

North Syracuse Central School  
District

# NorthStar Lights

Issue #15 | March 5, 2021



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

It has been another week of change here in the District. On Monday, our secondary schools welcomed their students back for an additional day of in-person instruction. Yesterday we learned that the Onondaga County Commissioner of Health has deemed it safe to reduce social distancing guidelines within our schools. We have been anticipating such news and last week we sent a survey to our families to determine their level of comfort sending students to school if social distancing guidelines were ultimately reduced.

The District is now working on plans to bring students back for more days of in-person learning while continuing to offer remote instruction. These plans will take time and collaboration and will require a great deal of communication. We are in the process of surveying our staff regarding their needs and creating a tentative timeline. Once we have more information we will share it with our families, teachers and faculty so be sure to check back.

Please continue to help us advocate for adequate public education funding by taking a few minutes to complete the following links:

- [Take Action - Federal Stimulus](#)
- [Take Action - State Budget](#)

At this past Monday's Board of Education Meeting, the Board approved an academic calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. [The calendar is available online by clicking here.](#)

You may have seen the news that Grade 3-8 State testing is still slated to take place this Spring. We will again be utilizing Computer Based Testing (CBT). We have yet to receive additional guidance from NYSED outlining how

the pandemic will impact state testing but at this time, only students engaged in in-person instruction will take the state assessments. We're hoping to receive more guidance over the next few weeks and will use this newsletter to provide updates.

Please enjoy the sunshine and a bit of down time this weekend. As always, thank you for your continued partnership in managing the community spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,  
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

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## **NSCSD March 5 Shining Stars: NSCSD Support Staff**

As we spend time exploring ways to improve the educational experience for all students, we don't necessarily always hear about our schools' support staff. School support personnel are the backbone of our schools and the work they do behind the scenes is critical in ensuring schools run smoothly.

This week, we received a nomination for one of the many wonderful school support staff members but that person was hesitant to be singled out for recognition. In honor of this week's 'Shining Star', we wanted to recognize that the work being done by the many District support personnel is every bit as important as that of our instructional staff and should be celebrated.

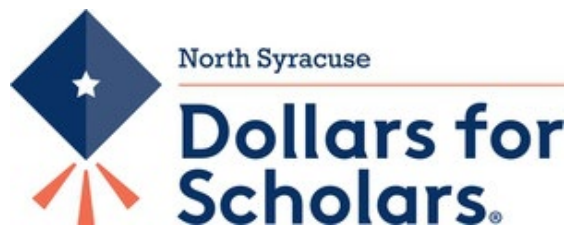
NSCSD support staff, including bus drivers and transportation employees, custodial and maintenance workers, food service staff, clerical and office personnel and all who support teachers, work to ensure that schools function properly and that students receive what they need each day.

[Click here to read more about our Support Staff](#)

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!

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## **Dollars for Scholars Applications due March 31**



The North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars application period is open from March 1 to March 31 for students who live in the North Syracuse Central School District. Any senior who is planning on pursuing college is encouraged to apply. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$1,000. Matching funds are available from many colleges and universities.

Scholarship applicants could attend two or four year colleges and universities, technical institutes, trade schools, nursing schools, health-related programs and BOCES programs. Scholarship money can be used towards tuition, room and board and any educational supplies.

Visit [northsyracuse.dollarsforscholars.org](https://northsyracuse.dollarsforscholars.org) to apply. If you have any questions contact April Winters at [aprilwinters24@gmail.com](mailto:aprilwinters24@gmail.com).

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## 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](#).

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## Wellness Wednesdays - Healthy Sleep Habits



As Hybrid students at Cicero-North Syracuse High School and North Syracuse Junior High School begin attending school two days a week, the power of routines becomes more evident than ever! This week's edition of WELLNESS WEDNESDAY focuses on helping re-establish healthy routines around sleep. Optimal health relies on four factors: Sleep, Exercise, Nutrition and Social Connections. [Click here for more information](#).

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](#)

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## NSCSD Students and Staff in the News

North Syracuse Central School District adds another in-person learning day for students by Amanda Hull - Monday, March 1, 2021 - [Click here to view the article on CNY Central.](#)

[NSCSD Superintendent talks about bringing students back to class](#) - Posted February 26, 2021 - [Click here to view the story on LocalSyr.com.](#)

North Syracuse Central School District looking for input on in-person learning options - Posted March 2, 2021 - [Click here to view the story on LocalSyr.com.](#) \*The survey referred to in this story has closed.

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## 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.](#)

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## 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.](#)

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## C-NS Celebrates Black History Month with Contest



To help celebrate Black History Month and bring awareness, Cicero-North Syracuse staff created a contest open to all students during the month of February. The contest was posted on the school's Google Classroom Physical Education pages to ensure all students would have access to it. An [informational video was created and played on the school's morning announcements in addition to being posted in Google Classroom](#). To enter the contest, students needed to answer 11 questions and those that provided the most correct answers were placed into a pool with winners selected randomly. In the end, the top three random winners were selected and won gift baskets. Congratulations to the following winners: 1st Place, Elizabeth Henne; 2nd Place, Alaina Sokolowski and 3rd Place, Liv Sauta. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who participated!

**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](http://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 above and below (top row): Cicero-North Syracuse High School and North Syracuse Junior High School students had an additional day of in-person instruction beginning this week. Superintendent of Schools Daniel D. Bowles had a chance to visit both schools this week and said he was excited to see things looking more back to normal this week.*







Pictured above: Winter fun at the North Syracuse Early Education Program - Students in Carrie Voutsinas class in the North Syracuse Early Education Program had a chance to get outside and enjoy their school's new inclusive playground despite the chilly weather. [Click here to read more about the inclusive playground.](#)

Pictured below: SNOW fun in a Pandemic! Cicero Elementary School students took time to enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise at the same time. A group of students and staff recently strapped on their SNOW shoes and explored the area!



[Submit Your Photos Now!](#)

## Important Upcoming Dates

### March 12

25-Week Progress Reports Available online for Grade 5-12 students

### March 15

Board of Education Meeting

### March 17

Half Day for Pre-K through grade 12 students - Staff Workshops

### March 19

Second Trimester Report Period Ends for Grade K-4 students

### 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](#)





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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.