

## A warm welcome from the district's new Superintendent

Dear North Syracuse Central School District community,

I am honored and excited to introduce myself as the new Superintendent of Schools for the North Syracuse Central School District. It is a privilege to join such a dynamic and dedicated community, and I look forward to collaboratively with students, families, educators and staff to build upon the district's strong foundation of excellence.

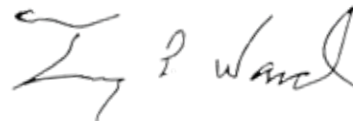
Education is a powerful force for shaping the future and I am deeply committed to fostering an environment where every student is supported, challenged and inspired to reach their fullest potential. As we embark on this journey together, my focus will be on maintaining high academic standards, promoting student well-being and ensuring that our schools remain a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

I believe that open communication and strong partnerships between schools, families and the broader community are essential to student success. Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to meeting many of you, listening to your thoughts and aspirations for our schools, and working collaboratively to advance our shared vision for the district.

I invite you to connect with me at upcoming school events, meetings and community gatherings. Your insights and feedback will be invaluable in shaping the future of our district. Together, we can continue to provide exceptional educational experiences that empower our students to thrive.

I want to thank you for your warm welcome. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to serving the North Syracuse Central School District with dedication and enthusiasm.

With gratitude,



Dr. Terry L. Ward II  
Superintendent of Schools  
North Syracuse Central School District



### ➤ THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME!

*Superintendent Ward has been spending time getting to know staff and students throughout the NSCSD and is appreciative of the warm welcome from everyone!*

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## DISTRICT INFORMATION

### Board of Education

Michael A. Mirizio, President  
 Xavier Moody-Wusik, Vice President  
 Robert Crabtree  
 Paul Farfaglia  
 Matthew Hermann  
 Beth Kramer  
 Joshua Ludden  
 Amanda Sugrue  
 Mark Thorne  
 Azariyah Fernandez, Student Ex-Officio  
 Jilian Herrera, District Clerk

### Administration

Superintendent of Schools,  
 Terry L. Ward, Ed. D.  
 Associate Superintendent for Teaching & Learning,  
 Christopher R. Leahey, Ed. D.  
 Associate Superintendent for Business Services,  
 Donald F.X. Keegan  
 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources,  
 Michael G. Barody, Ed. D.

### Board of Education Meetings

March 10 & 24, 2025  
 April 7 & 21, 2025  
 May 5 & 12, 2025  
 June 2 & 16, 2025

### Newsletter Information

The District Dispatch is published by the NSCSD to inform residents about issues, events and achievements. Suggestions are welcome and should be directed to:

Laurie Cook, School Information Officer  
 Phone: 315-218-2190  
 Email: lcook@nscsd.org

### ➤ SNOW MUCH FUN AT ALLEN ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



*It has been a very snowy winter in Central New York but our students and teachers are making the best of it! Pictured above are kindergarten students in Mrs. Conese's class at Allen Road Elementary School building a snowman together during recess.*

## District invites stakeholders to participate in ThoughtExchange survey

### Your voice matters!

*What's the one change, improvement or initiative that you believe would have the greatest positive impact on our school community?*

On Jan. 6, 2025, the NSCSD welcomed Dr. Terry L. Ward as the new Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Ward is deeply committed to the district's success and believes that collaboration is key to building a strong foundation. That's why he wants to hear from students, families, educators, staff and community members. Your feedback will help guide important decisions and ensure that NSCSD continues to thrive.

To gather stakeholder feedback, NSCSD is using ThoughtExchange, an innovative online platform that allows you to share ideas, consider different perspectives, and help inform future decisions. Unlike traditional surveys, ThoughtExchange enables the real-time, two-way exchange of thoughts and ideas, ensuring that the most important concepts rise to the top.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts through the ThoughtExchange which will be open through Monday, March 31.



➤ SCAN THE QR CODE OR

➤ GO TO [WWW.NSCSD.ORG/SURVEY](http://WWW.NSCSD.ORG/SURVEY)

## Broadway coming to our schools this spring

The North Syracuse Central School District's Fine Arts Department is proud to bring the magic of Broadway to Central New York this spring with a fantastic lineup of school musicals! Audiences won't need to travel to New York City to experience the excitement of live theater—our talented students are bringing beloved productions to the local stage. These performances showcase the hard work and dedication of our students, staff and volunteers, providing an opportunity for families and community members to enjoy high-quality theater right in their own backyard. Tickets for all productions will be made available on the district website through Hometown ticketing. Stay tuned!

### Gillette Road Middle School Presents:

**March 14 at 7 p.m.**

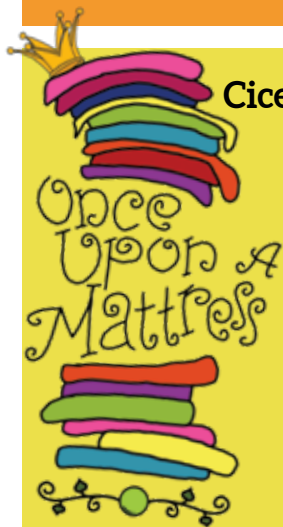
**March 15 at 7 p.m.**

**March 16 at 2 p.m.**



**Gillette Road Middle School Auditorium**

Annie JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)



### Cicero-North Syracuse High School Presents:

**March 21 at 7 p.m.**

**March 22 at 2 p.m.**

**March 22 at 7 p.m.**

**North Syracuse Junior High School Auditorium**

### Roxboro Road Middle School Presents:

**March 28 at 7 p.m.**

**March 29 at 2 p.m.**



**Roxboro Road Middle School Auditorium**



## COMING TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THIS SPRING

Healthy Smiles is a government-funded dental program bringing free dental care directly to your child's school. With no out-of-pocket costs for families, Healthy Smiles ensures that every child can access preventive dental care conveniently.

### Program Highlights:

- **No Cost to Families:** Covered by Medicaid and private insurance—no child will be turned away.
- **On-Site Care:** Dental exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants and more, provided right at school.
- **Convenient and Comprehensive:** Your child will receive a checkup, preventive care and an oral health report without needing to leave school. Healthy Smiles helps ensure every child has a bright, healthy smile. Stay tuned for more details on how to sign up as the program approaches.

To learn more or to complete the necessary



parental content form ahead of time, scan the QR code or visit [HealthySmilesNYS.com](http://HealthySmilesNYS.com) or call 718-689-7020. Printed copies of

the consent form are also available in each elementary school health office.

Parents/guardians can reach out to NSCSD Nursing Services Supervisor Peg Miller by email at [mmiller@nscsd.org](mailto:mmiller@nscsd.org) or by phone at 315-218-4153.



# NYS DOT issues traffic alert for Cicero; closure will impact NSCSD students and families



and families of students in the most affected areas have already been contacted. However, with the detours in place, some delays may still occur—especially for students traveling to and from Gillette Road Middle School, Cicero-North Syracuse High School and Cicero Elementary School.

“We know this will be an adjustment for everyone,” said Superintendent Dr. Terry L. Ward. “Ensuring the safe and timely arrival of our students and staff is our top priority. We ask for cooperation and understanding as our transportation team works to minimize disruptions. Please allow extra travel time, follow detour signs and be mindful of increased traffic.”

Significant changes are coming to traffic patterns in the Cicero area. The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced that starting Monday, Feb. 24, South Bay Road will be closed to south-bound traffic between East Pine Grove Road and the South Bay Road bridge. This closure, part of the ongoing I-81 Viaduct Project, is expected to last through October 2025 and will directly impact travel in the Cicero area—including routes to several of our schools.

The NSCSD Transportation Department has been working closely with the DOT to prepare for these changes. Bus routes have been adjusted to minimize delays,

The DOT has installed temporary traffic signals near the South Bay Road bridge and has published a detour map online to help drivers navigate the changes.

## What You Can Do to Prepare:

- Plan ahead – Expect delays, especially during morning drop-off and after-noon pick-up.
- Follow detour signs – Stick to the recommended routes for a smoother drive.
- Be patient & courteous – Everyone is in this together and a little kindness goes a long way!

## DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 31

The North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars online application process for CNS seniors is now open. If you know a senior who plans to further their education, please encourage them to apply.

To apply for a scholarship, students must first register and then complete an application. Students needing help completing an application are encouraged to visit the school's Career Center. More information about applying is available on the CNS High School website by clicking on the Career Center link.

Please contact April Winters at 315-415-9298 or email [aprilwinters@gmail.com](mailto:aprilwinters@gmail.com) for additional information.



## NSCSD students can use StudentSquare for alerts

NSCSD students can now receive NSCSD school closing/delay notifications! Students who would like to receive these types of distinct alerts can download the StudentSquare app to their phone or mobile device and choose “Sign in with Google” and use their Google Login. Once signed into the app, users should allow instant app notifications on their notification settings.



## Gillette Road Middle School's Tara Osier Named NYS Master Teacher



Tara Osier, a fifth-grade teacher at Gillette Road Middle School, was recently selected to join the prestigious New York State Master Teacher Program, a professional development and net-

working community celebrating the state's high-performing STEM teachers.

Tara is one of only 144 educators chosen from across the state and the first middle school teacher from the NSCSD to receive this honor. Her selection highlights her dedication to excellence in STEM education and her commitment to bringing innovative science instruction to her students.

She first learned about the Master Teacher Program while attending a New York State Test Investigation Training at BOCES. Intrigued by the professional development opportunities, hands-on workshops and the chance to collaborate with other educators, she saw it as a way to share ideas and overcome challenges. "It's a great opportunity to work with other teachers in Central New York and throughout the state," she said.

Through the program, Tara hopes to expand her knowledge of science pedagogy, incorporate fresh activities into her classroom and help students explore STEM-related careers. "I hope to get them excited about STEM fields and career paths," she explained.

With 25 years of teaching experience, Tara's passion for STEM education runs deep. She began her career at Cicero Elementary as a first-grade teacher, taught at Bear Road Elementary and Cicero Elementary in various grade levels, and transitioned to Gillette Road Middle School two and a half years ago. "I've always loved science and math. Today, I get to teach the subjects I loved and see the excitement in my students," she shared.

The rigorous selection process required Tara to meet strict eligibility criteria, secure multiple recommendations, pass a certification test and complete an interview and presentation before a panel. Her acceptance is a testament to her expertise and dedication to her craft.

## Partnering for Student Success – Join Us in Supporting NSCSD Families



*ProAct is one of the many generous organizations supporting NSCSD students and families. One of their recent donations to Roxboro Road Elementary School is pictured above. We are so grateful for partners like ProAct and invite other local businesses, churches and organizations to join us in making a lasting impact on our students.*

The NSCSD is committed to supporting the well-being of our students and families, and we're looking to strengthen our partnerships with local businesses, churches and community organizations.

Jennifer DiBianco, Director of Diverse Learning & Instruction, is reaching out to explore opportunities for collaboration. Many of our schools already work with community partners, but we recognize that others may not know where to start. Your support—whether through backpack snack programs, donations or resources like food, clothing, school supplies and hygiene products—can make a significant impact on students in need.

If your organization is interested in contributing or learning more, please reach out to discuss ways we can work together to ensure every student has the resources they need to thrive. Together, we can make a difference!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE



## Register for NS Early Education Program in March

For over 40 years, the North Syracuse Early Education Program has been helping little learners grow, play, and thrive! Located in the historic Main Street Elementary School, our program serves over 350 preschoolers in a warm, inclusive environment where all children can learn together. With experienced, certified teachers and a curriculum aligned with NYS standards, we're here to give your child the best start possible.

- INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL FOR 3 & 4 YEAR-OLDS
- KINDERGARTEN READINESS & SOCIAL SKILLS
- INDOOR MOTOR AREAS
- HEALTHY SNACKS
- INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND
- FULL & HALF-DAY CLASSES
- SECOND STEP SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CURRICULUM

Certified Teachers,  
SP/OT/PT,  
School Psychologists,  
Social Worker and  
RN & LPN on staff



205 S. MAIN ST., N. SYRACUSE | 315-218-2200  
WWW.NSCSD.ORG/EARLYEDUCATION

## Changes to Google Services for Students

The New York State Education Department has issued new guidelines requiring school districts, including NSCSD, to adjust student access to certain Google services.

### What's Changing?

- No Changes to Core Services – Students and teachers can continue using essential Google tools like Gmail, Classroom, Drive, Docs, Slides, Forms, Calendar and Sheets as usual.
- Changes to Additional Services – Students will no longer have access to YouTube, Google Translate, Google Earth, Google Photos and other non-core services when logged into their district accounts.

### How Will This Impact Students?

- No Direct Access – Students won't be able to use YouTube, Translate, Earth or Photos through their school accounts.
- Teachers Can Still Share Videos – Educators can embed YouTube videos in Google Classroom, Slides and approved learning platforms like EdPuzzle for students to view.
- Translation Support Available – The district's ENL team has alternative translation tools built into some Google Core Apps to assist students who need them.
- Staff Access Remains Unchanged – Teachers and staff will still have full access to Google's Additional Services

### Why Is This Happening?

This update aligns with Ed Law 2-d, ensuring stronger student data privacy and security. While we understand these changes may affect some classroom activities, we are confident they won't disrupt learning. For more details, visit the RIC One Google Resource Hub on the district website.



Many Google Services are used to support instruction throughout the North Syracuse Central School District



# Save the date for school budget vote and Board of Education member election May 20

Mark your calendar! The 2025 School Budget Vote and Board Member Election will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. The school budget funds all the programs and services that support our students, making your voice and participation essential.

The district is currently developing the 2025-26 budget, and community input is an important part of the process. Budget information is available on our website and discussed at Board of Education meetings. The meeting schedule for the remainder of the school year is published in this newsletter and the public is always invited to attend.

North Syracuse Central School District

## Save the Date: May 20, 2025

### School Budget Vote and Board Member Election

**Register to Vote by May 15, 2025**

Learn more about voter registration, absentee ballots and much more on our budget website at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget)

**Polling Locations:**  
Residents who live NORTH of Rt. 481 vote at Cicero-North Syracuse High School  
Residents who live SOUTH of Rt. 481 vote at the District Office Building

**BRIGHTER TOGETHER** [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget)

## Voters to elect three board of education members; petitions available

On May 20, 2025 NSCSD voters will choose three district residents to serve on the NSCSD Board of Education. Board members each serve a three-year term. The NSCSD Board of Education includes nine school district residents elected by voters. Board members are not financially compensated.

Residents must collect thirty seven (37) signatures from qualified school district voters to be placed on the ballot. Petitions must be filed by 5 p.m. April 21.

The board is the official policy-making body of the school district. It is responsible for carrying out the laws and regulations pertaining to the education of children living within the district. The board adopts district policy, curriculum, programs of study and approves the hiring of all personnel, as well as establishing the

conditions of employment. The board is also responsible for maintaining district facilities, establishing an annual budget and setting a tax levy.

To qualify for board membership, an individual must be: a district resident for at least one year, a U.S. citizen, a minimum of 18 years of age and able to read and write.

The terms of the following incumbents expire on June 30, 2025:

- Robert Crabtree
- Matthew Hermann
- Amanda Sugrue

In addition to the nine members elected by district residents, the board also includes a non-voting student member who is elected by their peers. For additional information about the board, please contact District Clerk Jilian Herrera at 315-218-2131.



The CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) program is ensuring consistency and a strong foundation in literacy across all North Syracuse elementary schools. As part of a smart, strategic school budget, CKLA was selected and implemented to provide every elementary student—at Allen Road, KWS Bear Road, Cicero, Lakeshore Road, Roxboro Road and Smith Road—with the same high-quality instruction, supporting student success and long-term growth.

School budgets fund everything from classroom resources to technology, staffing and curriculum decisions. Investing in CKLA was a choice by the North Syracuse Central School District to create alignment across schools, ensuring all students build strong literacy skills with engaging, knowledge-rich lessons.

Pictured above: Roxboro Road Elementary School Teacher Ms. Guglielmi shared pictures of the school's kindergarten classrooms wrapping up their CKLA Knowledge unit on farms with fun, hands-on learning. Students in hers, Mrs. DenBleyker's, Mrs. Roach's and Mrs. Nuzzo's classrooms rotated through each other's rooms, collecting and sorting eggs, shearing wool to make sweaters, milking cows and even getting pigs nice and muddy. This interactive approach helps students build background knowledge while making learning exciting and memorable.

By prioritizing evidence-based curriculum choices like CKLA, the district ensures that every child receives the tools they need to become strong, confident readers—no matter where they learn.



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Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES Engagement & Development Services.

# KICK OFF TO KINDERGARTEN


**Join us for in-person Kindergarten Registration!**

The North Syracuse Central School District is excited to welcome our new students (born on or before Dec. 1, 2020).

Don't miss this opportunity to complete your child's registration, meet school staff and district representatives and get your questions answered - all in one place!  
Learn more about our schools and the resources available to your family.

**In-person registration will be at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building (5355 West Taft Rd., North Syracuse) from 12:30-3:30 PM and from 4-6 PM on the following dates:**

APRIL 1	APRIL 2	APRIL 3
Cicero Elementary	KWS Bear Road Elementary	Allen Road Elementary
Lakeshore Road Elementary	Roxboro Road Elementary	Smith Road Elementary



Scan code or go to [www.nscsd.org/kindergarten](http://www.nscsd.org/kindergarten) to learn more

## NON PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

APPLICATIONS DUE  
APRIL 1, 2025

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 and/or from charter, private or parochial schools during the 2025-26 school year, must be filed prior to April 1, 2025. 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. Please contact the Transportation Department at 315-218-2107 for additional information.

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