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North Syracuse Central School
District
NorthStar Lights

Issue #10 | January 22, 2021



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

It has been a very busy, albeit short, week with students back in buildings. I had several opportunities to visit our schools and meet with our teachers and students. It is heartwarming to once again see action in our hallways and classrooms.

We began our second round of testing at several elementary schools this morning and by the end of next week, we will have completed Round 2 testing in all but one of our buildings. Testing at Cicero-North Syracuse High School will take place the first week in February so as to not disrupt previously scheduled student exams.

I am cautiously optimistic about the progress we are making toward overcoming COVID-19 as we head into the final week of January and more people get vaccinated. I urge continued precaution and safety by [staying protected against COVID](#), [practicing good hand hygiene](#) and [keeping students home when they're sick](#). When students cannot be in school due to quarantine, they should log into [ClassLink](#) in order to be marked present while they are learning remotely.

Enjoy your weekend and stay safe!

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

NSCSD January 22 Shining Star: North Syracuse Junior High School and Cicero-North Syracuse High School Teacher John Nadler



This week's Shining Star is John Nadler, a teacher at both Cicero-North Syracuse High School and North Syracuse Junior High School. Mr. Nadler was nominated by three separate students for Shining Star recognition!

As a teacher in the North Syracuse Central School District for more than two decades, Mr. Nadler has had wonderful coworkers and credits his peers for inspiring him. "I've been blessed in my life to work with incredible teachers and colleagues that have inspired me to pay it forward in any way I can," Nadler said.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at the two schools, Mr. Nadler oversees the schools' Tech Crew (4D Productions), directs the annual junior high talent show, serves on the district's technology committee and provides mentoring for new teachers.

John is pictured with Isabella Borte, one of his students and Shining Star nominators, after the school's production of *Guys and Dolls* during a previous school year.

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

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](#)

Vote for C-NS Music Groups in The SAMMYS!

Two different C-NS musical groups are up for vote in this year's Sammy's (Syracuse Area Music Awards) in the People's Choice category. Don't miss your chance to vote for the C-NS Jazz Ensemble (listed as C-NS Jazz Group on SAMMYS website) and the C-NS Northstars Marching Band in the Academic Organization category. Both groups have advanced to Round 2, which ends on January 24. [Click here to cast your vote.](#)

District Chromebook Settings to be Updated on Monday, January 25

Beginning Monday, January 25, 2021 all District Chromebooks will be updated with new settings to ensure student accounts are secure.

Whenever a Chromebook is inactive for 5 – 10 minutes, or the lid is closed, the Chromebook will go into sleep mode, the screen will go dark and will lock. When the lid is opened or a key is tapped, the Chromebook will wake up and the user will need to enter the password to unlock the screen. The Chromebook will open to the exact state that it was when it locked so that the user can continue where they left off.

Students are strongly encouraged to log out of their Chromebooks at the end of every day and make sure they are logging into [ClassLink](#) daily for attendance purposes.

Wellness Wednesdays

As we move into a new year, our Wellness Committee wants to remind our students, staff and families that it is OK to Not be OK. Many of us are feeling that while the calendar says 2021, in many ways it still feels like 2020! This week we continue to focus on how to figure out what we are feeling and how to manage our feelings. This is great for adults as well as kids!

[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](#)

NSCSD Students and Staff in the News!

Nathan Bustin, a 8th grade student at **North Syracuse Junior High School**, was recently recognized on Syracuse.com for his quick response and bravery, likely saving his mother's life. [*Click here to read the article online.](#)

A group of teachers from **KWS Bear Road Elementary School** recently received a shout out on *Bridge Street*, a local news program, for their efforts to help Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a local non-profit group that builds and delivers beds to kids in need. [Click here to see the segment online.](#)

DJ Villnave, a senior at **Cicero-North Syracuse High School**, was featured this past week on Spectrum News for DJ's Gift of Warmth, a project he began as a second grade student at KWS Bear Road Elementary School. [Click here to learn more about DJ's Gift of Warmth and how you can help.](#)

*Please note that certain online media require users to have a digital subscription to access articles and/or video clips.

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

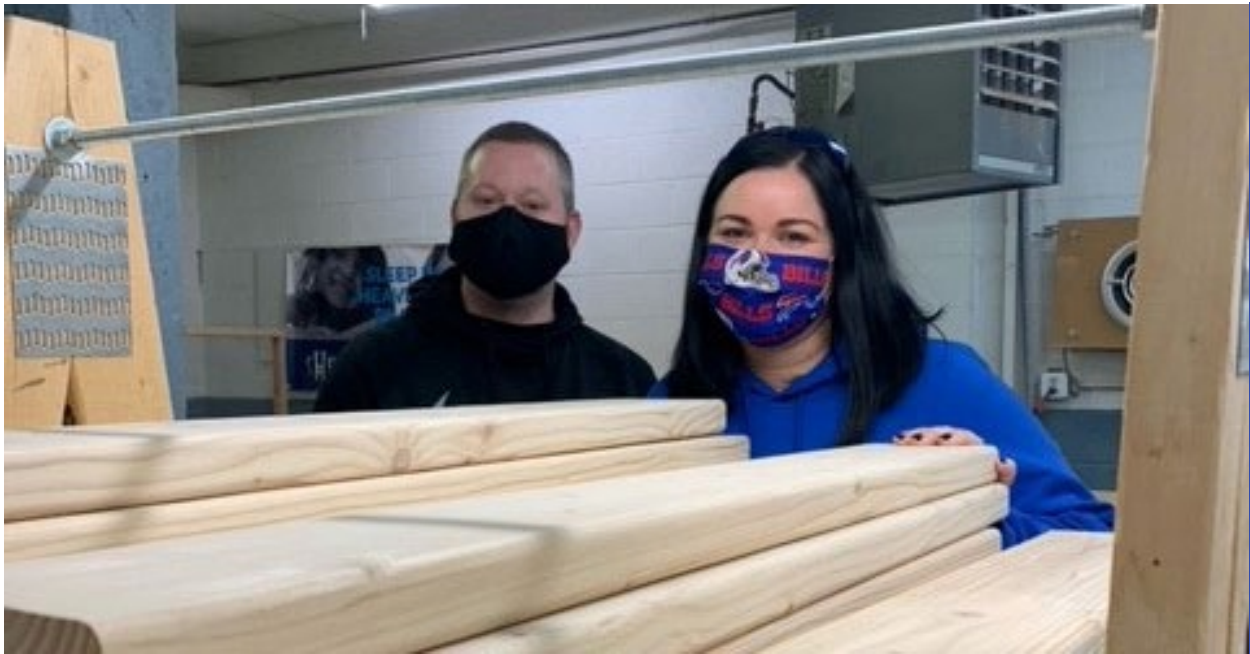
The North Syracuse Central School District uses the [SchoolMessenger notification system](#) for text/email and telephone messages to our families. The SchoolMessenger app is also available for use on mobile devices and can be downloaded through Google Play on in the App Store. [Click here to download 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 and below: Students, staff and family members of the **Smith Road Elementary School** community volunteered their time and muscle recently to help the local non-profit agency, Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Smith Road Elementary School Teacher, Danielle Preville, who submitted the photos wrote, "Last year for our community connection program, Smith Road students collected bedding and monetary donations for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. During this time, a group of staff members volunteered to build beds. Some even delivered beds to children as well. Many of us fell in love with the organization and wanted to do more. Over the holidays, I shared the donation link and asked if anyone wanted to volunteer again. A number of staff and SRE families reached out and signed up. There were 24 of us total. We met on Wednesday, January 20 and built more than 30 beds! If anyone wants to donate or volunteer their time, they can go to <https://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/ny-syracuse>."*

[Click here to view our parent notification regarding student photos.](#)



Submit Your Photos Now!

Important Upcoming Dates

January 25
Board of Education Meeting

February 1
20 Week Report Period Ends (Gr. 5-12)
Board of Education Meeting

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

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

Quick Links

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



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