



Tonawanda

City School District

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

It is with great pride and celebration that our school district has unveiled and opened our new school, the Tonawanda Elementary School, this year. This monumental capital project was supported by our community and delivered on time and on budget by the district.

Students, staff, parents and community members toured the new school in August, prior to our opening for student attendance at the start of the school year. We have celebrated our first opening day, experienced the new playground, produced video broadcast and student-hosted morning announcements each day, enhanced our security protocols, celebrated holidays and other traditional student activities and made new friendships with students and staff from both Mullen and Riverview Schools coming together.

The second year of the debt service payment for the TONA2020: Elementary School Consolidation Capital Project is due later this year. This increase in school taxes will appear as part of the “tax cap” calculation and will be included in the annual school tax bills to taxpayers due in the fall of 2024.

Additionally, in an effort to remain fiscally responsible, the district has sold Mullen Elementary School and will apply these proceeds to the debt service owed by the district from capital work as it comes due.

Riverview Elementary School is under contract to be sold to a developer of market-rate homes and apartments. The sale process has many steps and will require a public vote prior to any agreement being finalized. The district will continue to keep the community updated with information when it becomes available and appropriate to share. Our website continues to be a great resource to find current information on district matters, including this potential sale. It is most appropriate and responsible for the district to take action by having sold Mullen School, and now a potential sale of Riverview School, in a timely manner and for a price beneficial to the district and taxpayers to mitigate any further expenses, liabilities

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Register Now!

Registration is now open for Tonawanda CSD’s Kindergarten and Universal Pre-Kindergarten program.

These programs are offered at a variety of locations. Tonawanda Elementary School holds two sessions each day, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

There are also morning sessions at St. Francis of Assisi School 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. and Child’s Creative Development Center 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

To register for either Kindergarten or UPK, visit our website at tonawandacsd.org/page/registration or scan the QR code.

Notification of admission happens in April.



New Mascot Reveal

Read more about the new mascot and the selection process on our website, tonawandacsd.org/district-namelogo-change.





Superintendent's Message

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and maintenance associated with the continued ownership of these buildings now that our educational programs and usage has concluded.

We are proud to provide a rich, rigorous and comprehensive educational program to meet the diverse needs of all of our students every day. We continue to deliver a comprehensive program that encourages students to achieve their potential in academics, fine arts, athletics, civic responsibility, leadership development, social-emotional learning and community service. Together we are working to support every child as they learn, grow and develop into Tonawanda graduates who are leaders and citizens in our community, nation and world.

I am very proud of our entire faculty and staff for their daily efforts and commitment to our students. The dedicated efforts and commitment to education that each of our employees provide each day is commendable. I am grateful to serve the wonderful students, families and community members of the City of Tonawanda. The level of care and compassion afforded each student by our staff members is the most important aspect of how we do business every day.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership and pride in our school district. I am honored and proud to serve as Superintendent of Schools for our district. Please consider contacting me at toldenburg@tonacsd.org or 716-694-7784 should you have any concerns or information you would like to share. Go Warriors!

Kind regards,

Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Christmas for Kids

It was another successful year for our annual Christmas for Kids event! This year, the event provided gifts to 121 children in the district.

As in years past, the National Honor Society handled the planning and running of the event. Those in attendance enjoyed cookie decorating, crafts, games and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each child also got a Christmas hat courtesy of the Tonawanda Youth Bureau.

Giving back to the community is an important part of the tradition and values in Tonawanda, and it is important for students and families to know that. TCSD is proud of how the students represent the school and district!



Best Buddies Gather for Holiday Party

Tonawanda Middle and High School are proud to work with Best Buddies International, a program that builds one-to-one friendships and meaningful connections between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs).

At Tonawanda MS/HS, we held our first Best Buddies event with a holiday craft, cookie and movie party. It was a huge success! Buddies were matched with a partner and spent two hours completing a variety of activities and getting to know each other. This was one of four big events that will be held this school year. Smaller gatherings will be held once a month for the buddies to continue fostering a friendship.



If you think your child may be interested in Best Buddies, please have them see Ms. Planz in Room 34 or join the Best Buddies Google Classroom with the code `zlp2dg7`.

Fall Bash

In the fall, district families got to taste foods from around the world at the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee's second International Food Night and first DEI Fall Bash.

This event included dishes from around the world supplied by the kindness of our Tonawanda staff, school board and school community. Additionally, the event welcomed parents and families to activities like Loteria (Mexican Bingo), Gaga Ball, fall family crafts, face painting, pumpkin bowling, fall photo booth and a trail mix stop.

Thank you to all of the students, staff and participants who helped make this event a success.





Congratulations to our Newest Inductees!

A total of 42 students were inducted into the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society, programs that focus on empowering students with the skills to become leaders in school and the community.



2023-2024 National Honor Society Inductees



2023-2024 National Junior Honor Society Inductees



Students in Ms. Fendrick's class enjoy some holiday fun and games before winter break.



Students enjoyed Thanksgiving treats in Ms. Planz's class.



Farm to School Newsletter Sign-Up

Learn more about how we are integrating hydroponics education into the school day.

To sign up for the newsletter, email rsmith@tonacsd.org.

Tonawanda High School



Career Fair Featuring THS Alumni

In November, the High School Business Department hosted over 30 alumni from various career fields to present to the current students in grades 9-12. Each team had a table set up in the Miller Gym with various “tools of their trade” to show students.

Students came prepared with questions for their top three career choices and interacted with as many alumni as possible. They learned about various programs in the trades, health, real estate, financial planning, environmental, photography and more.

Thank you to the following alumni who participated:

Joseph F. Winter.....	Class of 1984
Jeffrey Hardy.....	Class of 1985
Chuck Gilbert.....	Class of 1988
Ronald Schoelerman, LCSW-R, CCTP-II, CSAM-CA..	Class of 1988
Samantha Muscato.....	Class of 1999
Amanda (Benns) Shepler.....	Class of 1999
Cyndi (Ortiz) Magyar, BS, RN.....	Class of 2001
Brandon McGuire.....	Class of 2002
Kathleen Weir.....	Class of 2002
Brad Fremont.....	Class of 2003
Travis Kley.....	Class of 2004
Jessica (Smith) Popovich.....	Class of 2004
Brittany (Dahlin) Williams.....	Class of 2004
Alyssa (Russell) Brown.....	Class of 2006
Elizabeth (Sharts) House.....	Class of 2006
Chef Stephanie Balk.....	Class of 2007
Ashley (Anderson) Keagle.....	Class of 2007
Andrea Calabrese.....	Class of 2008
Cameron Fremont.....	Class of 2010
Joe Massaro.....	Class of 2010
Christopher Miller.....	Class of 2010
Casey Morris.....	Class of 2010
Autumn (Ormerod) Steinkirchner.....	Class of 2010
Katie Sleaf (Stuart).....	Class of 2011
Josh Vaccaro.....	Class of 2011
Steven Warthling.....	Class of 2013
Meghan Bozeman.....	Class of 2015
Adriana (Clifton) Clewell.....	Class of 2015
Arielle Beutler.....	Class of 2016
Haley Schoelerman, PT, DPT.....	Class of 2017
Kali Beutler.....	Class of 2018
Nick Archibald, Veteran's Diploma.....	Class of 2024



Attendance Matters

Attendance is essential for students to be successful. Each month, THS has been recognizing those students who had perfect attendance.

These students receive a certificate, a special treat and a fun tag to celebrate their accomplishment. September had 62 students with perfect attendance, October had 45 students and November had 59. At the conclusion of our second quarter, THS will recognize those students who have been in attendance at least 90 percent of the time.



Future Business Leaders of America students traveled to Providence, RI in November for a National Leadership Conference, where they attended several workshops on career and college topics.



The auditorium came alive for the high school winter concert with performances by the Mixed Chorus, Concert Chorale, Jazz Band and Concert Band.

Fall Play: Bram Stoker's Dracula

The Tonawanda High School Drama Club performed Bram Stoker's Dracula for their fall play.



Tonawanda Middle School



Middle Schoolers Make Owl Pillows

Sixth-grade students in Mrs. Marrazzo's Home & Careers class learned time management, problem solving and the ins and outs of a sewing machine in their creation of owl pillows. After creating their own owl pattern, students then learned the parts of a sewing machine and how to operate it as they put their pillow together. In addition, they used hand sewing skills to add buttons for owl eyes and finish the pillow with a closing stitch.



MS Honor Roll: Marking Period 1

On November 28, 179 students in grades 6-8 were recognized for making honor roll for the first marking period of the 2023-2024 school year. It was a well-attended event and so wonderful to be able to recognize these hard-working and high-achieving students. A special thanks to the PTSA for providing the food and beverages, and to Mrs. Korff and the Middle School NJHS officers for presenting the students' names. We look forward to all of these students and more making it on the honor roll for marking period 2.



It was a full house as the choral and instrumental students performed at the Middle School's annual winter concert.



The 9th-grade students in Mrs. Marrazzo's Home & Careers class studied the origin of the gingerbread house as they designed, planned and decorated their creations with their kitchen teams.



Tonawanda Elementary School

Holiday Fun Around Tonawanda Elementary School

It was all about the holiday spirit at Tonawanda Elementary School. Students showed their spirit by participating in the school's Holiday Spirit Days. They also sang the holiday tunes of "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and other classic holiday songs during the parent holiday craft and sing-along event. The event was a huge success and had a tremendous turnout. Many thanks to everyone who supported our school event!



The fun continued with a surprise Holiday Concert by local musician Glen Colton. Students sang and danced to the songs of the holiday season and did the Holiday

Shuffle. There was even a special visit from the North Pole!

The holiday fun did not stop there for Tonawanda Elementary students, as they

were able to enjoy the sounds of the High School Chorus as they caroled around the hallways. Tonawanda Elementary is surely looking forward to the continued fun in the New Year!



Storm, our TES therapy dog, plays an important role supporting the social and emotional needs of our students.

Students Visit with Professional Artist

First-grade artists had the wonderful opportunity to speak to a professional, working artist. Students learned about Reggie

Laurent by going on a “shape hunt” in his many artworks, full of

geometric and organic shapes, color and joy. Mr. Laurent considers himself a multidisciplinary abstract artist, painting his bright shapes on everything from large canvases to wooden bowls, rolling pins and even golf balls. During the video conference, Mr. Laurent showed the students his workspace, and many of his current projects, and spoke to them about the importance of individuality and hard work to find your style and pursue it. The students also had the chance to ask him questions about his artistic processes and preferences. Each student produced their own paper collage artwork emulating the style of Mr. Laurent.



A Brand-New Elementary School

The inaugural class is enjoying its new state-of-the-art Tonawanda Elementary School.

With modern STEAM classrooms, a climbing wall, new playground, library/media center and a scale replica of the Erie Canal running through the first floor hallways, the well-thought-out design assists in the learning process, from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade all under one roof.

Here is some of the feedback we are hearing:



“

The rock-climbing wall is an amazing addition to the wonderful physical education curriculum provided at Tonawanda Elementary School.

”

– TES Physical Education Department



“

This vision took a team to design, a team to build, but it took a community to make Tonawanda Elementary School what it is today.

”

– John A Wille Sr., Director of Facilities



“

To our families, students love coming to the STEAM lab. I often hear, ‘I wish we could come here every day.’

”

– Kimberly Honeck, STEAM teacher



“

The rock wall is amazing! This school is beautiful. We can do so much here.

”

– Gunnar del Prince, student

“

The school is decorated beautifully at all times. We feel so good coming into school!

”

– Addilynn Voisent, student

Tonawanda Athletics



Congratulations to our Student Athletes for Excellence in their Sport

Boys Varsity Soccer

Derek Leiker: 2nd Team All ECIC, Midfielder
Vincent Nkurunziza: 1st Team All ECIC, Defender
Justin Vishion: 2nd Team All ECIC, Goalkeeper

Cross Country

Emily Browning: 2nd Team All ECIC
Aubrey Sevanski: 2nd Team All ECIC

Girls Golf

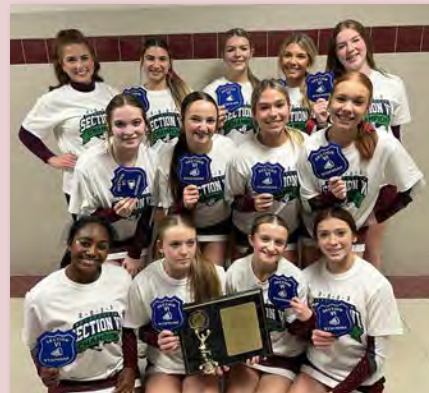
Aubrey Lindner: ECIC Qualifier, Qualified for Sectional Championship in May.
Sophia Opalinski: ECIC Qualifier

Girls Varsity Soccer

Alexis Oddo: 1st Team All ECIC, Goalie
Olivia Scott: 2nd Team All ECIC, Defense
Lauren Kisloski: 2nd Team All ECIC, Defense

Girls Swimming

Jordana Harszlak: ECIC Qualifier
Brianna Price: ECIC Qualifier
Madison Rodenhaus: ECIC Qualifier
Kaylee Klimkiewicz: ECIC Qualifier
Renee Tasevski: ECIC Qualifier
Hannah Clemo Sperrazza: ECIC Qualifier
Alexis Barger: ECIC Qualifier



Section VI Game Day Champions

The Game Day Cheer Team came out on top at sectionals this year. They placed first as the Section VI Class C Game Day Champions. They went on to states in Binghamton, where they placed eighth overall.

Watch Live and Recorded Sporting Events on Hudl

Can't make it to the game? Watch online! We've joined with Hudl to now record and stream our sporting events. To find them, simply visit our website, tonawandacsd.org, click on "ATHLETICS" in our menu bar, then click "Live Stream and Recorded Games." There you'll be able to watch livestreams and recorded matchups.

FinalForms

We are very excited to announce that, starting in time for spring sports, the Tonawanda Athletic Department has partnered with FinalForms, an online forms and data management service. FinalForms allows you to complete and sign athletic participation forms for your students. No more paper packets! *We are asking ALL parents of athletes use FinalForms.*



Fun was had by the entire community at T-NT Week!

Tonawanda City School District
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Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education:

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Mr. Jeff Thorp, *Trustee*

RESIDENT

Rise and Shine Staff Spotlight

Every day, our staff goes above and beyond to help students grow academically, socially and emotionally. Our Rise and Shine Staff Spotlight is one of many recognition programs that have been implemented this school year. This monthly recognition program at the middle school and high school highlights those staff members who go the extra mile to make a difference in our school community.



Michael Gregory, Custodian



*Laura Opalinski, THS ENL
Teacher*



*Robin D'Amato, THS Business
Teacher*



Tammy Charrois, TMS Secretary



*Carla Marrazzo, TMS Family
and Consumer Science Teacher*



*Roberta Normandin,
THS Math Teacher*



*Gillian Barberich, THS TAP
School Counselor*



*Nicole Behrens, THS Math
Teacher*



*Cheryl Zehler, TMS 6th Grade
Special Education Teacher*



*Linda Aceti, TMS Teacher
Assistant*