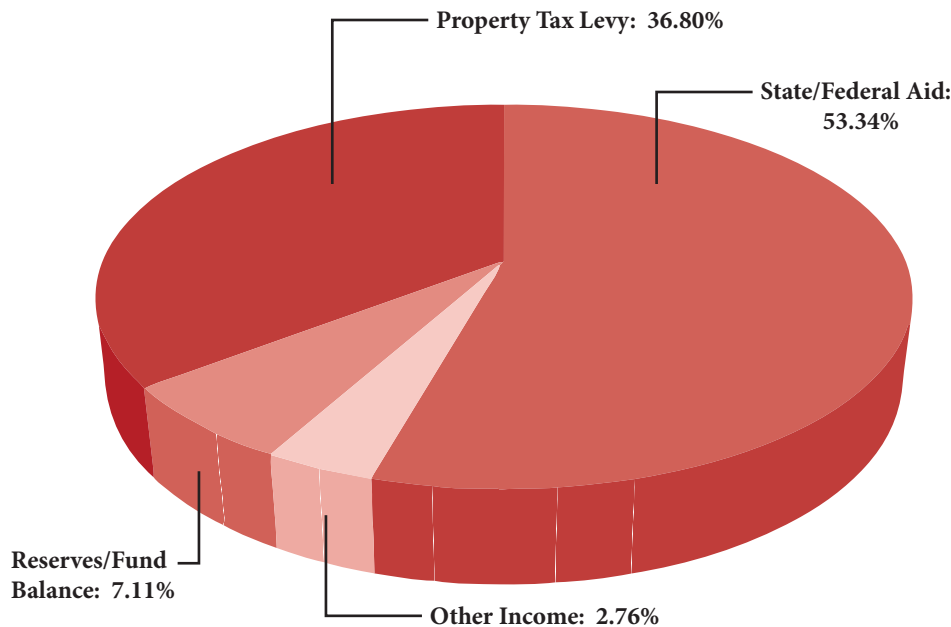
In the 2024-2025 budget year, the district is proposing to purchase four type "C", 65-passenger big buses for the purpose of transporting students as part of home to school and extra-curricular services. These vehicles will be replacing vehicles that will be retired from the current district fleet that are aging out. These purchases will be made on the basis of state contract and current market prices which may limit the number of vehicles that are actually able to be purchased via this budget line.

EXPENDITURES



	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent Change from 2023-24
Instruction	\$44,495,123	\$42,119,349	-5.34%
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	\$19,150,000	\$19,664,479	2.69%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, social security and worker's compensation.			
General Support	\$3,380,446	\$3,476,538	2.84%
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	\$4,233,597	\$5,188,478	22.55%
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	\$6,829,000	\$6,828,079	-0.01%
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.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$7,031,834	\$6,233,077	-11.36%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$85,120,000	\$83,510,000	-1.89%

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2023-2024	2024-2025	Change from 2023-24
State/Federal Aid	\$46,291,000	\$44,540,294	(\$1,750,706)

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2024-2025 school year, it is projected to be 53.34 % of all revenue. Last year it was 54.38 %. Year over year and budget to budget this area of revenue has stayed relatively consistent. State and Federal Aid for 2024-2025 is anticipated to decrease due to a large cut in the District's Foundation Aid allocation which comes from New York State.

Other Income	\$3,152,000	\$2,305,431	(\$846,569)
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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	\$5,550,000	\$5,934,275	\$384,275
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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	\$30,127,000	\$30,730,000	\$603,000
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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 2024-2025 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$603,000 which represents a 2.00% increase over the previous year. The District will be using \$1,184,275 in reserves to offset the loss of tax revenue to support the budget as a temporary measure to provide relief to taxpayers. The actual tax rate for each individual household is calculated using the district's total assessed property values which have not been finalized as of yet. The tax rate is projected to be \$23.58 per thousand dollars of assessed property value, a \$0.46 increase over 2023-2024. A house that has an assessed value of \$100,000 is projected to pay approximately \$46 more in 2024-2025.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$85,120,000	\$83,510,000	(\$1,610,000)
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\$100,000 Capital Outlay and Capital Improvement Projects

What is the capital outlay project that is included in the 2024-2025 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. Using capital outlay projects, the district pays for approximately 18% of the costs; the state will provide aid for approximately 82% of the project costs. This allows the district to complete capital project work in our buildings with small local share impact to our taxpayers. In the 2024-2025 budget year the district is proposing to use these funds for a construction/reconstruction project to address improvements to the North Tonawanda Middle/High School campus which would include, but not limited to, door and hardware replacement.

Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education anticipated 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 (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 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$85,120,000.00	\$83,510,000.00	\$82,864,500.00
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		(1,610,000.00)	(2,255,500.00)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-1.89%	-2.65%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$30,127,000.00	\$30,730,000.00	
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)	\$30,127,000.00	\$30,730,000.00	\$30,127,000.00
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$607,172.00	\$618,342.00	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$29,870,359.00	\$30,334,154.00	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$29,519,828.00	\$30,111,658.00	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$350,531.00	\$222,496.00	
Administrative Component	\$7,611,811.55	\$7,439,008.99	\$7,439,008.99
Program Component	\$61,514,246.84	\$60,781,373.57	\$60,585,873.57
Capital Component	\$15,993,941.61	\$15,289,617.44	\$14,839,617.44

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$645,500.00 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 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$401

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held at the Fine Arts Center in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 11:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the North Tonawanda City School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 21, 2024
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. • 405 Meadow Drive - Fine Arts Center

Sensational Swimmers



(LtoR) Joel Fesmire, Brendon Clause, Lucas Thompson, Joshua Keenan, Zachary Hanna, Max Lesmeister, Artem Denisenko, Graeme Ashby and Harrison Roberts.

For the first time in many years, every single swimmer on the NT Boys Lumberjack Team competed in the Class B Preliminaries in Olean, New York on February 8, 2024.

Amazing swims and incredible sectional times were achieved! Congrats Jacks!

Unified Bowling Team Takes Third Place!

Congratulations to our Unified Bowling Team! They took 3rd Place under the coaching of Scott Gauld and Meghan Ingram. Great job Jacks!



Sports News

PAL Awards

Thomas Polek and Taylor Sciandra were recognized at the PAL Awards Banquet as Male and Female Athlete of the year nominees for North Tonawanda. So proud of these two scholar-athletes!



Congratulations to our bowlers this past weekend at the State Tournament!

Charles Cain competed on the Section VI boys' All-Star team where they came in 3rd place!

The NT Girls team also placed 3rd in the State Championship with the total pin count of 5492! Bridget Cake earned the Sportsmanship Award for Section VI, and she also placed 3rd high game of the day, bowling a 243.





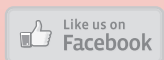
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Disaster Drill

On Tuesday, February 13th, the North Tonawanda High School Career Center hosted Master Sergeant Winters from the US Air Force and Master Sergeant Gayle from the US Army National Guard from the NYS Citizen Preparedness Corps who presented on Natural Disasters and Relief. The Citizen Preparedness Corps gives residents the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster or emergency to be able to respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

Thank you to Master Sergeant Winters and Master Sergeant Gayle.

