

North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #11 | January 29, 2021



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

Another busy week has flown by us as we head into what promises to be a cold winter weekend. For those of you that enjoy winter activities, I hope you have a chance to get out and enjoy.

Conversations this week have been dominated by the theme of athletic competitions now that New York State has taken steps to allow Districts to continue interscholastic athletics. We have been working hard to review the guidance and apply the regulations to our District. As required, all District plans must be approved by the Board of Education. The NSCSD Board of Education will review the plan at their next meeting on Monday, Feb. 1 and with approval, practices can begin on Tuesday, Feb. 2. Please be sure to look for more information as we have it available.

Enjoy your weekend and stay safe!

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

**NSCSD January 29 Shining Star: Cicero Elementary
School Speech Language Pathologist, Colleen Hinrichs**



This week's Shining Star is **Colleen Hinrichs**, a Speech/Language teacher at **Cicero Elementary School**.

Colleen was nominated for recognition by Lilian Bui, the parent of one of her kindergarten students, Tyler Mai. In her nomination, Lilian wrote, "Ms. Hinrichs is the best speech therapist ever. My kindergarten boy, Tyler, doesn't like to do school work, but he enjoys every minute on Zoom with Ms. Hinrichs. She makes him feel very comfortable and she encourages him to speak up."

[Click here to read more about Ms. Hinrichs.](#)



This week, we also received a special shout out from one student to another and wanted to include it. **Grace Sugrue**, a student at **Cicero-North Syracuse High School** took time to write a nomination for her best friend, **Julia Kulakowski**, also a student at C-NS.

In her nomination, Grace wrote, "I want to recognize Julia because she is my best friend and has helped me stay positive during this pandemic. I am very thankful and appreciate the support. Julia stands out to me because she is such a genuinely kind, compassionate, and amazing person. She always knows how to make me laugh and we've made so many good memories together. She is honestly like a sister to me and I'm so lucky to have a best friend like her."

Thank you for sharing your kind words and your friendship!

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](#)

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 3. 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 3 voting ends on January 31. [Click here to cast your vote.](#)

Non-Public School Transportation for 2021-2022



Applications must be filed prior to April 1, 2021

To parents and guardians of students residing in the North Syracuse Central School District: As required by New York State Law, applications for bus transportation to/from private and parochial schools and to/from day care, during the 2021-2022 school year, must be filed prior to April 1, 2021.

Applications may be picked up and returned to the North Syracuse Central School District Transportation Department, 5520 East Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212. Applications can also be obtained on the North Syracuse Central School District [website by clicking here.](#)

If you need further information, please call the Transportation Department at 315/218-2107.

NYS Requires Student School Physicals Conducted after 1/31/21 to be Completed Using New Form



Effective 2/1/21, all student school health examinations must be documented on the updated NYS Required Health Examination Form or an electronic health record equivalent form - pursuant to Education Law.

ONLY the [approved form](#) or an electronic health record equivalent form will be accepted by schools for health examinations conducted on or after 1/31/2021. Students who present a physical exam that is not acceptable will be required to have the parent/guardian contact your office to complete the correct form.

[Click here to view/download the required New York State form.](#)

Please note the components on the health exam form are required in NYS Law. [The Instructions for Completion of New York State School Health Examination Form provides direction to healthcare providers on the required components and the required presentation order of those components for an electronic health record form to be an equivalent form.](#)

[This information is also on the NYS Center for School Health website at \[www.schoolhealthny.com\]\(http://www.schoolhealthny.com\).](#)

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](#)

Model Citizenship - Register to Vote!

As the North Syracuse Central School District, and all districts across the state, prepare their school budget's for the next school year, we want to remind our families to register to vote. When you vote you help pass on the gift of democracy to your children and community. Registration is easy and can quickly be done online. [Click here to register online](#) or [click here to download a PDF](#) that can be mailed to the Onondaga County Board of Elections (1000 Erie Blvd. West, Syracuse, NY 13204.)

Students, did you know you can [register to vote prior to your 18th birthday](#)? 17 year-olds within six months of their 18th birthday can register early but cannot cast any votes until they turn 18.

C-NS Star Shop Holding Online Sale for Apparel

The Star Shop at Cicero-North Syracuse High School is currently holding an online apparel sale open to the public. Purchases can be made online through February 4 and shipped directly to homes. [Click here for information.](#)

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: Helaina Morgan is a fully remote 9th grade North Syracuse Junior High student. Her mom, Roberta sent the photo captioned as "Ready for Remote" with the following information: "Helaina has adjusted to remote learning wonderfully. There was quite the learning curve at the beginning but she is very responsible and is serious about doing as well remotely as if she were actually in class. She had an average in the high 90's this last marking period. All of her teachers live streaming classes helps immensely."

Pictured below: With students out of buildings for such a long period of time through the Holiday Recess and into the extended Remote Instruction period, staff at Roxboro Road Middle School wanted to be sure that students felt welcome back and knew how much they had been missed. Staff decorated the building with "welcome back" and "we missed you" messages and posted signs and balloons. Students were treated to a warm welcome despite the cold temperatures!

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



[Submit Your Photos Now!](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

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

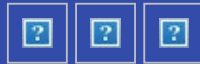
February 15
President's Day - No School for Students/Staff

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

February 25
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.