

North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #6 | December 4, 2020



Message from the Superintendent



Hello North Syracuse Central School District Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Staff!

For those of you that may have missed my late November letter, I would like to update you on how we will be sharing information on COVID-19 and ask for your continued support. The New York State Department of Health and Department of Education has created a COVID-19 School Report Card. NSCSD updates the School Report Card each school day.

This is an excellent resource that provides the following information:

- An indication if a school is located in a red, orange, or yellow zone
- The total number of staff, teachers, hybrid students, and remote students who have tested positive over the last 7 and 14 days
- The total number of staff, teachers, and students in a school
- A graphical representation of the seven day trend in each school

The School report card is located online at <https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/home> and is posted on the NSCSD website. To view information for the entire North Syracuse Central School District, click the public schools button and then type "North Syracuse CSD" into the search box. To view information for an individual school, type that school's name into the search box.

Given the increase in community spread and volume of letters sent, we will no longer send separate letters for each positive case. The District will continue to communicate directly with parents and guardians when their child is exposed and when school schedules are impacted. Additionally, the District will begin sending official Quarantine notices via email on behalf of Onondaga County Department of Health when students and staff are quarantined.

To help the NSCSD respond to positive cases in a timely and effective manner we request that parents contact the school nurse any time a student tests positive. This will assist with contact tracing and communicating with the NSCSD community.

We have also been notified that several more of our schools will take part in on-site testing this week. Staff and families eligible for the testing have already been notified. Thank you for your continued support and working together to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Stay well!

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

Meal Pickup at North Syracuse Junior High School

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the North Syracuse Central School District has been providing free meals during the school day and offering meal pickup for remote learners. Due to windy conditions in the back of the school, meal pickup at North Syracuse Junior High School will be moved to the front of the school beginning Monday, December 7.

The District also offers **Wednesday morning meal pickup at Roxboro Road Middle School ONLY**. Wednesday morning meal pickup at Roxboro Road Middle School will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each Wednesday that school is in session. Families can pick up multiple meals if desired.

Evening meal pickup at all secondary buildings (addresses listed below) is available every **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**. Evening pickup is from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

Evening Meal Pickup Locations:

- Cicero-North Syracuse High School (6002 Route 31, Cicero) inside of the school at the main entrance by the flagpole
- North Syracuse Junior High School (5353 West Taft Rd., N. Syracuse) at the school's main entrance
- Gillette Road Middle School (6150 South Bay Rd., Cicero) at the school's front door
- Roxboro Road Middle School (300 Bernard St., Mattydale) at the school's front door

[Click here for additional information about the NSCSD Food Service Program.](#)

NSCSD December 4 Shining Star: Cicero-North Syracuse High School's Danielle Rausa

Not only did this week's Shining Star selection, C-NS teacher Danielle Rausa, receive TWO nominations from her students, we also recently received an announcement that she was nominated as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction!

The words of praise from her students include the following:

"She makes me want to come to school and see her because she's very bright and happy and one of the funniest teachers I've ever had." - Chanel Syrell

"Mrs Rausa is outstanding. She has Zoom meeting everyday we would have class so we can have our class with our classmates. I am 100% remote and being able to see my her every other day really helps. She is always there

for me and helps me in anyway I need. It really makes a difference seeing her each day. Knowing I get to is something I look forward to. Mrs Rausa is the most amazing teacher and helps her students anyway they need it. She deserves to be recognized." - Emma Peters

Congratulations Danielle and thank you for inspiring your students!

[Click here to read more online or to nominate your own Shining Star.](#)

Share a Shout Out to a Shining Star!

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unexpected challenges to both teaching and learning but we know that many of our students and teachers are thriving in this environment. We also know other staff are going above and beyond to keep students and families safe and informed.

We'd love to hear (and share) the inspirational stories you have so we can keep the positive vibes going. If you'd like to recognize a North Syracuse Central School District student, teacher, employee or even a volunteer, please complete a short online form giving us some basic information.

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who has already submitted nominations for shining stars! We're excited to have received so many entries and are working to put together the more than a dozen stories we have already gotten. Keep checking this newsletter for your nomination!

["Nominate" a Shining Star](#)

NSCSD Recognized for Efforts to Prevent Suicide and Promote Mental Well-Being

Over the past years, the North Syracuse Central School District has focused a great deal of resources on providing SEL (Social Emotional Learning) to address the mental wellness needs of students and staff. The District was recognized for their efforts by the New York State Office of Mental Health in their fall 2020 newsletter. In an article entitled, "Suicide Prevention in New York State Schools: Hope and Resilience Among Urban, Suburban, and Rural Districts," author Jay Carruthers, MD., praises the NSCSD saying, "[The District is] strongly committed to mental health promotion and suicide prevention, particularly in the time of COVID-19 and all its associated uncertainty."

[Click here to read the complete article online.](#)

District Provides Revised Instructional Expectations for Grade 5-12 Students

As the North Syracuse Central School District moves through the 2020-2021 school year, significant time has been spent reflecting upon and evaluating instructional delivery in order to provide the best possible educational experience for students. When the District abruptly shifted to virtual/online learning in the spring of 2020, much was learned from the experience. This past summer, the District worked to develop instructional models in accordance with New York State educational mandates and and safety standards. When school buildings

opening in the fall, the District was challenged with providing instruction in both hybrid and remote environments.

On December 4, the District announced revised instructional expectations for students in grades 5-12 to address challenges students are facing. [Click here to read more in the online article.](#)

Wellness Wednesdays



When NSCSD school buildings had to close their doors to students and staff in the Spring of 2020, the District started "Wellness Wednesdays" as a way of pulling families together in spite of COVID-19. As the 2020-2021 school year progresses, we need to connect now, more than ever, so we've gotten the "Wellness Wednesdays" band back together. The Wellness Wednesdays website will be our way of sharing resources, information and importantly YOUR thoughts, photos and artwork.

With the holiday season in full swing, we thought the moment was right for the LET IT GO CHALLENGE!

For the week of 12/2, we are asking you to send a still photo or a video of you doing your best Elsa singing Let it Go! Please [click here to](#) submit your images/video by Thursday 12/17. The images and videos will be shared on Tuesday 12/22! If you need a little reminder of what Elsa's performance looks and sounds like, watch a sing-a-long version [by clicking here.](#)

Please remember: Holiday time is the perfect time to give and receive. If you are interested in registering for the Christmas Bureau or in holding a food, toy or angel tree drive please click [HERE.](#)

[Visit the Wellness Wednesdays Website](#)

Use the SchoolMessenger App to Control the Types of Messages you Receive from the NSCSD

The North Syracuse Central School District uses the [SchoolMessenger notification system](#) for text/email and telephone messages to our families. The SchoolMessenger app is also available for use on mobile devices and can be downloaded through Google Play on in the App Store. [Click here to download the SchoolMessenger mobile app user guide.](#)

If you have a child enrolled at one of our schools, you will automatically receive phone call, email and text alerts pertaining to that school and will receive some district-wide messages. Different messages are sent out in various alert formats. [Click here to learn more about message types used by the NSCSD.](#)

Control the messages you receive!

Parents and staff can sign-up for the [SchoolMessenger App](#) to control the types of messages receive from the district. By signing up the this FREE service, parents and staff can opt into or out of message categories. [Click here to sign-up for the app or log-in on your computer.](#)

Remember to Log Student Attendance Daily!

Please remember that all students are using Classlink for attendance and should be logging in each day that they are working remotely from home, including Wednesdays. Students with Chromebooks can log directly into [Classlink using the welcome screen](#). Students using other devices should go to [nscsd.org](#) first and click on the Classlink Launchpad banner at the top of the webpage. This will ensure that a student's attendance for the day will be logged.

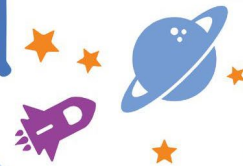
"Supporting Your Child During Remote Learning" Family Forum Video Online



**North Syracuse Central School District
Third Annual Family Forum Event:**



Supporting
your child
During remote learning



The team of NSCSD professionals that came together three years ago to organize events focused on issues parents and their children may be experiencing, has come together to provide "Supporting Your Child During Remote Learning" in video form. The presentation is designed to provide context and tips for parents on Executive Functioning, Organization, and Breaks and Rewards.

With a focus specific to the needs of K-6 students, parents will be able to access the [20- minute video presentation by clicking here](#) at whatever time works for their schedule.

[The slides are also available to download by clicking here.](#)

Send Us Your Photos!

[Submit Your Photos Now!](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

December 7
Board of Education Meeting

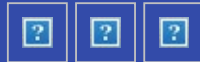
December 4
1st Trimester Report Period Ends (Gr. K-4)

December 11
1st Trimester Report Cards (Gr. K-4) Available
Online

December 21
Board of Education Meeting

Quick Links

- [Technical Help Website](#)
- [Family Wellness Website](#)
- [Online Calendar](#)
- [Google Classroom Help](#)
- [Meal Pickup Information.](#)



North Syracuse Central School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact North Syracuse Central School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.