

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

*A Publication of the North Syracuse Central School District*

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January 2017

## Reflections for the New Year – Thoughts from the Superintendent

As the New Year is upon us, and the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year is coming to a close, it is a time to reflect and a time to focus.

The 2016-2017 school year kicked off with many initiatives and a great deal of change. Our elementary and middle school teachers have been very busy with the implementation of a new reading program. The goal for our school district is to make literacy accessible to all students by expanding teachers' knowledge and participation in balanced literacy instruction within the classroom at all levels.

In addition, this fall we launched a more inclusive model of service delivery for our students with special needs. Many of our classrooms have general education teachers, special education teachers and service providers working together in the classroom setting to meet the needs of all students.

Numerous groups of staff, students, parents and community members participated this fall in our Visioning Work to help answer the question: What will the educational environment look like in the North Syracuse Central School District if we truly honor our mission? Some key themes that have emerged include:

- Local businesses and community involvement in our schools,
- Honoring diversity, differentiation and student choice in response to learning styles,
- Redesigning collaborative instructional spaces to enhance learning,
- District wide expectations for student behavior, and
- Respectful communication among all.

This information will be used as we plan ahead for the future.

Speaking of planning ahead, we are in the planning stages of the renovation design for KWS Bear Road Elementary School. Thank you to the voters for giving us this opportunity to redesign collaborative instructional spaces to enhance learning!

Last winter we asked parents and community members to participate in an on-line survey to tell us how we are doing. The results of the survey, district-wide and by school, have been posted on our website. Once again, we will be conducting this survey for the purpose of getting comparison data. Please take the time to complete the survey between now and February 28, 2017. Your opinion matters and this information is invaluable as we plan for the future.

Best wishes to all of you in the New Year!

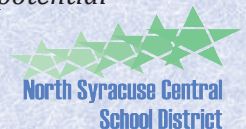
Annette Speach

*Annette Speach*

Superintendent of Schools

### ***North Syracuse Central School District Mission Statement***

*The students, residents and staff of the North Syracuse Central School District will work collaboratively to ensure a respectful and diversified learning environment. Our collective focus is to provide educational experiences and opportunities that inspire students to reach their individual potential as productive citizens.*



# North Syracuse Central School District

## District Information

### Board of Education

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Dawn Wilczynski, *Assistant  
Superintendent for Instruction*  
Jason Nephew, *Assistant  
Superintendent for Human Resources*

### Newsletter Information

The *District Dispatch* is published by the district 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



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## State Champion C-NS Marching Band Sweeps Competition at Contest of Champions, Plays Halftime Show at Florida's Tax Slayer Bowl!



Congratulations to the Cicero-North Syracuse High School Marching Band for their tremendous win at the December 29 Tax Slayer Bowl "Contest of Champions" in Jacksonville, Florida! The band swept the competition, taking the top prize of \$10,000, and winning six trophies! Trophies received were: Outstanding Music, Outstanding Marching, Outstanding Percussion, Outstanding Drum Major, Outstanding General Effect and Outstanding Auxiliary!

The group's trip to Jacksonville, Florida, which was possible because of their fundraising efforts, culminated in their performance at the Halftime show of the December 31 Tax Slayer Bowl.

This fall, the C-NS Marching Band also won the New York State Field Band Championship for Large School 2 Class for the first time in 29 years! Their 2016 show, **Wild Wild West**, was directed by Karen Seamans, with Mark Hover as Assistant Director and students Stephen Schermerhorn and Hallie Meyer as Drum Majors. Congratulations to all!

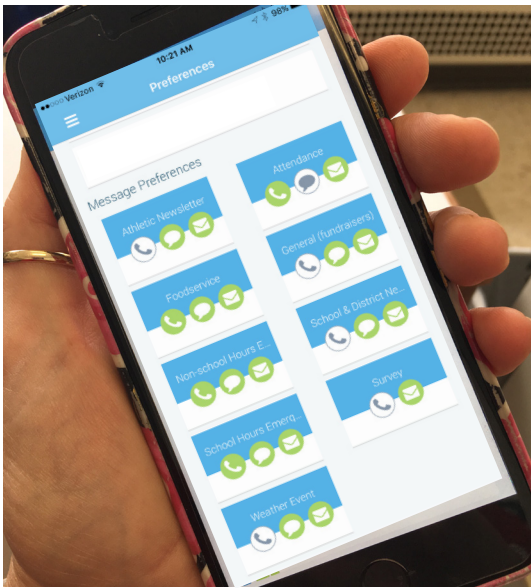


### **The food service department is looking to hire substitute workers.**

Hours of work typically range between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., during the school year. Anyone interested in applying may fill out an application online by means of the district's website, [www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org), or paper application may be picked up at the food service office,

5520A East Taft Road, N. Syracuse.

## WANT TO CHANGE YOUR CONTACT SETTINGS?



The North Syracuse Central School District uses the SchoolMessenger InfoCenter to help parents/guardians and staff manage automated messages. YOU can now manage the way you receive phone calls, text messages and emails from the district.

**Sign-up for the free online system by going to**

**[www.nscsd.org/NSCSDinfocenter](http://www.nscsd.org/NSCSDinfocenter)** and clicking the sign-up link at the top right of the screen. To use InfoCenter on your mobile device, download the free “SchoolMessenger InfoCenter” app by going to the App Store or Google Play on your mobile device.

Sign-up, using the email address you have on file with your child(ren)’s school and create a password. You will receive a confirmation email at the address you entered. Be sure to check your “junk” or “SPAM” folders for the email. If you are unable to complete this step because the system does not recognize the email address you entered, the district may have an incorrect email address on file for you. Please check with your child(ren)’s school to

make sure your email address is correct.

Once you receive your confirmation email and click on that link, you will be signed-up for InfoCenter and can log in with the password you created. Please be sure to keep your password secure and available for future reference.

Once you are signed into InfoCenter, you will have the option of changing the way that you receive messages in the preferences section. If you have not received text messages from the district in the past, simply text the word “YES” to 67587 to opt into the service. For details about the alert types that the district uses, visit their “Communications” website at [www.nscsd.org/communications](http://www.nscsd.org/communications). The system cannot be used to CHANGE contact information such as incorrect phone numbers/email addresses. You must contact your child(ren)’s school to make those changes.

Please note: If multiple people (mom and dad) in the same household, listed the same home telephone number on their child(ren)’s student data form, BOTH people need to sign-up for InfoCenter and modify their call settings for the home phone number if they do not want to receive calls.

For additional important information about SchoolMessenger’s InfoCenter, visit [www.nscsd.org/communications](http://www.nscsd.org/communications).

# We Want to Hear From You!

## North Syracuse Central School District Community Survey

# Your Opinion Matters!

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

North Syracuse Central  
School District

**Through February 28, 2017**

# Fall 2016 Scholar Athletes Recognized

Congratulations to the 180 students from the North Syracuse Central School District who were recently recognized by the Board of Education as Scholar Athletes for the Fall of 2016. Student athletes participating in the following sports teams were presented with certificates and recognized in front of the North Syracuse Board of Education, their coaches, families and friends. The list of fall 2016 Scholar Athletes from North Syracuse Central School District includes:

## Boys' Cross Country



Ethan Barrett, Sean Hannan, Jason Hughes, Casey Koenig, Michael McBride, John Perperian, Nathan Poirier, Niko Rebecchi, Zachary Sweeney, Joseph Tricarico, David Ware and Allen Wells.

## Girls' Cross Country



Malerie Belles, Leah Bisgrove, Mollina Camire, Lily Carr, Sarah Davis, Emily Dembowski, Shane Garner, Hailee Kolakowski, Annina Marullo, Maria Marullo, Giovanna Pascarella, Mia Pestle, Iris Piagentini, Julia Rupp, Headan Wilson and Madeline Woods.

## Girls' Varsity Field Hockey



Emersyn Alberici, Margaret Ball, Allison Bartlett, Brianna Kehoe, Emily Kuehn, Bailey Lazore, Katherine LeRoy, Julia McDonough, Nessa McKie, Anna Melfi, Maria Mirizio, Jamie Snyder, Jessica Snyder, Abbey Szumloz, Kaitlyn Thies, Nina Trencia and Jamie Wagner.

## Boys' Varsity Football



John Catania, Kyle Cody, Caleb Coyne, Kenneth Douglass, Jr., Brennan Grant, Conner Hayes, Leo Henry, Lukas Merluzzi, Jacob Messie, Alexander Miller, Rocco Rachetta, III, Landry Rogers, Damien Sausville, Michael Stevens, Lorenzo Thompson and Kaleb Woodcock.

## Boys' Varsity Golf



Azzat Almasri, Michael Battaglia, Nicholas Bough, Andrew Brunozzi, Patrick Cuddy, Nicholas Ernestine, Brody Guido, Benjamin Haven, Chase Hurley, Brody Kennedy, Jeffrey Kowalewski, Kyle Kuhn, Joshua Matyasik, Liam Mussi, Jake Nardoza, Noah Pauldine, Brian Pellegrino, Justin Pellegrino, Christopher Ranalli, Ryan Sisco, Aaron Szopinski, Matthew Thornhill and Brendan Villnave.

## Boys' Varsity Soccer



Johnathon Barraco, Isaac Bowne, Nolan Byrnes, Peter Civello, Kevin Czuba, Brady Engle, Anthony Esce, Jr., Jason Hange, Matthew Healey, Cameron Houser, Ryan Houser, John Kuryla, Anthony Marzullo, Charles Middleton, Michael Middleton, Anthony Pauli, Bryant Perdomo, Jacob Scarcella, Britton Scorzelli, Brody Scorzelli, Zachary Spenard, Jacob Tesfai, Zackary Williamson and Nathan Young.

North Syracuse Central School District appreciates our sponsors!

Thank you for supporting  
our schools!

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

(315) 218-2143

## Girls' Varsity Soccer



Marissa Bukowski, Gabriella DiToma, Taia Euceda, Teryn Field, Jessica Foley, Chloe Gordon, Olivia Haven, Mallory Hotchkiss, Haley Imbesi, Jenna Imbesi, Kaitlyn Lippert, Mikaila Ryan, Morgan Siechen, Elizabeth Walrath, Lauren Witek and Alessandra Zappala.

## Girls' Varsity Swimming



Cassandra Baldwin, Carla Champagne, Erin Clifford, Kiersten Coates, Grace DeVinney, Brooke Fedi, Brandi Feeny, Miranda Frascatore, Olivia Griffin, Lydia Herter, Samra Jasic, Kamryn Lenning, Ryleigh Lenning, Heather Leonardi, Erika Purdy, Megan Stanton, Madeline Thorne, Lauren Thorne, Carly Tolhurst and Sarah Walter.

## Girls' Varsity Tennis



Ava Breitbeck, Sarah Cooper, Brenna Duffy, Sydney Franco, Nicole Kilian, Morgan Kocher, Vanessa Luangaphay, Breanna Melfi, Nicole Perrigo, Keanna Serviss, Megan Tryniski, Sarah Wicks and Jenna Wilson.

## Boys' Varsity Volleyball



Kyle Alberici, Joshua Bigford, Trent Caviness, Trevor Caviness, Dario Ciciarelli, Joshua Cloute, Tristen Cummings, David Delaney, Dylan Gesser, Justin Kegebein, Connor Millias and Robert Patzer.

## Girls' Varsity Volleyball



Jessica Barry, Savannah Ciciarelli, Olivia Johnson, Kirsten Kires, Madelyn Murray, Grace Nicolini, Emily Overend, Sharlene Richards, Corinne Rutkowski, Olivia Salvador and Kaylin VanAuken.

*Note:*  
*Athletes pictured were present at the December 19, 2016 Board of Education meeting to accept their certificates.*

## Two Varsity teams take Fall 2016 Section III Championships!



The 2016-17 school year is off to a great start for our student athletes. New York State Section III Championship titles were captured by both the Boys' Volleyball team and the Cheerleading squad. Additionally, the Football Team placed first in its league and several other teams placed in their league's top 5. Congratulations and great job to all our athletes!

# Fashion Goes Green at Cicero-North Syracuse High School

## *C-NS' Green Closet seeking formal attire donations for February fashion event!*



Cicero-North Syracuse High School senior, Danielle Roach, has always been interested in music and theater and enjoys acting. So when she was cast in the school's production of "All Shook Up" last year, Danielle was thrilled. Danielle actually had the unique opportunity of playing both a male character and a female character. And fortunately, when it came time to outfit her male character, Danielle knew exactly where to look: at her school's [Green Closet](#).

The Green Closet is a small second-hand "boutique" on the third floor of the school. Danielle knew about the Green Closet from having volunteered her time to work there. Throughout her high school career, Danielle had been interested in pursuing a career in interior design and had taken classes about the subject at C-NS. Because of Danielle's interest and background in design, School Counselor Christine Alencewicz, who maintains the Green Closet, sought the student's assistance to help design and organize the shop.

"I knew about Danielle's interest in design and wanted to tap into that to benefit the Green Closet and also to give Danielle the experience for her resume," Christine said. "She was so happy to help me. She came in several days over the summer to put the store together in a nice, pleasing way. That wasn't something I could do...it was her niche."

When Christine talks about the Green Closet, she proudly discusses the concept behind it; reduce, reuse and recycle. According to the 2015 fashion documentary, "The True Cost," the average American discards 82 pounds of textile waste each year, adding up to 11 million tons, just from the United States. For the most part, textiles aren't biodegradable, meaning they sit in landfills and release harmful gases into the air.

Several years ago, Christine approached the school's administration, armed with statistics about the massive increase in textile production and wanting to do something to help reduce the massive negative impact on the community. Christine brought the concept of a "store" that would accept donations of clean, gently used, unwanted, but in-style clothing and accessories, right at the school, from which students could take items free of charge and reuse them. The idea was approved, and the Green Closet began.

Christine manages donations given to the store and utilizes student assistance to help keep the store organized and looking good so that students wanting to find a new item, will be more inclined to visit the store and browse. "All items are free for the taking to anyone that just wants something new," Christine said. "We have students come in that may have spilled something on their shirt, broken a shoe or who just want a little pick-me-up because they're having a bad day. They're welcome to whatever they need or want."

This February 11, for the first time, the Green Closet will be hosting a prom dress event so that students can come in, try on and walk away with a new prom or ball dress absolutely free of charge. In the past, brand new dresses were donated by several local bridal shops for any students wanting or needing a prom dress. "Sometimes our students are asked to attend several different spring dances and don't want to buy a different dress for each event," Christine said. "The prom dress donations can give them an option of having a second dress at no additional cost. We're very thankful for any dress donations!" Additional details about the Green Closet's prom event will be made available on the district's website and at C-NS as the event is finalized.

Any local businesses or individuals wanting to donate dresses are asked to please contact Christine Alencewicz at C-NS by email at [CAlencew@nscsd.org](mailto:CAlencew@nscsd.org). Christine is hopeful that local companies will come out to help, saying, "We want this event to be fun for all our female and male students too. It would be amazing if we could offer a large selection of formal wear so that all our students have the opportunity to feel like a princess or prince for their prom or ball."



*C-NS senior, Danielle Roach, organizes a rack of donated shoes at the school's Green Closet*

# C-NS DECA has Regional Success

The 2016-2017 Regional DECA competition was held on December 20, 2016, at Le Moyne College. Region 9 DECA's membership this year consisted of over 500 students competing from eleven high schools across Central New York.

The high schools competing this year included: Phoenix, Cazenovia, Henninger, Liverpool, Solvay, Central Square, East Syracuse Minoa, Fowler, Skaneateles, Nottingham, and Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Teams from C-NS brought home a total of 9 first place awards, 8 second place awards, 15 third place awards, and 1 fourth place award. Additionally, more than 30 students qualified for the state competition that will be held from March 8 through 10 in Rochester, NY. Best of luck in the state competition and great job with the regional events! A list of top five winners from C-NS is provided below.



**First Place Winners:** Allen Garnes – Sales Demonstration, Sean Hannan – Job Interview, Sydney Franco – Hospitality Services Team, Katie Cochran - Hospitality Services Team, Ryan Ingerson – Marketing Communications, Patrick Meyers – Sports & Entertainment Team, Joe Brisson – Sports & Entertainment Team, Jason Hughes – Accounting Applications and Madison Gerbsch – Principles of Hospitality. **Second Place Winners:** Ward Couillard - Sales Demonstration, Kimberly Parker – Business Law & Ethics Team, Teryn Field – Business Law & Ethics Team, Austin VanDeWalker – Accounting Applications, Jordan Himes - Apparel & Accessories Marketing, Alex Hepel – Human Resource Management, Jack Irwin – Marketing Communications and Casey Koenig – Business Services Marketing. **Third Place Winners:** Michael Middleton – Business Law & Ethics, Charles Middleton – Business Law & Ethics, McKenna Lusnar – Marketing Management, Vanessa Luangaphay – Marketing Management, Dante Iannotti - Financial Services Team, Emersyn Alberici - Financial Services Team, Tayler Durantini – Sports & Entertainment Team, Brianna Smith – Sports & Entertainment Team, Alison DeStefano – Travel & Tourism Team, Makena Scarlata – Travel & Tourism Team, Jordyn Poole – Accounting Applications, Leala Burns – Hotel & Lodging Management, Christian Carlin-Saracene – Principles of Business, Taylor Heymann – Principles of Hospitality and Iyana Armstrong – Principles of Marketing. **Fourth Place Winners:** Benjamin Stevenson – Job Interview.

# 6 district students to compete in CNY Spelling Bee



Congratulations to the following North Syracuse Central School District students who qualified to compete in the Post Standard/WCNY 2017 written Spelling Bee written on January 14 at Onondaga Community College.

The students qualified by participating and placing in the top 6 in the North Syracuse Central School District Spelling Bee in December. Those finalists are: **Delia Fedele**, Gillette Road Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1<sup>st</sup> Place, **Molly McGrath**, Gillette Road Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, **Joseph DeGroat**, Gillette Road Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, **Charles French, Jr.**, Roxboro Road Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 4<sup>th</sup> Place, **Jacob Garofalo**, Gillette Road Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 5<sup>th</sup> Place and **Morgan Manning**, Roxboro Road Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 6<sup>th</sup> Place.

The top three student finalists are pictured (left to right): Joseph DeGroat, Delia Fedele and Molly McGrath.



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### District students spread lots of cheer for holidays!



Many thanks to the student groups who helped make the recent holiday season warmer, brighter and better for various students and community members! Thanks also to the amazing coaches, teachers and leaders who organized these efforts.



Pictured top left: The C-NS Girls' Modified Volleyball Teams collected Christmas gifts for families this holiday season. Coaches Jill Millias (Roxboro) and Fina Santangelo (Gillette) organized the collection as a community service project for the teams to give back to the community during the holidays. Team members include: Jade Burkhart, Madalyn Manz, Aliyah Crouch, Isabella Nolan, Lilianna Oswald, Jade Kelly, Vanessa Roberts, Briana Elmore, Brooke Segars, Kayla Post, Emma Koenig, Jenna Ketchum, Aurora Lesinski, Madison Roche, Alaina Lombardo, Natalie Tice, Carley Fenner, Alayna Harbaugh, Julianna Hutt, Megan Johnston, McKenna Johnston, Samantha Klein, Jenna Lenweaver, Meira Liberman, Kyleigh Marchitto, Jenna Mills, Hannah Mingle, Nicole O'Neill, Cassidy Ormond, Jenna Pickard, Alita Carey-Santangelo, Chloe Smeader, Chanel Syrell.

Pictured top right: Members of the North Syracuse Junior High School's Junior Honor Society brought individual gifts to every student in the North Syracuse Early Education Program at Main Street School.

Pictured bottom left: North Syracuse Junior High School student DJ Villave (pictured with News Channel 9's Beth Cefalu), worked with the district's Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) to expand his annual blanket drive, DJ's Gift of Warmth, to all schools in the district. DJ, a member of SSAC, has been holding the blanket drive, which benefits the Rescue Mission of CNY, for several years. This year, he expanded his efforts, resulting in the collection of over 600 blankets. Over the years, DJ has collected more than 4,000 blankets for the Rescue Mission!