

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

JULY 2024

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

North Syracuse  
Central School District

## Celebrating the Cicero-North Syracuse High School Class of 2024!



Each year, students in the CNS graduating class go back to the elementary schools where they began their educational careers in the NSCSD. Pictured here is the group of students who visited KWS Bear Road Elementary School on June 6.



On Friday, June 21, 614 students in the Cicero-North Syracuse High School (CNS) Class of 2024 crossed the stage at the New York State Fairgrounds Expo Center. This graduating class is the largest in Onondaga County. We're incredibly proud of our students. Congratulations CNS Class of 2024!

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[www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org)



## DISTRICT INFORMATION

### Board of Education

Robert Crabtree  
 Paul Farfaglia  
 Matthew Hermann  
 Beth Kramer  
 Joshua Ludden  
 Michael A. Mirizio  
 Xavier Moody-Wusik  
 Amanda Sugrue  
 Mark Thorne  
 Azariyah Fernandez, *Student Ex-Officio*  
 Jilian Herrera, *District Clerk*

### Administration

*Superintendent of Schools,*  
 Daniel D. Bowles  
*Associate Superintendent for Teaching & Learning,*  
 Christopher R. Leahey, Ed. D.  
*Associate Superintendent for Business Services,*  
 Donald F.X. Keegan

### 2024 Board of Education Meetings

July 8 & 22  
 August 5 & 19  
 September 9 & 23  
 October 7 & 21  
 November 4 & 18  
 December 2 & 16

### Newsletter Information

The District Dispatch is published by the NSCSD to inform residents about issues, events and achievements. Suggestions are welcome and should be directed to:

Laurie Cook, School Information Officer  
 Phone: 315-218-2190  
 Email: lcook@nscsd.org



## Message from the Superintendent

This newsletter celebrates the Cicero-North Syracuse High School Class of 2024 as they begin the journey into the next stage of their lives. Graduation is an incredibly monumental occasion and this year's ceremony holds special significance for me as I also begin a new journey into retirement.



I began my role as Superintendent of Schools for the North Syracuse Central School District on July 1, 2019 and the past five years have been some of the best of my life. They have also been some of the most challenging as we worked together to navigate a global pandemic and the lasting repercussions we never could have anticipated. Despite the challenges, we came together as a district and community and created a Strategic Plan, "Brighter Together," that I truly believe moves the school community forward.

The North Syracuse Central School District has been my home and you all have been my family for nearly three decades and the decision to end my career here is not one I've made lightly. Not only have I seen our students grow from kindergarteners to graduating seniors, I now have had the opportunity to see some of the same young people I helped educate step into new roles as teachers. Life truly comes full circle.

I will work through the summer and our Board of Education will be meeting to discuss the steps toward filling the position of Superintendent of Schools. I am confident that the Board will appoint the right successor for the district and the community.

I can't thank you all enough for being a part of my journey. I am proud of this district and the work we have done together. I know there is still much to be done but I believe we are in a better place than we were five years ago. I have faith that the North Syracuse Central School District will continue to shine brightly with all of you. Always remember that you are the light that makes the Northstar so incredible.

With warm regards and best wishes,

**Daniel D. Bowles, NSCSD Superintendent of Schools**

More details about the Superintendent Search can be found on page 7.

## PARENT NOTIFICATION

### REGARDING STUDENT WORK AND PHOTOS

During the school year, your child may have the opportunity to have their photo taken, video image and voice recorded and/or art and written work published in connection with a school district activity or program. Your child's photo (image), school work and/or name may be published in local newspapers, posted (displayed) on the district's internet site or used by the requesting organization (local TV or print media) for programming, i.e., backup and their news stories. If you DO NOT want your child's picture, name or schoolwork to be used in newspaper articles, video and/or district publications including our district's website, please inform your school principal in writing.





# Building Planning Teams: Helping Students Succeed

Throughout the school year, we have been highlighting the work our schools' Building Planning Teams (BPTs) are doing to ensure their goals are aligned with the district's Strategic Plan, "Brighter Together." This issue will feature our final five schools and the strides they've made to ensure all students become proficient readers.

## BPT GOALS:

**1 INCREASE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES**

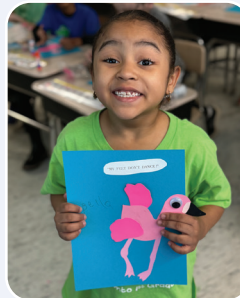
**2 ENSURE ALL STUDENTS BECOME PROFICIENT READERS**

**3 HELP STUDENTS BECOME EMOTIONALLY COMPETENT**



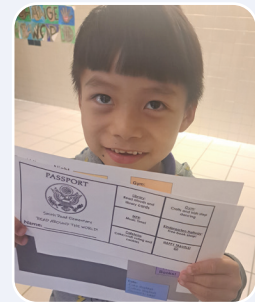
### Allen Road Elementary School

In March, first-grade teacher Mrs. Corwin invited one of her former teachers, Patti Bonesteel, to her classroom. Patti read her newly published book, "The Flamingo With Two Left Feet," to kindergarten and first-grade classes. The group also completed craft projects to finish out their time together.



### Smith Road Elementary

Family Literacy Night took families around the world in celebration of reading and different cultures. There were crafts, African drummer performances, Irish step dancing, multicultural readings, a free book shop, library cards, and a cake/craft decorating contest!



### Lakeshore Road Elementary School

NSCSD Data Coordinator Donna Marie Norton has worked with Lakeshore Road Elementary School third and fourth grade teachers throughout the year for an in-depth look at our performance on New York state reading tests. Teachers also created customized reading and math goals for students sharing benchmarks and strategies throughout the year.



### Cicero Elementary School

Educators have taken advantage of numerous opportunities to promote literacy and share the love of reading among students. In May, NSCSD Board of Education Member Robert Crabtree, spent time reading to all six of the school's kindergarten classes. He read "Share Some Kindness, Bring Some Light" by Apryl Scott.



### North Syracuse Early Education Program



Teacher Ellen Marvar uses Core Knowledge Language Arts or CKLA to help students develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. It also builds students' knowledge and vocabulary in literature, history, geography, and science. Students have created art and play schemes, and acted out stories and nursery rhymes to encourage reading readiness.



# Cicero-North Syracuse High School Class of 2024



Kamdin Bemby



Julissa Blakes



Aiden Bland



Connor Boyle



Madison Brefka



Ella Cassel



Aidan Chabot



Jacob Chiem



Arabella Cusumano



Andrew Davis



Kaylee Eck



Ryan Fehrman



Hannah Forsyth



Nicole Fratianni



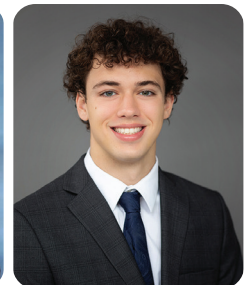
Corynn Frysinger



Kevin Gonci



Nadia Greco



Caden Griffin



Rylan Hall



Madelynn Hilt



Amanda Johnson



Cooper Judge



Joseph Kawola Jr



Landon Kozdemba



Hunter Lawless



Yujin Lee



Shannon Loughlin



Joshua Luce



JoAnna Manning



Andrew Matyasik





# s of 2024 Senior Scholars - Top Ten Percent



Meghan McGrath



Natalie Miles



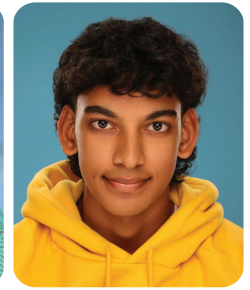
Mason Mingle



Lily Misco



Helaina Morgan



Suryansh Mulukuri



Ashton Murdock



Gavin Nichols



Gabriella Pauline



Ngoc Pham



Mackenzie Prentice



Zachary Purcell



Emilee Rio



Braden Santaguida



Joseph Seidman



Alexa Snyder



Haley Swenton



Patti Taylor



Aria VanDreason



Maria Vastakis



Brenna Villnave



Haneefa Wahab



Liam Waterman



Keira Weber



Allison Wicks



Thomas Wills II



Duncan Yates



Helen Zhang



## Students earn CTE Endorsements, industry-recognized mark of achievement, on high school diplomas



Emilee Rio is a CNS/OCM BOCES student graduating in 2024 and one of the 109 students eligible for a CTE Endorsement on her diploma. Emilee was recently named “Student of the Year” for OCM BOCES Syracuse-area programs for excellence in the New Vision Medical Professions program. Emilee is pictured at the June 11 ceremony with Principal Phil Grome.

More than 100 students from the North Syracuse Central School District have earned prestigious New York State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Endorsements on their 2024 high school diplomas. This achievement is an industry-recognized mark of achievement in their given fields.

The endorsement sets students apart as they enter the next phase of their academic and professional journeys showing they have completed rigorous coursework and demonstrated proficiency in their chosen career and technical fields. It also designates that they possess the practical skills and knowledge highly valued in today’s competitive job market.

CTE endorsements can be earned in a variety of fields from automotive technology to healthcare and information technology. Congratulations to the following students from the North Syracuse Central School District who earned CTE Endorsements through OCM BOCES or at CNS:

- Gabriella Ancona (21st Century Skills)
- Jada Arellano (Culinary Arts)
- Jonathan Artz (Marketing & Finance)
- Braedyn Baitsell (Automotive Technology)
- Grace Bergman (Marketing)
- Tristan Beyrau (Culinary Arts)
- Gurleen Bhatti (Fashion Design & Merchandising)
- Adam Bonnier (Marketing)
- Brandon Bryan (Food & Nutrition)
- Zerrie Brown (Finance)
- Amanda Bryan (Early Childhood Development)
- Daniel Capp (Marketing)
- Madelina Casanova (21st Century Skills)
- Thomas Christou (Marketing & Finance)
- Marek Cisneros (Health Occupations)
- Caitlyn Clancy (21st Century Skills)
- Riley Clark (Construction Technology)
- Riley Clarke (Child Development)
- Kenton Cochran (Marketing & Finance)
- Mary Coleman (21st Century Skills)
- Alexis Cooper (21st Century Skills)
- Hunter Corkran (Finance)
- August Corsivo (Marketing)
- Elizabeth Courtwright (Cosmetology)
- Jacob Crandall (Computer Technology)
- Alexander D’Avirro (Finance)
- Andrew Davis (Marketing)
- Nickolaus Degan (Marketing & Finance)
- Gianna Delconte (Sewing Construction & Textiles)
- Juliahana Dennis (Health Occupations)
- Lillian Dixon (Cosmetology)
- David Dombroski (Marketing & Finance)
- Jay-Lynn Dunlap (21st Century Skills)
- Clarissa Fake (Cosmetology)
- Ethan Florczyk (Finance)
- Olivia Greco (Cosmetology)
- Alex Grover (Heavy Equipment)
- Bella Hanus (Apparel Design)
- Hayden Hart (Marketing)
- Zoe Hart (Cosmetology)
- Austin Hartman (Marketing & Finance)
- Natalie Harvey (Cosmetology)
- Christian Henderson (Welding)
- Noah Hendry (Marketing & Finance)
- Nevaeh Hulsmann (Early Childhood)
- Ariyanna Humphrey (Early Childhood)
- Tyler Jobson (Culinary Arts)
- Ava Johnson (Family and Consumer Science)
- Tanner Kellogg (Marketing)
- Carter King (Marketing)
- Joseph Kozubowski (Culinary Arts)
- Adriana Kurpiewski (Cosmetology)
- Zachary Leppard (Automotive Tech)
- Cy Liberman (Marketing)
- George Lonergan (Heavy Equipment)
- Justin Long (Finance)
- Tanner Long (Marketing & Finance)
- Vien Ky Luu (Marketing)
- JoAnna Manning (Interior Design/Food & Nutrition)
- Brandon Marchitto (Automotive Technology)
- Van Mawi (Interior Design)
- Dylan Midlar (Welding)
- Tyler Milewski (Marketing)
- Adam Militello (Marketing)
- Mason Mingle (Marketing)
- Madelyn Mohat (Marketing & Finance)
- Gavin Monaghan (Automotive Technology)
- Elizabeth Moreno (Culinary Arts)
- Conner Mott (Welding)
- Isabella Moya (Physical Therapy)
- Madolyn Murray (Health Occupations)
- Thomas Newton (Marketing)
- Layla O’Banner (Cosmetology)
- Ethan Obit (Construction Technology)
- Meghan Obleman (Early Childhood Education)
- K’Lee Perry (Cosmetology)
- Michael Pfautz Jr. (Marketing & Finance)
- Ngoc Pham (Food & Nutrition)
- Monica Placeres (Finance)
- Rosco Polos (Marketing & Finance)
- Maximus Quigley (Welding)
- Colin Rath (Automotive Technology)
- Jasmine Rathburn (Cosmetology)
- Tyler Reed (Computer Technology)
- Emilee Rio (New Vision Medical)
- Kayla Robinson (Child Development)
- Nolan Romancik (Marketing & Finance)
- Ayvah Romano (Marketing)
- Landon Rumble (Marketing)
- Oliver Sadler (Culinary Arts)
- Amar Salkic (Auto Collision)
- Henry Sceiford (Computer Technology)
- Kris Sceiford (Automotive Technology)
- Emily Schuler (Food & Nutrition)
- Clara Serao (New Vision Medical)
- Adara Seyer (Interior Design)

- Continued on page 7



## CTE Endorsements - Continued from page 6

- Tyler Sisco (Marketing & Finance)
- Jacob Snow (Construction Technology)
- Jessica Stagnitta (Cosmetology)
- Jackson Stevens (Auto Collision)
- Jacob Stevens (Auto Collision)
- Lucas Thelen (Marketing & Finance and Early Childhood)
- Elijah Thompson (Auto Collision)
- Olivia Tran (Cosmetology)
- Maria Vastakis (Marketing)
- Anthony Walters (Construction Technology)
- Gabriella Wameling (Childhood Development)
- Keira Weber (Fashion Design & Merchandising)
- Battista Wood (New Vision Criminal Justice)
- Maria Wozniczka (Marketing & Finance)
- Acen Wyatt (Heavy Equipment)

## SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education (BOE) President Paul Farfaglia says the board accepted Superintendent of Schools Daniel D. Bowles' retirement letter in June. His last day with the district will be August 27.

The BOE has engaged OCM BOCES District Superintendent Matthew L. Cook, Ed.D. to assist and advise in the selection process. As part of his official duties, Dr. Cook routinely works with Boards of Education to facilitate new superintendent searches. In 2023, Cook facilitated two successful searches in DeRuyter and Marcellus.

Dr. Cook is scheduled to meet with the Board of Education in early July to publicly discuss next steps in the search process.

The district will continue to provide transparent and timely updates as this process continues.



## CNS SENIOR THOMAS WILLS II NAMED U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR - ONE OF ONLY SIX IN NEW YORK STATE

On May 9, 2024, the North Syracuse Central School District learned that Cicero-North Syracuse High School Senior Thomas Wills II, was named a 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholar. Thomas is one of only six students in New York State and 161 in the entire United States, to have earned this prestigious honor.



In a press release, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said, "The 161 high school seniors selected for the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Presidential Scholars represent the best of our nation's schools and inspire hope in the bright future of this country. On behalf of President Biden, I am delighted to celebrate their accomplishments, and encourage these scholars to continue to aim high, lift up others, and embrace opportunities to lead."

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects students annually based on academic success, excellence in the arts and in technical education, through essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as a demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership.

Earlier this school year, Thomas became the district's first-ever Student Ex-Officio Board of Education member. He has received numerous academic awards as well as several commendations for community service activities. Of the recognition, Superintendent Bowles, commented, "Thomas is an extraordinary young man and a brilliant student. We continue to be impressed with his academic excellence along with his dedication to his school and his peers. This is the first time in the history of the NSCS D with one of our students being honored at this level and we are incredibly proud to share this tremendous news."

Of the 3.7 million students expected to graduate from high school this year, more than 5,700 candidates qualified for the 2024 awards determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or ACT exams or through nominations made by chief state school officers, other partner recognition organizations and Young Arts, the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists.

As directed by Presidential Executive Order, the 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of two students from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 scholars in the arts and 20 scholars in career and technical education.

Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 8,200 of the nation's top-performing students. The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. This year, 2024, marks the program's 60th anniversary.

Congratulations Thomas on this tremendous honor!



**North Syracuse  
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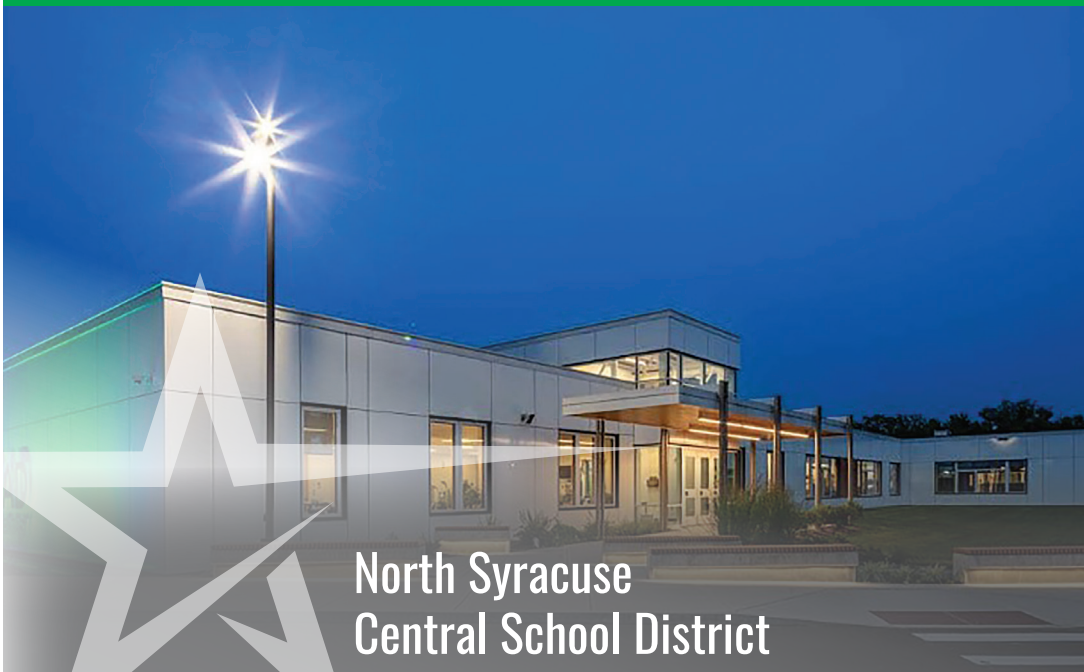
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