



North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #12 | February 5, 2021



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

I'm happy to report that we have seen another week with declining COVID-19 positivity rates in Onondaga County. We move into the second week of February with cautious optimism about potentially increasing access to the normal "things" for our students. This past Monday, our Board of Education approved a plan to safely resume certain athletic activities and we are now able to allow extra-curricular activities that adhere to specific social distancing and safety guidelines. I want you to know that it is only because of the passion, dedication and commitment of our staff, students, parents, coaches and volunteers that we are able to open things up a bit. I can't tell you how many of you said things like, "If we just give the kids the chance to play/act/dance/work together, we will make it happen safely." You are devoted to our students and to giving them the opportunities they need and deserve. I sincerely thank you.

One of the things that I'm most excited about this week is [an announcement I just made to our junior high and high school parents](#). After an ongoing and careful analysis, we are confident that we will be able to offer all hybrid students two days in school. Starting Monday, March 1, the North Syracuse Junior High School and Cicero-North Syracuse High School Monday and Tuesday cohorts and the Thursday and Friday cohorts will be combined so students attend two days/week.

As we increase the number of students in attendance, all social distancing guidelines and cleaning protocols will continue to be followed. We encourage our entire NSCSD family to continue following guidelines and get vaccinated when it is possible. For those of you that may be planning to travel over the upcoming mid-winter break, please be sure to review the [New York State Travel Guidance](#) beforehand. If your student is required to quarantine after vacation, he/she will not be able to take part in hybrid learning and athletics/extra-curricular activities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message and have a safe and socially-distanced Super Bowl weekend!

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

NSCSD February 5 Shining Star: C-NS Business Teacher and NSCSD Coach, Mike Lucia



This week's Shining Star is Mike Lucia, a Business teacher at Cicero-North Syracuse High School and a longtime coach in the NSCSD

Mr. Lucia was nominated for recognition by Christina Docteur, the parent of one of his current modified boys' volleyball program students. In addition to having a child currently working with Mr. Lucia, Christina has had two other boys learn from Mr. Lucia. "As the parent of 3 children in the district, I want to recognize Mr. Lucia's compassion and consistent efforts to be there for our kids," she wrote. "School is not all about sports, but sports can make everything about school better, with teachers and coaches like Mike."

[Click here to read more about Mr. Lucia.](#)

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](#)

The CanTeen Invites Students in Grades 8-12 to Learn More about Opportunities Available

The CanTeen program is the only youth led, drop-in facility serving teens in grades 8-12 north of the city of Syracuse. The program offers services, supports and opportunities year round with hours of operation based on the time of the year and CDC safety guidelines. Students in grades 8-12 are invited to learn more by [clicking here](#) or on the video above.

During the typical summer months and out of school time hours, the program offers teens the ability to plan and implement a variety of options to travel, provide assistance at various community service events and/or partake in many overnight lock-ins, extended stay leadership camping experiences or college visits.

The program hours are:

- Monday & Friday from 2:00 – 6:30 p.m.,
- Tuesday & Thursday, [Hot Spot](#) 7:15 AM – 2:00 PM and drop in 2:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Please visit the [CanTeen website by clicking here](#) or call the center for more information: 315-699-1391

Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year



Each spring, elementary schools in the North Syracuse Central School District begin registering kindergarten students for the following school year. In order to adhere to COVID-19 protocol, schools will be accepting electronic registrations as well as scheduling in-person registration appointments. Elementary school staff are in the process of mailing letters to families that will be registering known new students. In order for your child to enter school next fall, he or she must be five (5) years old on or before December 1, 2021.

If your child is eligible and you would like to register him/her for kindergarten, please contact your child's home school for information.

- [Allen Road Elementary](#) 315/218-2300
- [KWS Bear Road Elementary](#) 315/218-2400
- [Cicero Elementary](#) 315/218-2500
- [Lakeshore Road Elementary](#) 315/218-2600
- [Roxboro Road Elementary](#) 315/218-2700
- [Smith Road Elementary](#) 315/218-2800

[If you are unsure of your child's home school, a listing of schools by street address is available online at by clicking here.](#)

The following items are needed for registration: Parent identification, proof of birth, verification of your child's immunization record, proof of residency and custody papers, if applicable. Please note, the following documents are acceptable as proof of residency: mortgage statement, lease agreement, purchase offer and/or utility bill. A driver's license is NOT acceptable as proof of residency.

[If you would like to learn more about the transition to kindergarten, join a virtual parent Q & A session on Tuesday, February 9. Click here to learn more.](#)

Keep Voting for C-NS Music Groups in The SAMMYS!

Two C-NS musical groups are up for vote in this year's Sammy's (Syracuse Area Music Awards) in the People's Choice category and have now advanced to Round 4. Keep voting for the C-NS Jazz Ensemble (listed as C-NS Jazz Band on SAMMYS website) and the C-NS Northstars Marching Band in the Academic Organization category. Round 4 voting ends on February 7. [Click here to cast your vote.](#)

Wellness Wednesdays - Turn the NSCSD Purple on 2/12



Our Wellness Committee is hoping to turn the District Purple for the Day on Friday, February 12 as we celebrate P.S. I Love You Day 2021! P.S. I LOVE YOU DAY was started 11 years ago by Brooke Dipalma in West Islip, New York after losing a classmate and her father to suicide. She chose the color purple to represent this day and asks that other communities and schools wear purple on 2-12-21. Wearing purple will be our reminder that we, in fact, are not alone. What started 11 years ago in West Islip has now turned into a worldwide day of celebration and recognition. [Click here to learn more about P.S. I Love You Day.](#)

Please join our school community on 2/12/21 by wearing purple so we all recognize that we are not alone in this extraordinary year. Please wear purple on 2-12-21!

Don't have anything purple to wear? Purchase t-shirts and sweatshirts envisioned and designed for this day North Syracuse Junior High School students in the Class of 2024 Club. These items are exclusively available at the C-NS STAR SHOP! [Click here to visit the C-NS STAR SHOP.](#) The deadline to purchase is 1/31/21.

[Click here to visit the Wellness Wednesday website for some great ideas!](#)

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.

[Visit the Wellness Wednesdays Website](#)

Students in Grades 8-12 Can Tryout for C-NS and NSJH Virtual Talent Shows



After having to cancel last year's show due to COVID-19, [4D Productions](#), the district's Tech Crew, has pledged to not let another year go by without a show. This year's show WILL be happening, with full pandemic precautions being adhered to. Each act will be filmed individually with 4K cameras and edited for May premieres on YouTube for everyone to enjoy free of charge. [Click here to read more online.](#)

Students in Grades 6-9 Invited to be a Part of Junior Winterguard



Junior Winterguard is open to any students in grades 6-9, no experience required. Team members will learn the fundamentals of dance, flag, rifle, and saber. The team will put together a show for virtual video participation in local competitions/festivals. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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.](#)

Send Us Your Photos!



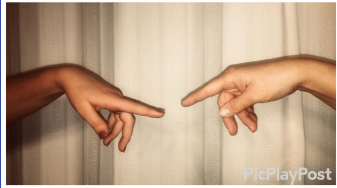
Because this school year has been so different, it has been challenging to get new photos for our District website at www.nscsd.org and other publications. So...we need your help!

We would love to share your photos of at home school environments. If you're willing to share, please send your high quality images using the link below. We'll be using your photos in this newsletter and other publications throughout the school year. Additionally, high resolution, horizontal photos will be considered for the District website.

Pictured above: Jordan Knafelc is a 7th grade hybrid student at Gillette Road Middle School. When working from home, Jordan gets "help" from some feline friends keeping her computer warm!

Pictured below: Students in Tracy Liberman's Media Arts Classes at North Syracuse Junior High School have submitted a tremendous number of beautiful photographs that have gone unseen this school year. In an effort to have their work seen, Ms. Liberman created a virtual gallery of her students' work saying, "I have more than 99% of my current students' work featured and I'm super proud of them. I though families and students would enjoy some positive news!" [Click here to view the complete virtual exhibit.](#) Individual works pictured below (left to right top to bottom) are by: Nadia Greco, Corynn Frysinger, Rachael Rowe, Connie Dunn, Tyler Milewski, Brenna Villnave, Maria Wozniczka, Abby Schirm, Jack Waite, Tyler Eaton and Shaylin Florczykowski.







[Submit Your Photos Now!](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

February 8
20 Week Report Period Cards Available Online

February 9
[Kindergarten Transition Virtual Presentation](#)

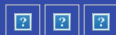
February 15
President's Day - No School for Students/Staff

February 15-19
Mid-Winter Recess - No School for Students/Staff

February 22
Board of Education Meeting

Quick Links

- [Technical Help Website](#)
- [Family Wellness Website](#)
- [Online Calendar](#)
- [Google Classroom Help](#)
- [Meal Pickup Information](#)
- [NYS COVID-19 Report Card](#)
- [Superintendent's Updates](#)



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.