

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the North Syracuse Central School District

Volume 32 No. 3

May 2016

## Northstars continue to shine



Photo by Jason Mun / groupphotos.com

The district's students continue to excel in the classroom and beyond, receiving local, state and national recognition. Just one of the many exciting achievements this year, the Cicero-North Syracuse High School Northstar Marching Band, through Booster Club funding, traveled to New York City to participate in the 254<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Parade as the Official Guest Band of the Grand Marshal. This was a huge honor for the Northstars with the parade being the oldest in the country, dating back to 1762!

Read more of our many student accomplishments on page 6.

## Increased state aid allows balanced budget, no layoffs or program cuts

On April 1, New York State Legislators approved a final state budget without the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), which would have originally taken nearly \$2 million from the North Syracuse Central School District.

The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was established by the state in 2010 to take back promised state aid from school districts to fill the state's own budget gap. Over the past six years, the formula has allowed the state to take a total of approximately \$43.5 million total in promised state aid from the North Syracuse Central School District.

With the elimination of the GEA, the district is slated to receive \$3.2 million more aid than last year. "We are grateful New York State has finally eliminated the GEA for 2016-17 but are disappointed that the overall aid does not allow us to restore programs that were cut in the past," said Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach.

★ continued on page 3

2016 - 17

## Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget  
\$155,237,936

Tax Levy increase  
\$890,665

Proposed school tax levy increase at tax cap = 1.09%

**Vote: Tuesday, May 17 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

For residents living  
**SOUTH** of 481

Administrative Office Building  
5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY

For residents living  
**NORTH** of 481

Cicero Elementary School  
Route 31  
Cicero, NY

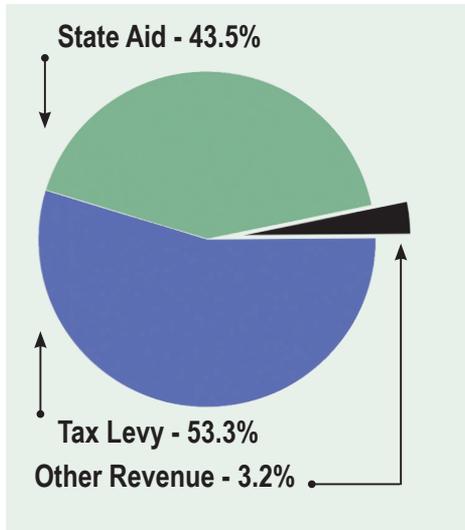
## TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME \$25 INCREASE BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
			
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$100,000	\$4,310	\$100,000
Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$23.51	\$545.55	\$23.51
Estimated Annual School Tax	\$2,351	\$2,351	\$2,351
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$25/\$2.08	\$25/\$2.08	\$25/\$2.08

*These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR*

For more budget news go to  
[www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget)

## District Revenues



	2015-16 Budget	2016-17 Proposed	Dollar Change
General Aid	\$56,864,117	\$60,286,416	\$3,422,299
Building Aid*	\$7,534,084	\$7,296,148	(\$237,936)
<b>Total State Aid</b>	<b>\$64,398,201</b>	<b>\$67,582,564</b>	<b>\$3,184,363</b>
Other Revenue			
PILOTS	\$583,700	\$470,494	(\$113,206)
Sales tax	\$350,000	\$350,000	—
Interest	\$60,000	\$60,000	—
Fund balance	\$750,000	\$950,000	\$200,000
Rent	\$380,000	\$400,000	\$20,000
Medicaid	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$50,000
Other	\$2,156,610	\$2,300,000	\$143,390
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$61,444,427</b>	<b>\$65,166,910</b>	<b>\$3,722,483</b>
Property taxes			
Property tax levy	\$81,884,213	\$82,774,878	\$890,665
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,862,724</b>	<b>\$155,237,936</b>	<b>\$4,375,212</b>

## North Syracuse Central School District

### Board of Education

Patrick J. Svoboda, *President*  
 Michael A. Mirizio, *Vice President*  
 Paul Farfaglia  
 George Harrington  
 Elizabeth Kasch  
 Michael Leone  
 Scot McClintock  
 Mary Scanlon  
 Michael Shusda  
 Connie Gibson, *District Clerk*

### Superintendent of Schools

Annette Speech

### Administration

Daniel D. Bowles, *Associate Superintendent for Teaching & Learning*  
 Donald F.X. Keegan, *Associate Superintendent for Business Services*  
 Dawn Wilczynski, *Assistant Superintendent for Instruction*  
 Jason Nephew, *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources*

### Newsletter Information

Suggestions for the *District Dispatch* are welcome and should be directed to: Laurie Cook, School Information Officer: E-mail: lcook@nscsd.org.

\*Represents funds that will be used to pay debt service on buildings rather than support programs

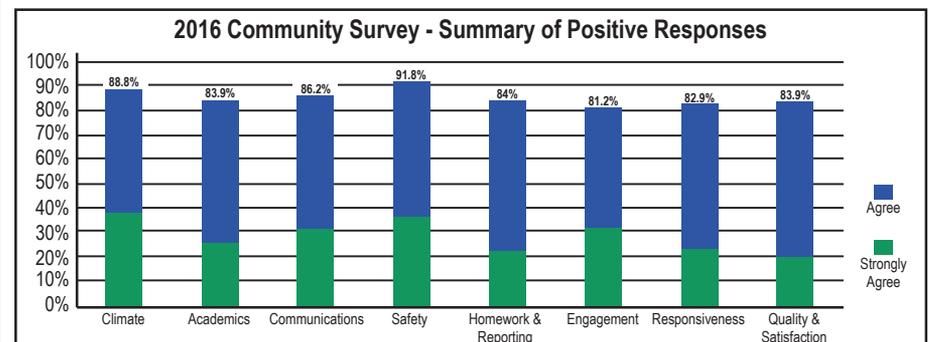
## Survey input will help district set priorities

In January and February of 2016, the North Syracuse Central School District administered a survey to gather feedback from members of the community to help assess progress and set goals for the district. 1,806 participants participated in the survey, answering various questions about climate, academics, communications, safety, homework and reporting, engagement, responsiveness and quality and satisfaction for individual schools and the district as a whole.

Superintendent of Schools Annette Speech said, "We wanted feedback from our parents and community members to assist us in evaluating our progress as we work toward our mission and goals and we were very pleased with the response. In light of the fact that this was the first year administering the survey, the feedback was tremendous."

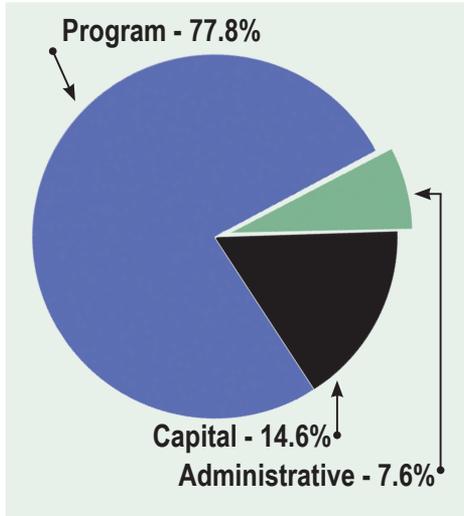
In assessing feedback provided through the survey, it was noted that the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated satisfaction in all categories, with the greatest agreement being in the area of safety. The chart below shows a summary of positive responses in each category.

"Our administration, board of education and advisory committees will now take a detailed look at this data and determine our priorities as we strive to increase student achievement and foster a supportive culture and environment amongst all members of our school community," said Superintendent Speech.



## District Expenditures

All public schools in New York State are required by law to report spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital. The District's program component represents the largest portion and focal point of its budget, accounting for almost 78% of the entire budget.



	2015-16 Budget	2016-17 Proposed	Dollar Change
<b>Program Expenditures</b>	<b>\$116,253,146</b>	<b>\$120,806,539</b>	<b>\$4,553,393</b>
Regular Instruction	\$40,655,685	\$42,778,042	\$2,122,357
Special School Program	\$16,820,085	\$18,017,629	\$1,197,544
Student Services	\$8,863,419	\$9,194,356	\$330,937
In-Service Training	\$408,558	\$385,020	(\$23,538)
Legal	\$100,000	\$100,000	—
Transportation	\$8,066,627	\$7,997,089	(\$69,538)
Employee Benefits	\$41,338,772	\$42,334,403	\$995,631
<b>Administrative Expenditures</b>	<b>\$11,505,736</b>	<b>\$11,784,962</b>	<b>\$279,226</b>
Board of Education	\$145,664	\$150,041	\$4,377
Central Administration	\$1,817,546	\$1,946,150	\$128,604
Central Support	\$1,821,087	\$1,792,712	(\$28,375)
Supervision/Staff Development	\$4,510,581	\$4,773,218	\$262,637
Census	\$0	\$0	—
Employee Benefits	\$3,210,858	\$3,122,841	(\$88,017)
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$23,103,842</b>	<b>\$22,646,435</b>	<b>(\$457,407)</b>
Operation/Maintenance of Plan	\$9,283,004	\$8,983,211	(\$299,793)
Central Support	\$131,000	\$131,000	—
Employee Benefits	\$2,820,216	\$2,962,602	\$142,386
Debt service	\$10,869,622	\$10,569,622	(\$300,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,862,724</b>	<b>\$155,237,936</b>	<b>\$4,375,212</b>

## State aid allows balanced budget, no layoffs or program cuts ★ continued from page 1



While the final state aid amount will allow the district to not have to make reductions in student programming or require layoffs, it is limited to focusing on the programs and services already in place.

School districts, including the North Syracuse Central School District, have two primary sources of revenue to fund operating budgets: the tax levy, which is the amount of money the district collects from property owners within the district to support the school budget, and state aid.

North Syracuse's state aid allocation accounts for about 44 percent of the budget's total revenues. Property taxes make up 53 percent, and approximately 3 percent is from other revenue sources such as county sales tax, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements, rent and the district's fund balance. On April 18, the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education approved a \$155,237,936 proposed budget with a spending increase of 2.9 percent, or \$4,375,212 compared to the current school year. The proposed tax levy increase is 1.09 percent, or \$890,665, within than the district's tax levy limit.

District residents will have the final say on budget authorization May 17 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Polling locations are listed in this newsletter. Residents can also check their polling location online at [www.nscsd.org/wheretovote](http://www.nscsd.org/wheretovote).

North Syracuse Central School District appreciates our sponsors!

**Thank you for supporting  
our schools!**  
[www.nscsd.org/sponsorthanks](http://www.nscsd.org/sponsorthanks)  
**(315) 218-2143**

## Are you receiving North Syracuse Central School District text messages, e-mail alerts and phone calls through SchoolMessenger?

The North Syracuse Central School District has several methods of communicating with our various audiences, including our district website, press releases to local media outlets, the *District Dispatch* newsletter, a Facebook page, Twitter account and the SchoolMessenger (phone, e-mail and text) notification system.

The SchoolMessenger notification system sends attendance, food service, general and emergency notifications to parents/guardians and staff via phone, text and e-mail. If you have a child enrolled at one of our schools, you will automatically receive phone call, e-mail and text alerts pertaining to that school and will receive some district-wide messages. Different messages are sent out in various alert formats. The chart below provides an explanation of how various messages are typically communicated with families and community members. The notification system utilizes parent information from the district's student database so it is important to keep your contact information up to date with your child(ren)'s school.

Contact type	Phone		E-mail		*Text		Website (nscsd.org)	Facebook (www.nscsd.org/Facebook) Twitter (www.twitter.com/@NSyracuseCSD)
	Staff	Parent	Staff	Parent	Staff	Parent		
<b>School Hours Emergency</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Non-school Hours Emergency	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Attendance		X						
Foodservice		X		X				
School and District News			X	X	X	X	X	X
General (fundraiser)				X		X		X

Additional information about SchoolMessenger and alert types can be found online at [www.nscsd.org/schoolmessenger](http://www.nscsd.org/schoolmessenger).

## 12 teachers receive NSEF grants to enhance student programs



students of the North Syracuse Central School District. The activities are not funded by the regular school budget.

This year, NSEF presented nine grants, totaling more than \$13,000, to the following teachers (grant title in parentheses):

**Cicero-North Syracuse High School:** Mary Murdoch (Connected Classroom: A 21st Century Approach); Sara Bambino (Kinesthetic Theater Through a Raisin in the Sun and Building a Common Core Library); Paul Chapin (Science Technology Integration); Shirley Neumeister (Real World Forensics); **Early Education Program at Main Street School:** Wendy Tracy, Jennifer Thayer and Jill Trubia (Language Building Blocks in a Box); Kate Lane (Big Technology for the District's Smallest Learners); **Roxboro Road Elementary School:** Susan Winn (We Read and Can You Hear Me Now); **Lakeshore Road Elementary School:** Terri Persons and Sue Ryan (Bagged Books to Build Comprehension); **Smith Road Elementary School:** Lindsay Marzullo (OSMO Educational Hands-on Gaming Systems for iPads) and Kerry Delduchetto (Counseling Book Library).

2016 grant winners present at the April 18 Board of Education meeting are pictured with NSEF members Kaci Toms (student representative), Nat Ordway, Jerimiah Butler (student representative), Jackie Forte and Carolyn Gross. Grant winners not pictured: Kate Lane and Susan Winn.

Twelve North Syracuse Central School District teachers were recently recognized for receiving grants from the North Syracuse Education Foundation (NSEF) in their 2016 Grant Award's Program. NSEF resources support quality education through creative opportunities, and innovative/imaginative approaches.

Since 2003, NSEF has provided more than \$90,000 in grant money for student programming through generous contributions from the community.

The mission of the Foundation is to sponsor activities and projects intended to enhance the education and cultural enrichment of the

## SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the North Syracuse Central School District. The Board is composed of nine members who are elected by District voters to three-year terms. Members receive no salary for serving on the Board. The terms of three Board members expire each June 30<sup>th</sup>. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote. This year there are four candidates running for three vacant seats due to the expiration of terms. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three (3) year terms (from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017).



**Sharon Jacquin Hartel** is seeking her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. Ms. Hartel has lived in the district for the past 15 years. She currently resides in North Syracuse with her husband Michael Hartel. She has one grown daughter, Danielle, and two grown stepsons, Michael and Kevin, both who graduated from the district. She also has two grandchildren who attend school outside of the district.

Ms. Hartel is employed with OCM BOCES as a network administrator and has worked at several schools within the district maintaining various technologies. As such, she has had opportunities to work with district teachers and administrators and would like to continue that work in different capacities.

Sharon studied engineering at St. Cloud State University and network engineering at Syracuse CBIT. She has been involved with Syracuse's Valley Little League for the past seven years for her grandson and will be doing the same for her granddaughter. ★



**Mary Scanlon** is seeking reelection for her second term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. She has lived in the district for the past 28 years, currently residing in Cicero. Ms. Scanlon has two sons, Corey and Andrew, who attended district schools.

Ms. Scanlon recently re-entered the work force after a short retirement and is currently employed by Kelly Services, on assignment

at Protective Life. She has 28 years of work experience in the financial service industry, both as a life insurance and a disability underwriter. Additionally, she has worked in a team environment as a business analyst on corporate initiatives involving project coordination with IT partners and business clients.

Mary studied psychology at SUNY Geneseo. She has extensive volunteer service, serving on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education's executive, legislative, capital improvement and interview committees and chairing the policy committee. Additionally, she is involved with the budget sub-committee and is a current member of the C-NS Optimist Club. ★



**Jacqueline A. Owens** resides in Cicero with her husband William and two daughters, Rosie and Maddy, both students at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. As a resident of the district for the past 21 years, Ms. Owens previously served as a North Syracuse Central School District Board Member for nine years.

She was past president and secretary for the Early Education Program at Main Street School's Parent Teacher Organization and

is co-founder and President of the Friends of the North Syracuse Early Education Program. She is a member of the American Library Association, New York Library Association, Nation Trust for Historic Preservation and the Thorndon Morris Cotswold and RibbonSteel Sword dance groups.

Ms. Owens holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and history, a master's degree in library studies and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in school library media. She currently works as a substitute teacher for the Sandy Creek Central School District, typically for library programs. ★



**Michael A. Shusda** is seeking reelection for his first full term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. He is currently serving a one year term to fill the unexpired term of another board member.

Mr. Shusda has lived in the district for 37 years, currently residing in Clay with his wife JoAnn. Their son Thomas graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School in 1999.

Mr. Shusda retired from the Baldwinsville Central School District in 2009, having worked for 36 years in education; 11 as a math teacher and 25 as a school business administrator. He currently works in the field of education as a school finance consultant and as an adjunct professor for educational leadership at SUNY Cortland.

He graduated from Lyon Mountain High School and holds Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science Degrees from SUNY Albany and a Certificate of Advanced Studies from SUNY Oswego. ★

***Each Board of Education candidate is responsible for providing information for his or her own biography. The district does not endorse one candidate over another and reserves the right to edit biographies for space purposes.***

## Student accomplishments ★ *continued from page 1*

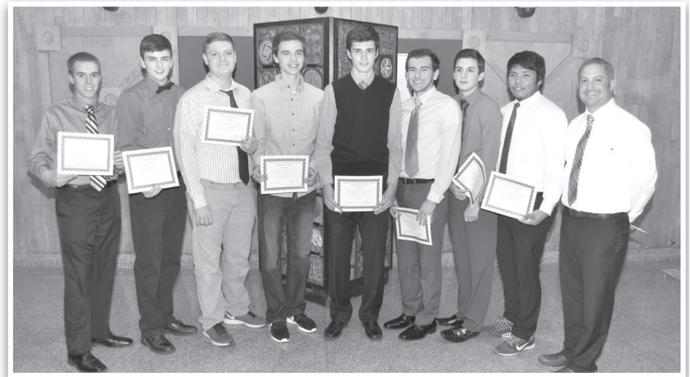


★ Eight students from the North Syracuse Junior High (NSJH) and Cicero-North Syracuse High School (*pictured above*) were involved in a summer engineering project sponsored by **New York State Sea Grant** that culminated in presentations and a competition at the New York Fair on September 2. The two groups of students were responsible for building, modifying and controlling a remotely operated underwater vehicle while competing in a unique underwater course that featured teams from five area districts.

- ★ Cicero-North Syracuse (C-NS) senior, Angela Rice was selected as a Scholar for National Grid Engineering's 2015 **Summer Pipeline Program Competition**.
- ★ Gina Musumeci, a C-NS student, earned national recognition in the **National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** for her photograph entitled, "Duistemis."
- ★ More than \$300,000 in **scholarships** was awarded to North Syracuse Central School District students in 2015-16.
- ★ Three elementary students (*pictured below*), Jack Cappon (Lakeshore Road Elementary School), Danielle Sambrook (Cicero Elementary School) and Declan Sullivan (Smith Road Elementary School) scored 100% on their **NY State Science tests**.



- ★ At the 2015 Shell Eco-Marathon Americas, the C-NS **Performance Engineering Team** placed second and third out of entries in their respective classes. The team brought home two trophies and \$1500 in prize money.
- ★ North Syracuse Junior High School's student-run tech crew, **4D Productions**, hosted several benefit concerts.
- ★ Several athletic and co-curricular teams/groups earned recognition over the past year:
  - Boys' Baseball – **League** and **Sectional** Champions
  - Boys' Bowling – **League** Champions
  - Boys' Tennis – **League** runner-up
  - Boys' Track – **League** runner-up

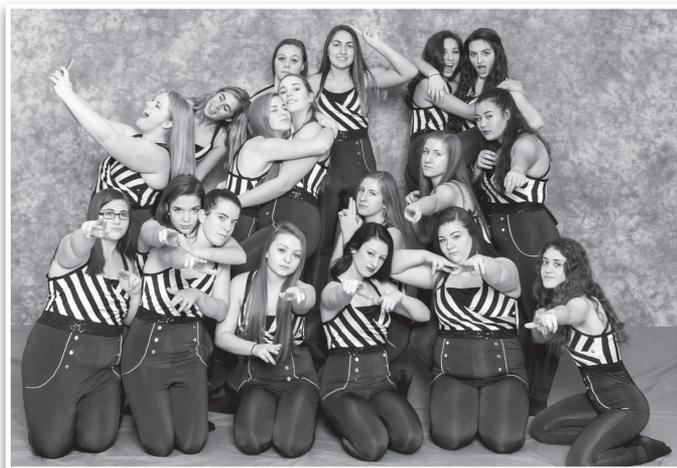


- Boys' Volleyball (*pictured above from Fall 2015 Scholar Athlete recognition*) – **League, Regional** and **Sectional** Champions, NYSCVOA Team, Sportsmanship Award
- Girls' Basketball – won Eastside Prep Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in San Francisco, CNYCL **National** Division Title, **Sectional** Champions, and McKayla Roberts was **Player of the Year** for the CNYCL National Division and for the All-CNY Team
- Girls' Cheerleading – **League** and **Sectional** Champions, **NYSPHSAA Championship** runner-up, 1<sup>st</sup> place Starfest, 1<sup>st</sup> place at Baldwinsville Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place West Genesee Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place C-NS' Spookfest
- Girls' Lacrosse – **League** runner-up
- Girls' Softball – **League** runner-up
- Girls' Swimming – **League** and Sectional Champions
- Girls' Tennis – **Division** Champions
- Co-Ed Indoor Track – National Division **League** Champions
- Co-Ed Cross Country – Boys' - **Division** runners-up, Girls' Division Champions

★ Congratulations Breanna Stewart – North Syracuse Central School District Alumni Class of 2012 and #1 draft pick in the **Women's National Basketball Association**.

## Student accomplishments ★ *continued from page 1*

- ★ Some additional athletic and co-curricular teams/groups that earned recognition include:
  - 12 Gillette Road Middle School students selected for **All County Band and Orchestra Groups**
  - 8 Roxboro Road Middle School students selected for **All County Band and Orchestra Groups**
  - 12 Roxboro Road Middle School students participate in **high school level band groups**
  - 10 Roxboro Road Middle School students auditioned for Junior High **All County Groups**, one student was accepted and one student was selected as an alternate
  - Four C-NS students selected for **All County Chorus**
  - Four C-NS students selected for **NYSSMA Area All-State Orchestra**
  - Five C-NS students selected for **OCMEA All County Orchestra**
  - Four C-NS students selected for **Syracuse Youth Orchestra** and four C-NS students selected for **Syracuse Youth String Orchestra**
  - C-NS student, Sophia Frontale, was selected for **All County Vocal Jazz Ensemble**
  - C-NS student, Ryan Williams, was selected for **All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble**
  - North Syracuse Junior High School (NSJH) student, Ryan Flaherty, was selected for **All-County Jazz Band**
  - C-NS student, Danielle Roach was featured as a Carrie Lazarus **Extraordinary Talent**
  - 12 C-NS students participated in the Roberts Wesleyan **College Honor Choir Festival**
  - Winterguard Groups and Dance Ensemble – **Recognition** at various level of competition (*Varsity Winterguard team is pictured below*)



- ★ Hundreds of student athletes achieved **scholar athlete** status over the last year. To qualify as a scholar athlete, students must have an overall GPA of 85% or higher and teams must have an average GPA over 90%. *Cheerleading and boys' wrestling (winter 2016) pictured above.*



- ★ C-NS and NSJHS students earned more than 30 top 10 medals and had seven overall winners at the **New York State DECA** competition (*pictured above*).
- ★ More than 100 students from C-NS and NSJHS earned awards in the 2016 **CNY Scholastic Art Awards** competition.



- ★ Cicero-North Syracuse High School was chosen as one of two finalists in **New York State Athletic Association's** third annual **Battle of the Fans** contest (*pictured above*).

For more budget news go to  
[www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget)



5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

## NORTH SYRACUSE CSD RESIDENT ECR WSS

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**DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH**

**Please Vote!**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2016**  
**6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

### Polling Places:

For residents living <b>SOUTH</b> of 481	For residents living <b>NORTH</b> of 481
<b>Administrative Office Building</b> 5355 West Taft Road North Syracuse, NY	<b>Cicero Elementary School</b> Route 31 Cicero, NY

Check your poll location at [www.nscsd.org/wheretovote](http://www.nscsd.org/wheretovote).

### Voter qualifications:

- ★ U.S. citizen
- ★ 18 years of age or older
- ★ Resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- ★ Not under sentence for a felony conviction and not adjudged mentally incompetent

**Registration Information:** If you are not registered to vote with Onondaga County or the North Syracuse Central School District, you must pre-register by May 12, 2016 to vote in the May 17, 2016 election.

### When and Where

- ✓ Until May 12, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse
- ✓ On May 3, 2016 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Cicero Elementary School, 5979 Route 31 in Cicero and at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse

**Absentee Ballots:** Qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot from the Office of the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. by May 16, 2016 OR no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 10 if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 5:00 p.m. on May 10 will require the voter to personally appear at the Office of the District Clerk to receive an absentee ballot.

### On the ballot:

- 2016-17 school budget proposition: \$155,237,936
- School bus purchase proposition: \$1,566,828
- Salina Free Library proposition: \$428,186
- Three seats on the Board of Education

## Budget public hearing

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 7 p.m.**

Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building  
(5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse)

### More budget information:

Copies of the budget can be reviewed 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays at the District Office, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse. More information is available at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget).

## VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM

On May 17, the North Syracuse Central School District will be asking voters to decide upon the purchase of several new vehicles.

Each year, all school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. Replacement of buses normally occurs after 10 years when it is no longer cost-effective to meet those standards.

The 2016-17 vehicle proposition includes the following purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$1,566,828:

- 10 new 65-passenger diesel school buses;
- one new 42-passenger diesel school bus with one to three wheelchair positions, hydraulic lift and air conditioning;
- one new 48-passenger bus with air conditioning;
- one Chevrolet Suburban; and
- one bucket loader.

	<b>Cicero</b>	<b>Clay</b>	<b>Salina</b>
	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10

**Vehicle Proposition**  
Tax increase for a  
\$100,000 home  
after aid/before STAR