

DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the North Syracuse Central School District

Volume 33 No. 5

May 2017

Students and Staff Excel!



The district's students and staff continue to excel, receiving local, state and national recognition. This year, we are proud to announce Cicero-North Syracuse High School teacher Amy Hysick (pictured above teaching students in her living environment class) was selected as New York State Teacher of the Year for 2017. Hysick has been teaching in the North Syracuse Central School District for 12 years and is the first educator in the district to be selected for the prestigious recognition of New York State Teacher of the Year.

Read about our student accomplishments on page 6.

2017 - 18

Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget
\$158,690,480

Tax Levy increase
\$2,497,359

Proposed school tax levy increase at tax cap = 3.02%

Vote: Tuesday, May 16 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

www.nscsd.org

Proposed 2017-18 Budget Honors District's Mission and Vision

On April 10, 2017 the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education adopted a \$158,690,480 budget proposal for the 2017-18 school year. The proposed budget will be voted on by district residents on May 16.

North Syracuse Central School District Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach said, "The proposed budget clearly honors our district's mission and works toward the collective vision developed through community input."

Despite efforts to encourage law makers to pay the district the Foundation Aid it is entitled to, the district will receive over \$8.2 million less this year than is required by law.

The Foundation Aid formula distributes funds to school districts based on the cost of providing a sound basic education. In light of Foundation Aid shortfalls and the desire to not increase local school taxes above the tax cap, the district made the decision to balance its budget by using a portion of its fund balance.

★ *continued on page 3*

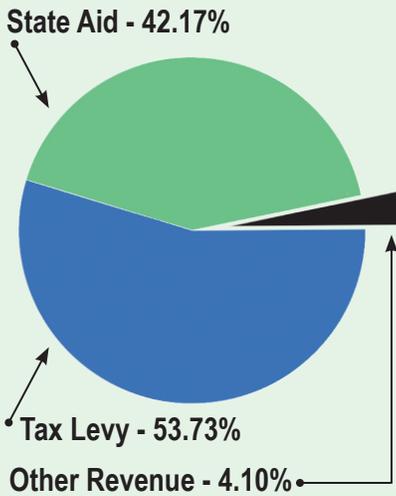
TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME \$70 ANNUAL INCREASE BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
			
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$100,000	\$4,270	\$100,000
Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$23.88	\$559.37	\$23.88
Estimated Annual School Tax	\$2,388	\$2,388	\$2,388
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$70/\$5.83	\$70/\$5.83	\$70/\$5.83

These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR

**For more budget news go to
www.nscsd.org/budget**

District Revenues



	2016-17 Budget	2017-18 Proposed	Dollar Change
General Aid	\$60,286,416	\$61,560,489	\$1,274,073
Building Aid	\$7,296,148	\$5,351,628	-\$1,944,520
Total State Aid	\$67,582,564	\$66,912,117	-\$670,447
PILOTS	\$470,494	\$518,640	\$48,146
Sales tax	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0
Interest	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Rent	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0
Fund balance	\$950,000	\$2,700,876	\$1,750,876
Miscellaneous	\$2,650,000	\$2,476,610	-\$173,390
Total Other Revenues	\$4,880,494	\$6,506,126	\$1,625,632
Property tax levy	\$82,774,878	\$85,272,237	\$2,497,359
TOTAL REVENUES	\$155,237,936	\$158,690,480	\$3,452,544

North Syracuse Central School District

Board of Education

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

Superintendent of Schools

Annette Speach

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.

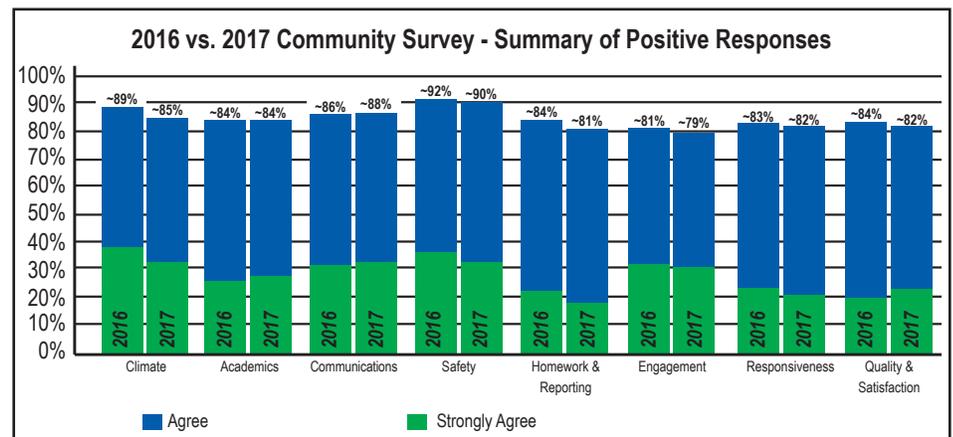
Feedback consistent in second annual survey

For the second year in a row, this January and February, 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. Just over 1,000 participants responded to this year's survey, answering various questions about climate, academics, communications, safety, homework & reporting, engagement, responsiveness and quality & satisfaction for individual schools and the district as a whole.

Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach said, "We are in the process of comparing this year's results to 2016. While our participation declined from last year's 1,806, our preliminary results are similar. We hope to increase participation in subsequent years and especially would like to see continued improvement in our satisfaction levels."

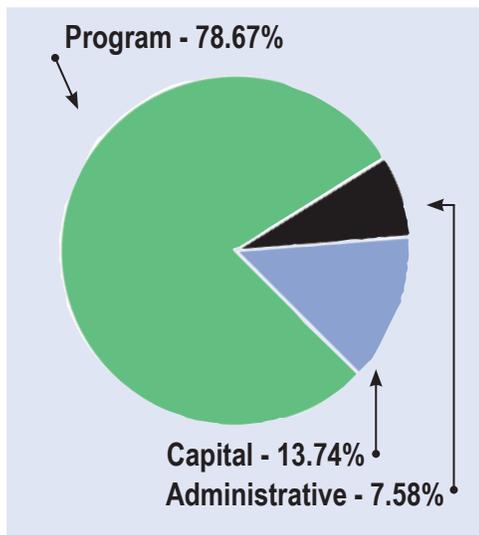
Again this year, feedback showed the overwhelming majority of respondents were satisfied in all categories.

"We're pleased to now have two years of data," said Superintendent Speach. "Doing this survey annually allows us to see how we are doing and provides us with comparative data over time. This feedback from the community is critical as we strive to work together to meet the needs of all of our students."



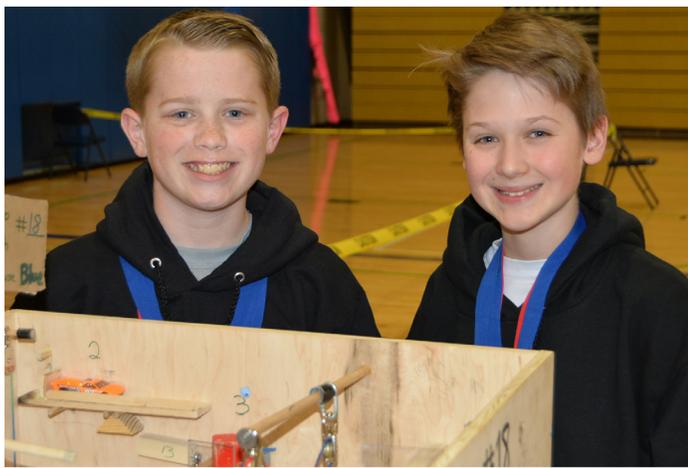
District Expenditures

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 79% of the entire budget.



	2016-17 Budget	2017-18 Proposed	Dollar Change
Program Expenditures	\$120,806,539	\$124,843,058	\$4,036,519
Regular Instruction	\$42,778,042	\$43,430,660	\$652,618
Special School Program	\$18,017,629	\$19,532,361	\$1,514,732
Student Services	\$9,194,356	\$9,158,171	-\$36,185
In-Service Training	\$385,020	\$416,504	\$31,484
Legal	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Transportation	\$7,997,089	\$8,272,373	\$275,284
Employee Benefits	\$42,334,403	\$43,932,989	\$1,598,586
Administrative Expenditures	\$11,784,962	\$12,035,450	\$250,488
Board of Education	\$150,041	\$154,698	\$4,657
Central Administration	\$1,946,150	\$2,081,525	\$135,375
Central Support	\$1,792,712	\$1,822,212	\$29,500
Supervision/Staff Development	\$4,773,218	\$4,860,247	\$87,029
Census	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$3,122,841	\$3,116,768	-\$6,073
Capital Expenditures	\$22,646,435	\$21,811,972	-\$834,463
Operation/Maintenance of Plan	\$8,983,211	\$9,209,312	\$226,101
Central Support	\$131,000	\$140,000	\$9,000
Employee Benefits	\$2,962,602	\$3,133,555	\$170,953
Debt service	\$10,569,622	\$9,329,105	-\$1,240,517
TOTAL	\$155,237,936	\$158,690,480	\$3,452,544

Proposed 2017-18 budget honors District's Mission and Vision *★ continued from page 1*



State law limits a school district's fund balance to no more than 4% of their total budget. The North Syracuse Central School District's fund balance will be approximately 3% as of June 30, 2017.

"By restoring a portion of the co-curricular clubs (*NSJHS Science Olympiad participants pictured above*) and athletic teams that were cut in 2009, we are truly able to provide educational experiences and opportunities that inspire students to reach their individual potential as productive citizens," said Superintendent Speech.

"In addition, the visioning work that was recently done throughout our school community clearly establishes our hope to honor diversity, differentiation and to provide collaborative instructional spaces to enhance learning," she continued.

The addition of staffing to enhance the district's more inclusive model of providing services to North Syracuse Central School District special needs students also speaks to this and is incorporated into the 2017-18 proposed budget.

"Utilizing fund balance to support the budget is not a sustainable approach in the long-run," said Donald F.X. Keegan, North Syracuse Central School District's Associate Superintendent for Business Services.

"We will be continuing our efforts to stress to our legislators and the governor that the Foundation Aid issue must be revisited in order to provide a sound basic education for our students," he added.

Superintendent Speech expressed the proposed budget's fiscal responsibility saying, "Our district continues to develop budgets that stay within the expected tax cap for our local community. And by honoring our mission and vision, we are demonstrating our commitment to keep the needs of our students in the forefront."

Eight teachers awarded NSEF grants to enhance programming

Eight North Syracuse Central School District teachers are being recognized for receiving grants from the North Syracuse Education Foundation (NSEF) in their 2017 Grant Award's Program. NSEF resources support quality education through creative opportunities, and innovative/imaginative approaches.

Since 2003, NSEF has provided nearly \$100,000 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 students of the North Syracuse Central School District. The activities are not funded by the regular school budget.

This year, NSEF presented seven grants, totaling more than \$8,700, to the following:

Cicero Elementary School: Cori Patterson;

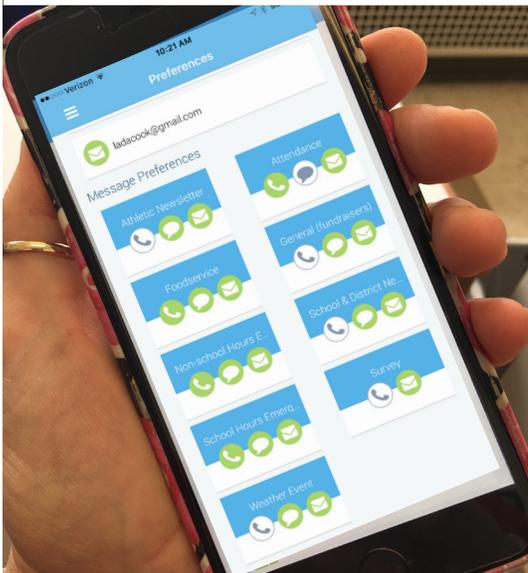
Roxboro Road Elementary School: Melissa Petrarca;

Smith Road Elementary School: Lilly Zawadski, Maureen Gill and Kerry Delduchetto;

North Syracuse Junior High School: Shannon Vogt;

Cicero-North Syracuse High School: Jennifer Fischer and Amy Furletti.

WANT TO CHANGE YOUR CONTACT SETTINGS?



The North Syracuse Central School District uses the SchoolMessenger InfoCenter to help parents/guardians and staff manage automated messages. YOU can now manage the way you receive phone calls, text messages and emails from the district.

Sign-up for the free online system by going to

www.nscsd.org/NSCSDinfocenter and clicking the sign-up link at the top right of the screen. To use InfoCenter on your mobile device, download the free "SchoolMessenger InfoCenter" app by going to the App Store or Google Play on your mobile device.

Sign-up, using the email address you have on file with your child(ren)'s school and create a password. You will receive a confirmation email at the address you entered. Be sure to check your "junk" or "SPAM" folders for the email. If you are unable to complete this step because the system does not recognize the email address you entered, the district may have an incorrect email address on file for you. Please check with your child(ren)'s school to make sure your email address is correct.

Once you receive your confirmation email and click on that link, you will be signed-up for InfoCenter and can log in with the password you created. Please be sure to keep your password secure and available for future reference.

Once you are signed into InfoCenter, you will have the option of changing the way that you receive messages in the preferences section. If you have not received text messages from the district in the past, simply text the word "YES" to 67587 to opt into the service. For details about the alert types that the district uses, visit their "Communications" website at www.nscsd.org/communications. The system cannot be used to CHANGE contact information such as incorrect phone numbers/email addresses. You must contact your child(ren)'s school to make those changes.

Please note: If multiple people (mom and dad) in the same household, listed the same home telephone number on their child(ren)'s student data form, BOTH people need to sign-up for InfoCenter and modify their call settings for the home phone number if they do not want to receive calls.

For additional important information about SchoolMessenger's InfoCenter, visit www.nscsd.org/communications.

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 30th. 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, 2017 to June 30, 2020).



Elizabeth A. Kasch is seeking reelection for her second term on the Board of Education. She has lived in the district for the past 19 years, currently residing in Liverpool with her husband Mike and their three children.

Ms. Kasch works as a substitute teaching assistant for the Onondaga Cortland Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services (OCM BOCES), where she assists in the provision of academic and behavioral support

services to autistic students.

Ms. Kasch is involved with various committees and special projects in the district including Parents Advisory Council, the Board's Executive Committee and Budget Sub-Committee. She also co-chairs the Legislative Committee and is involved with the district's baseball and softball booster clubs, special education committee and C-NS's Green Closet.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in drug & alcohol counseling and is part of the women's ministry at Northside Baptist Church. ★



Erin C. McDonald is seeking election for her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. She has lived within the district for nearly 30 years. She currently resides in her childhood home in Clay with her mother, Kay McDonald, a retired teacher from the North Syracuse Central School District.

Ms. McDonald is a retired public educator from the Pflugerville Independent School District in

Travis County, Texas. She currently works part time at an insurance agency.

McDonald is a member of the Greater Cicero Community Connections Youth Board, a group that is extremely important to her. She also officiates high school soccer as a member of the CNYSOA and the local chapter of USSF.

Erin is a proud graduate of Cicero High School and SUNY Cortland, where she received a bachelor's degree in history and related areas. She also holds certification in special education with an emotional disturbance and autism endorsement through Region 13 and Texas State University. ★



Michael Mirizio, currently vice president of the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education, is seeking reelection for his third term on the Board. He is a life-long resident of the district and graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Mr. Mirizio is currently employed as a local area network technician for the Onondaga Cortland Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services (OCM BOCES) and also works as a computer technician for the Apple Store at Destiny USA.

He is involved with several committees for the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education, including the Policy, Executive and Technology Committees. Additionally, he is the founder and executive director of North Syracuse Junior High School's 4D Productions, a registered 501(c)(3).

Mirizio holds a bachelors of science degree in political science from Le Moyne College. ★



Patrick Svoboda is seeking election for a third term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education after having served from 2010 to 2016. Mr. Svoboda is a lifetime resident of the district, currently living in Clay with his wife Jessica and their six children.

After having worked 16 years for a major communication company, Mr. Svoboda is now a stay at home parent while he prepares to switch careers and become a full-time educator.

Svoboda previously served as President of the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education and served as Chair of the Policy Committee. He has previous involvement with the district's Superintendent's Advisory Committee and the KWS Bear Road Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization, where he learned the need for parent involvement. Four of Svoboda's six children are involved with local community organizations.

Mr. Svoboda is a graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School and attended Onondaga Community College and SUNY Cobleskill. ★

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*



- ★ More than \$300,000 in **scholarships** was awarded to North Syracuse Central School District students in 2016.
- ★ Two Cicero-North Syracuse High School students were named commended scholars in the **National Merit Scholarship Competition**.
- ★ More than 100 Cicero-North Syracuse High School students qualified as **AP Scholars** – several receiving national, with distinction and with honors recognition.
- ★ **Science Olympiad teams** from North Syracuse Junior High School and Cicero-North Syracuse High School (junior high team pictured above) placed second in their respective competitions and qualified for their 2017 New York State competitions.
- ★ Gillette Road Middle School student Gage Lum (pictured below left) was recognized with a Houghton Mifflin Harcourt **Math 180** award.
- ★ Cicero-North Syracuse High School students earned eight medals and had one overall winner, Madison Gerbsch, at the 2017 **New York State DECA** competition (pictured below right). Additionally, three students, Allen Garnes, Alex Hepel and Ryan Ingerson, were inducted in the **New York State DECA Honor Society**.



★ Several athletic and co-curricular teams/groups earned recognition over the past year:

- Boys' Baseball – **Sectional** Champions, **League** runners-up and **Regional** finalists, eight named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**
- Girls' Golf – **League** runners-up, two named to **1st Team All-League**, four **Honorable Mentions**
- Boys' Lacrosse – Three named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**
- Girls' Lacrosse – **League** runners-up, nine named to **1st 2nd Team All-League**, five **Honorable Mentions**, Meghan Duffy named **US Lacrosse & Under Armor All-American**
- Girls' Softball – Four named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, three **Honorable Mentions**
- Boys' Track – **League** runners-up, 18 named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**
- Boys' Tennis – **League** Champions
- Boys'/Girls' Cross Country – Three named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**
- Girls' Field Hockey – Two named to **All-State, All CNY** and **All-Section III**, eight named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, three **Honorable Mentions**
- Girls' Track – **League** Champions, five named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**
- Boys' Football – **League** Champions, eight named to **1st/2nd Team All-CNY**, 16 named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, five **Honorable Mentions**
- Boys' Golf – Tied for **League** runners-up, four named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, two **Honorable Mentions**
- Girls' Swimming & Diving – **League** runners-up, 13 named to **1st/2nd/3rd Team All-League**
- Girls' Volleyball – 16 named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, five **Honorable Mentions**
- Boys' Soccer – Four named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, four **Honorable Mentions**
- Boys' Volleyball – **League, Regional** and **Sectional** Champions, Williamsville South **Tournament Champions** and **NYSVOA Team Sportsmanship Award**, Trevor Caviness named **NYS All-Star**, Connor Millias named **CNY Player of the Year**, five named to **All-CNY** and **1st Team All-League**, three named to **2nd Team All-League**, one **Honorable Mention**
- Girls' Cheerleading – Two-time **Sectional** Champions over the past year, **1st place C-NS Scarefest**, **1st place Chittenango Snowman Showdown**, **1st place West Genesee New Year's Classic** **2nd place West Genesee Invitational**, **2nd place Baldwinsville Bling It On**, **2nd place North Syracuse Junior High Starfest**
- Girls' Basketball – One named to **1st Team All League**, one **Honorable Mention**

Student accomplishments ★ *continued from page 1*

- Boys' Bowling – **League** Champions, five named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**
 - Girls' Bowling – **League** runners-up, four named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, Kaitlin Antinelli named to **Section III All-Star Team**
 - Boys' Ice Hockey – Three named to **2nd Team All-League**, two **Honorable Mentions**
 - Boys' Indoor Track – **League** Champions, four named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, four named to **All-CNY Team**
 - Girls' Indoor Track – **League** runners-up, four named to **1st/2nd Team All-League**, one named to **All-CNY Team**
- ★ Some additional athletic and co-curricular teams/groups that earned recognition include:
- 15 C-NS students selected for **All-County** Band/Orchestra/Chorus
 - 11 Roxboro Road Middle School students selected for **All-County**
 - C-NS students Sophia Frontale, Grace Krichbaum and Hannah Williams were selected for **All-County** Vocal Jazz
 - C-NS students Adam Ball, Ryan Flaherty, Christian Jaquay and Abe Zelenyak selected for **All-County** Jazz Band
 - Five C-NS students selected for **Area All-State** Orchestra
 - C-NS students Danielle Roach and Ryan Williams selected for **All-State** Vocal Jazz, Christian Jaquay and Able Zelenyak selected for **All-State** Band, Emily Scicchitano selected for **All-State** Orchestra
 - C-NS student Sophia Frontale selected for **All-State** Women's Chorus
 - C-NS Vocal Jazz Ensemble earned a Gold Rating and Adjudicator's Trophy for outstanding performance at the **Heritage Music Festival** in New York City
 - C-NS Mixed Chorus earned a Gold Rating and 2nd Place in their class at the **Heritage Music Festival** in New York City
 - The C-NS Marching Band (pictured bottom right) won the **New York State Field Band Championship** for Large School 2 Class, took 1st place in Tax Slayer Bowl "Contest of Champions" and won awards for Outstanding Music, Marching, Percussion, Drum Major, General Effect and Auxiliary
 - C-NS Winterguard Teams: Junior – SRA Class Silver Medalists at **Mid-York Colorguard Circuit Championships**, JV – SA 2 Class Gold Medalist at **Mid-York Colorguard Circuit Championships**, Varsity – Open Class Gold Medalist at **Mid-York Colorguard Circuit Championships**, undefeated in New York State and Bronze Medalist at **WGI World Championships**
 - C-NS Winter Drumline named Winds Scholastic A Class Gold Medalist for New York State Percussion Circuit



★ 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%. *Boys' swimming and girls' basketball (winter 2017) pictured above.*



- ★ Nearly 150 students from C-NS and NSJHS earned awards in the 2017 **CNY Scholastic Art Awards** competition, including 25 Gold Key awards and 45 Silver Key awards. One student, Audreyanna Wilcox (pictured above), earned a **Silver Medal** in the **National Scholastic Art & Writing** Competition.
- ★ Cicero-North Syracuse High School was chosen as a finalist in **New York State Athletic Association's Battle of the Fans** contest for the second year in a row.
- ★ North Syracuse Junior High School's student-run tech crew, **4D Productions**, hosted several benefit concerts, including one with national recording act, **Red Jumpsuit Apparatus**.





NORTH SYRACUSE CSD RESIDENT ECR WSS

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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SYRACUSE, NY
PERMIT NO. 4

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH

Please Vote!
Tuesday, May 16, 2017
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Polling Places:

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

Check your poll location at 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 11, 2017 to vote in the May 16, 2017 election.

When and Where

- ✓ Until May 11, 2017 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 2, 2017 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 15, 2017 OR no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 9, 2017 if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2017 will require the voter to personally appear at the Office of the District Clerk to receive an absentee ballot.

On the ballot:

- 2017-18 school budget proposition: \$158,690,480
- School bus purchase proposition: \$1,557,334
- Salina Free Library proposition: \$434,609
- Three seats on the Board of Education

Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 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.

VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM

On May 16, 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 2017-18 vehicle proposition includes the following purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$1,557,334:

- ten 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 and
- one new plow truck.

Vehicle Proposition

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

Cicero	Clay	Salina
\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10