

North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #17 | March 19, 2021



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

This past week marked the one year point of the pandemic upending our lives here in Central New York. As I wrote in [my letter to staff and families](#), I never imagined the ripple effects of the stone dropped a year ago would still be felt now.

As we now prepare to reopen in a greater capacity, please know that we are doing so in the safest way possible. There is already a great deal of work being done behind the scenes as we get our schools ready. This week, we had the opportunity to visit one of our schools to see firsthand some of the different classroom configurations being explored using the new relaxed socially distanced guidelines. Our facilities department staff and our instructional staff are working together to come up with safe and creative configurations to meet the needs of students and teachers. I want to thank our dedicated staff for working together in this area. The NSCSD is very fortunate to have a great group of people working here.

As we proceed, we will be providing a list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions on our COVID-19 website. [Click here to visit the website.](#)

I am looking forward to welcoming spring this weekend and am optimistic about the forecasted warmer weather. I hope you are able to enjoy the great things that seem to be heading our way. As we receive additional guidance, we will provide updates. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

NSCSD March 19 Shining Star: Steve Sagnella, Head Custodian at KWS Bear Road Elementary School

This week's Shining Star is Steve Sagnella, the head custodian at KWS Bear Road Elementary School. Steve has held his current post for the past twelve years, but his work history with the District extends almost two decades.

Steve is a proud graduate of the Cicero-North Syracuse High School Class of 1987 and has been a part of the NSCSD community his whole life, with his father also attending NSCSD schools. Steve says that that best thing about working for the District and having a long history here is knowing the teachers and staff as well as his own family. Because of this, Steve says that he would do anything to help every single person at his school.

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

Many thanks to everyone who submitted nominations for shining stars! We're excited to have received so many entries and are working to put together the stories we have already gotten. We will no longer be accepting nominations for the 2020-2021 school year but will continue this popular feature next school year. Keep checking this newsletter for your nomination!

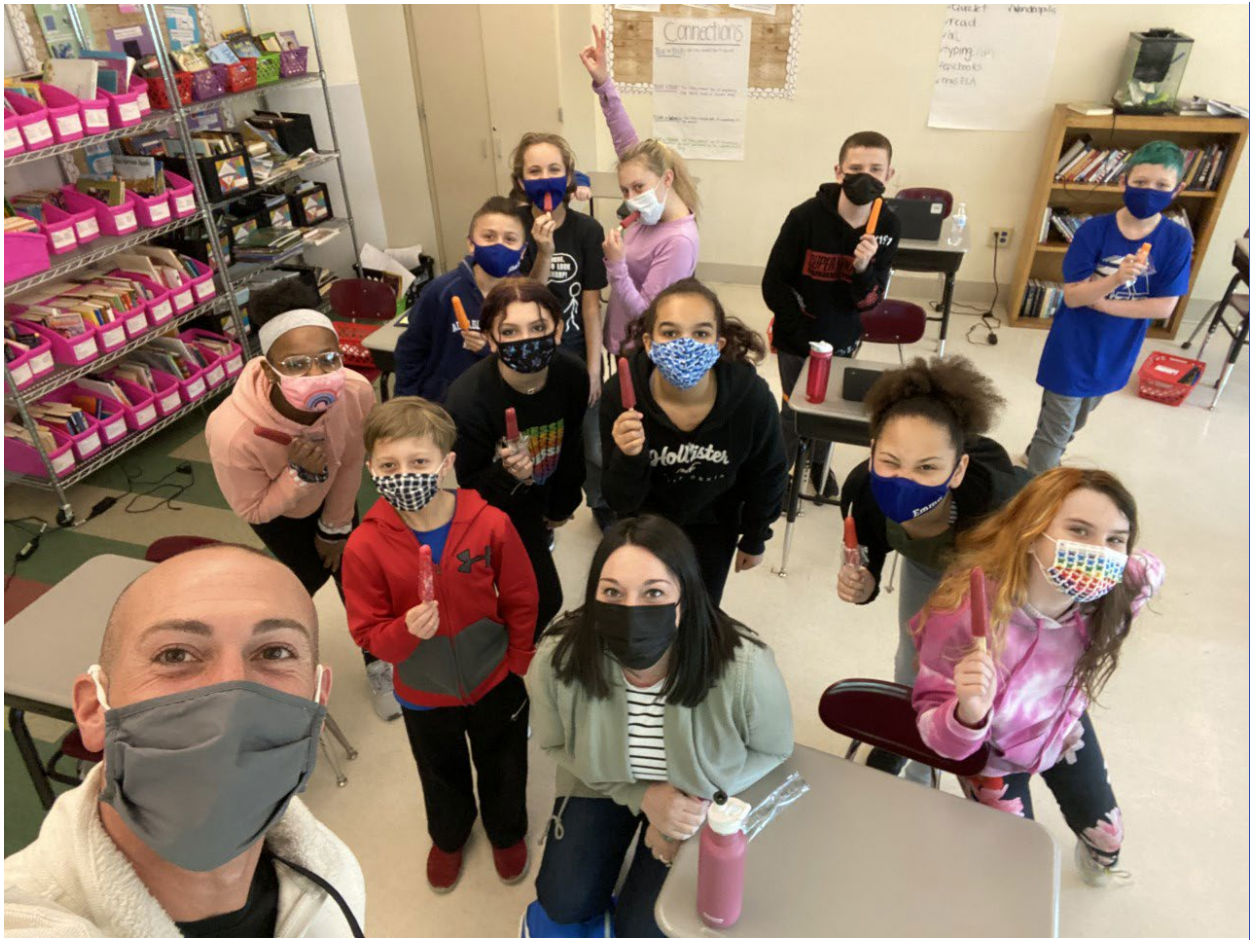
Mark Your Calendar for May 18 School Budget Vote and Board of Education Member Election



Annual School Budget **Your** **Vote Matters**
Tuesday, May 18, 2021
6:00 AM - 9:00 PM
www.nscsd.org/budget

We recently noticed a misprint on the 2020-2021 wall calendar - the school budget vote and Board of Education Member election date was incorrectly listed. Please make a note that the correct date is Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Visit our budget website at www.nscsd.org/budget for more information.

March is Kindness Month at Roxboro Road Middle



Students and staff at **Roxboro Road Middle School** are doing their best to turn the Month of March into a big celebration of kindness! **Melissa Potratz**, a 7th grade teacher at Roxboro Road Middle School recently reached out and shared the school's "[Kindness Calendar](#)" on behalf of herself, **Chris Chirinos** and **RRMS Student Council** and **Positivity Project**. Throughout the month, the school community is invited to take part in many themed days such as the Ice Cream Social (pictured above), Lucky Charm and Rainbow Days. Event organizers are also hoping to wrap the entire building with a kindness chain, made of links added each time someone performs an act of kindness. Great job Roxboro Road Middle School and keep up the kindness! Mr. Chirinos is pictured below with the start to the school's kindness chain.



Wellness Wednesdays - Learn How to Ease the Transition Back to School

As the North Syracuse Central School District prepares to bring more students back to schools for in-person learning, we want to share some important resources with our students, families and staff. Our Wellness Wednesdays topics will focus on sharing resources about coming back to school in uncertain/unconventional times. In collaboration with CONTACT Community Services, the NSCSD is holding the following virtual workshop on March 23:



**Are you feeling
Stressed?
Overwhelmed?
Worried?**

LEARN HOW TO EASE THE TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL

QPR Gatekeeper Training

Tuesday, March 23rd 7:00-8:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Id: 626 316 2669 Passcode: 513478

Discover how to recognize warning signs of a mental health crisis, offer hope, get help and most importantly - save a life.

A QPR Gatekeeper can be anyone – parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, first responders, doctors, clergy and many others!



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

Parents weigh in on Central New York schools reopening plans- Tuesday, March 16, 2021 - [Click here to view the story on CNY Central](#)

Liverpool, North Syracuse schools to expand in-person learning in April by Ashley Casey - March 16, 2021 - [Click here to view the story on Eagle News online](#)

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.](#)

Looking for Athletic News? Subscribe Now!

Did you know that the North Syracuse Central School District's Athletics Department has a weekly email newsletter? If you'd like to subscribe to the newsletter, [click here to fill out the necessary form.](#)

C-NS Star Shop Holding Apparel Sale Open to Public

The Star Shop at Cicero-North Syracuse High School is once again holding a public sale for C-NS merchandise. The order deadline is March 31 with items expected to ship 4 weeks after the store has closed. [Click here to place an order or find out more.](#)

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. If you'd like to share pictures, [please click here to upload them to our communication office staff.](#)

Pictured below: Thank you to moms Sara Calican and Stacy Catera for sharing their daughters' pictures! Both girls are kindergarten students in the NSCSD. Korie (pictured on the left) is proudly getting ready to learn at the desk her dad built her for the days she learns from home. Olivia (pictured on the right) is a fully remote student learning in Ms. Meives class. Thank you for submitting your pictures!



[Submit Your Photos Now!](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

March 19
Second Trimester Report Period Ends for Grade K-4 students

March 23
[Learn How to Ease the Transition Back to School Virtual Training](#)

March 29 - April 2
Spring 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](#)
- [Kindergarten Registration](#)
- [Subscribe to NorthStar Lights](#)



Remember to Vote!
May 18, 2021

