

# Your Public Schools



SUMMER 2023

Community Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 4



## The Budget Issue

The \$181,504,208.00 proposed budget for the 2023 – 2024 school year allows the Niagara Falls City School District (NFCSD) to provide new programming and to grow and maintain our highly successful established programs. The NFCSD spending plan does not raise the tax levy for the ninth consecutive year. What follows are some highlights of the proposed budget's contents.

All of the District's employees hired under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 will remain with the District, and no programs will be cut. In addition, the District will add eight additional full-time staff for the growth of the District's children.

New tools for our teachers mean our students will receive an optimal learning experience using the latest technology to hold their interest. For example, the District will purchase 510 new Cleartouch interactive whiteboards that include: full motion up/down movement, 20-point multi-touch screens, flatboards, and mobile document cameras. In addition, the proposed budget includes new building projectors, new desktop computers, wireless access points, and desktop computers for laboratories and libraries.

The NFCSD is constantly adding the very latest in school building security products, and the budget includes the following school building safety products:

- 14 NFCSD buildings will be equipped with enhanced vestibules with bulletproof glass.
- The District will install alarm systems and cameras for 221 exterior doors. An alarm will sound if a door is propped open.

Additional capital projects in the budget include:

- Installation of air conditioning at Gaskill and LaSalle Prep schools. Every District school will then enjoy air conditioning.
- Installation of a boiler plant and fire suppression system at the Community Education Center (CEC).
- An enclosed community greenhouse adjacent to Bloneva Bond Primary School.

The budget reflects an increase in spending of \$16,608,421.

If the budget is defeated, a contingency spending plan will reduce the proposed expenditures by approximately \$2,104,600, eliminating the District's ability to purchase certain student supplies, maintenance equipment, new projectors in school buildings, and the addition of a fire suppression system and new boiler plant at the Community Education Center.

The breakdown of revenues is as follows:

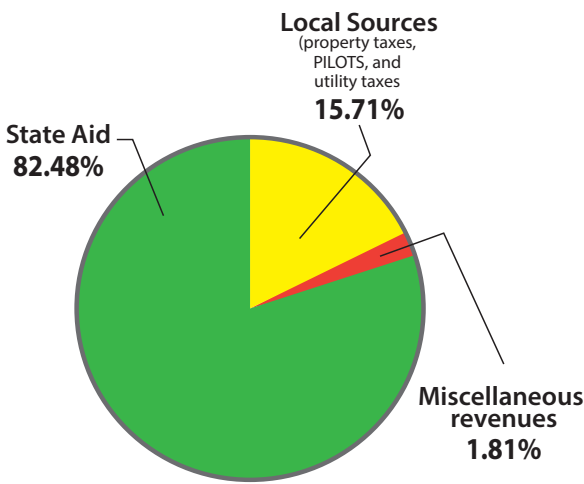
- 82.48% comes from State Aid
- 15.71% comes from local sources such as property taxes, PILOTS, and utility tax
- The remaining 1.81% comes from miscellaneous revenues

Of the total estimated appropriations of \$181,504,208:

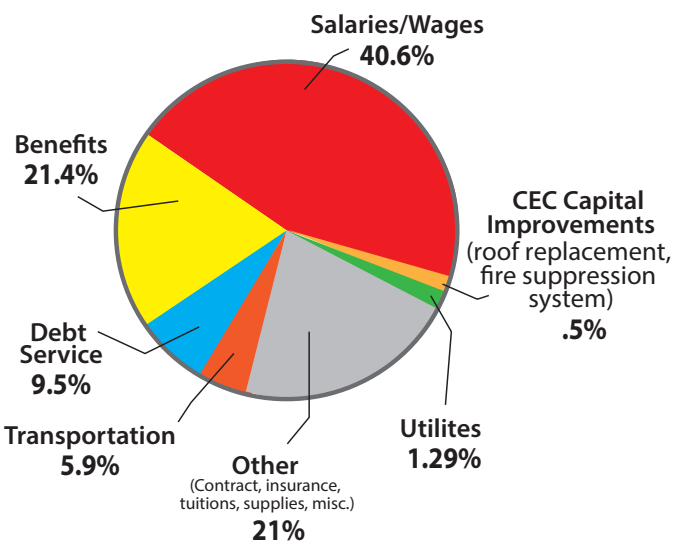
- 40.60% is for salaries and wages
- 21.42% is for benefits
- 9.55% is for debt service
- 6.79% is for tuitions
- 5.91% is for transportation
- 1.29% is for utilities
- 0.51% is for CEC capital improvements including a new boiler plant and fire suppression system
- 13.93% is for other expenditures, including BOCES expenditures, contracts, insurance, supplies, etc.

**Polls will be open at general election polling sites from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.** If you are unsure where to vote, please get in touch with District Clerk Judie Glaser at 716-286-4204.

### 2023-2024 Budget Revenue



### 2023-2024 Budget Expenses



As of this printing, the NYS budget has not passed. All budget information is accurate as of March 30, 2023. We do not anticipate any substantive changes as a result of the NYS budget.

## Annual School District Election/Budget Vote

**VOTE**

The annual school board election/budget vote of the Niagara Falls City School District will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 to vote on the annual budget and the election of two Board of Education members.

There are two seats open on the Board of Education. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will each serve a full five (5) year term.

Both terms commence July 1, 2023. Board membership is an unpaid position.

Petitions for nominating a candidate for the office of member of the Board of Education in the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls, New York, became available March 1, 2023 in the District Clerk's Office (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the Central Office Administration Building, 630 66th Street, Niagara Falls, New York.

Petitions were due to the clerk of the Board of Education on or before April 26, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. Petitions are required to be signed by at least 100 qualified voters of the City of Niagara Falls.



From Niagara Falls City School District  
Superintendent Mark Laurrie



Each spring, Niagara Falls residents are responsible for shaping the future of our youth. How we educate our children today influences their futures. Still, it also affects our lives as we shape our coming leaders and workforce. We must ensure they have a strong foundation for life through a solid education. That is why it is vitally important that you participate in the Niagara Falls City School District Budget and Board vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

I am incredibly proud of the District’s proposed 2023 – 2024 school year budget. The \$181,504,208.00 spending plan does not raise the tax levy for the ninth consecutive year. In addition, thoughtful planning means all of the District’s employees hired under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 will remain with the District, and the District will not cut any programs. The District’s proposed budget plan will add an additional eight full-time instructional staff to various programs.

To expand our use of technology, the District plans to install new state-of-the-art interactive whiteboards, building projectors, and desktops.

The proposed budget also includes the following:

- New wireless access points
- Updated desktops for laboratories and libraries
- A pilot program for new tablets for pre-kindergarten – grade two

The District’s plans for new programs, additional staff, and the latest technology are paramount to providing our students with the highest standard of education available. However, we must stick to our proven strategies as well. Here are just a few of our current programs that will remain in the new budget:

- Pathways to Excellence Program (PTE) - PTE takes a non-traditional approach to educating students who need flexibility and extra academic and social support. Instead of forcing students to adhere to a structure that isn’t working for them, this alternative approach aims to keep students engaged and focused on learning.
- PS2, or the Post-Secondary Success Program – PS2 is available to all students and combines career awareness experiences, coursework, and work-based learning, such as on and off-site internships, to better prepare students for college and careers.

- Construction Trades - Students have a double period of coursework combined with hands-on construction projects. Ensuring students have a sound academic foundation is critical at the elementary level. Therefore, under the proposed budget, we will continue to offer two of our most successful initiatives:

- Reading Recovery - An intervention that provides one-on-one instruction to first-grade students struggling with reading and writing. Lessons are tailored to the individual needs of each student.

- Elementary Math Academic Intervention Services (AIS) - Targeted academic services and additional instructional support for students struggling with math.

I am extremely comfortable and confident with this budget. The District is pleased to present the 2023 -2024 budget and give you, the taxpayers, our best thinking and our students the best hope for continuous, positive educational growth.

At general election polling sites, polls will be open from **11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.**

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 164,895,787	\$ 181,504,208	\$ 179,399,608
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 16,608,421	\$ 14,503,821
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.1%	8.8%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 25,828,989	\$ 25,828,989	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 25,828,989	\$ 25,828,989	\$ 25,828,989
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,522,661	\$ 2,020,085	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 24,565,905	\$ 23,846,511	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 23,306,328	\$ 23,808,904	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 1,259,577	\$ 37,607	
Administrative Component	\$ 19,400,463	\$ 21,481,444	\$ 21,481,444
Program Component	\$ 110,110,537	\$ 122,920,992	\$ 122,416,392
Capital Component	\$ 35,384,787	\$ 37,101,772	\$ 35,501,772
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
Contingent budget is established pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law. Board of Education will develop contingent budget based upon state law.			
	Description	Amount	
\$			
\$			
\$			
\$			
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: <a href="mailto:amscmgts@nysed.gov">amscmgts@nysed.gov</a>	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$ 394.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the City School Districts of the City of Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York, will be held at General Election polling sites in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 11:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time at the general election polling sites, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

The  
Niagara Falls  
City School  
District  
Celebrates  
Juneteenth  
on Monday,  
June 19, 2023



## CSI from the FBI – FBI Jr. Special Agent Program shows students what it’s like to be an FBI agent

Thirty-six third through sixth graders at Harry F. Abate Elementary in Niagara Falls switched roles from students to FBI Evidence Response Team members for three days in late February and early March 2023. That’s when the FBI Community Outreach Team, in partnership with the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club, brought the Junior Special Agent (JSA) program to Abate Elementary. The Junior Special Agent program with FBI Buffalo is designed to give students a sneak peek at what it’s like to be an FBI agent.

The Academy provided Abate students with the information, skills, and discipline they need to avoid gangs, drugs, and crime. For example, the Academy included a potentially life-saving lesson on “what to do if you find a gun.” Also, students received a hands-on experience in crime scene investigation with fingerprinting methods, a demonstration of demo electrostatic lift/photography/cast impression, and a Hemastix station: “Is it Blood?”

“This program is so beneficial to our students because it shows them ways law enforcement helps to serve and protect our community,” said Niagara Falls City School District Superintendent Mark Laurie. “The JSA is also exposing our students to careers with the FBI.”

Local FBI executive management members held a graduation for the students and presented Junior Special Agent credentials and badges.



Abate Elementary students received FBI Jr. Special Agent badges on Tuesday, March 7, for completing the FBI Junior Special Agent Youth Program. FBI photographer Adam Starks let the students see and use his camera!

## Career fair helps high school students prepare for “real life”

Thirty companies and organizations participated in the Niagara Falls High School Post-Secondary Success Program’s (PS2) Senior Career Fair on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at Niagara Falls High School. PS2 is Niagara Falls High School’s (NFHS) career and college readiness program. All students in grades 9 – 12 participate in the initiative to provide the best foundation for success after high school.

“One of our most important jobs as high school educators is to ensure that we prepare our students for college, careers, and citizenship,” said NFHS Principal Cheryl Vilardo. “Hosting a career fair helps us successfully transition students into the next phase of their lives by connecting them with businesses and organizations that will allow them to grow and succeed.

“It is important to us that students find a career - work where they have security and an opportunity to grow professionally - rather than a job,” Vilardo continued. “We work closely with our community partners to connect students to good careers while also ensuring they are well prepared with the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in all areas of life.”

Around 250 seniors attended the career fair. Companies in attendance were primarily seeking employees after graduation; however, there were a limited number of companies seeking students for summer employment, as well as all branches of the military, Niagara County Employment and Training, Northland Workforce Training Center, and Niagara County Community College.

So far this school year, more than 650 students have completed a combined 3,397 work-based learning hours. The students have been provided opportunities to explore career and educational pathways through hands-on experiences in the region. In addition, hundreds more Career and Financial Management (CFM) students have participated in several career and college exploration activities. Several more students are also part of dual enrollment, a program that provides students the opportunity to complete college-level coursework and earn college credits while enrolled in high school.



## Compassionate canine brings love to Cataract

By Kelly Gawron, Elementary Vocal Music Teacher

Cataract Elementary has introduced a new program called “The Luna Loves Program.” The reason for this initiative is to provide students with another way to develop compassion and empathy skills and use these skills in school with a live pet. This program is available to all Bloneva Bond Primary School students.

The “Luna Loves Program” is beneficial for students to develop a close bond with the pet and demonstrate unconditional love and compassion. In return, the pet supports the students, showing the nurturing love students need to experience within the Bloneva Bond Primary community. In addition, students having a difficult day can change their negative behavior by working with



the pet through various activities to help the student create a positive mood.

**Who is Luna?**  
She is a 5-year-old Chiweenie (Doxie/Chihuahua mix) rescued from Pixie Mamas Rescue Program. She is trained to follow specific commands, is fully vaccinated, and is a very friendly, compassionate dog. She is an excellent companion to everyone she meets and has a special love for children.





# GREASE









2023 Niagara Falls Public School Board Candidates



Beverly Callen

Hello! My name is Beverly Callen.

- I am a candidate currently running for the Niagara Falls City School Board.
- I am a master's degree Registered Nurse. I am originally from PA where I grew up and obtained my nursing degree. I moved to Niagara Falls in 1989. I am a resident of the City of Niagara Falls and have worked as a nurse in Western New York since then. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology/Chemistry from Niagara University and a Master of Science Degree from Daemen College in Nursing Executive Leadership & Change. While working as a nurse, I worked in the ER, ICU, Med/Surg, Hospital Supervision and Quality/Compliance areas. I also taught nursing at Trocaire College for a semester. I recently retired and enjoy volunteering for various community service programs.
- I am troubled by what I see in the current school curriculum in New York State. Our school district high school graduation rates, although improved, are still way below the national average.

I oppose CRT and sexual orientation of our youth.

I appreciate children learning real-life skills.

- My belief is that we are all the same with some unique differences, but we all bleed red. We are all God's children. We should be standing together in unity while celebrating our unique selves rather than creating division.
- I have several grandchildren of different ethnic backgrounds that attend school here. I love each one of them. Each one is uniquely different but wonderful. None of them should be made to feel different because of their skin color. They should each have the same opportunities.
- I want them all to have a successful education and opportunities for a better life. I don't want them to be afraid to go to school because of potential physical and/or emotional violence that may happen that day.
- If elected to the school board, I will stand to protect all our children and work towards better parent/guardian/teacher collaboration.



Mike Capizzi

Mike Capizzi has been a Niagara Falls City School District board member since December 16, 2021. Capizzi has been actively involved in the community, serving on the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, Niagara Catholic Board of Trustees, Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation, Niagara Falls Education Directors Foundation, and Pine Avenue Redevelopment.

On the professional side, Capizzi is co-owner of Michaels Restaurant, which his family founded in 1966. He is also a United States Coast Guard Master Captain and operates Cataract Fishing Charters. In addition, Capizzi earned his Series 7 financial licensing in the fall of 2022.

Capizzi firmly believes the work of District teachers and administrators is key in aiding the economic recovery of our city. He has made mental health awareness and safety and security his top priorities as a Board member. He is committed to providing students with the resources they need while being a responsible steward of taxpayers' dollars.

Vote on Tuesday • May 16, 2023

All candidates who had picked up petitions before the Niagara Falls City School District went to press with this newsletter were offered the opportunity to provide a bio and photograph for this issue. Bios have not been altered or edited and are printed as submitted.

Individuals may appear on the ballot who had not picked up petitions in time to be included in this issue. It is also possible that candidates who appear here may not be on the ballot. Candidates who turn in the required 100 valid signatures on petitions by the deadline are on the ballot.



Deborah Hicks

Greetings, I am a lifelong resident and retired from Niagara Falls City School District in June of 2022, after teaching every elementary grade except 4th. I have spent my entire career working in leadership roles with young children and their families in early childhood education. I have worked with the district's Even Start Program, where I went into the homes of disadvantaged families, instructed the child, promoted better attendance and was successful in encouraging parents to return to school to achieve a diploma.

I also enjoyed working with young boys under the My Brothers Keepers Program. Also, a part of the Family and Community

Engagement Program. My extensive experience gives me the understanding of what children, families, systems, and communities need to be healthy and successful. Graduated from Niagara University with a master's in Literacy Pre-K-6 and a Bachelors: Elementary/Inclusion Pre-K and Special Education Pre-K -12.

Also, I have an associate degree from NCCC in Human Services.

Volunteer Services includes 20 years with the Highland Community Revitalization Committee as Board President and Vice President, President of Niagara Alliance of Black School Educators. Present member of the Garden Highland Block Club.

Awards and Recognition includes being featured on the Niagara Falls Housing

Authority Wall of Fame, Niagara County Black Achievers Awards and Student Leadership Award from NCCC.

The mother of 2 sons and currently resides in Deveaux.

I believe in the equity of education for all students. Every child has a special gift and should have guidance and nurturing to manifest their gift. I want to help parents feel more empowered and engaged in the educational system. Work with the union and board for the equity and empowerment of teachers. Given the opportunity I believe I can be an asset to the school's organization.

District science fair keeps students engaged in STEM

By Ronni McGrath, Elementary STEM Coordinator

On Wednesday, March 15, 2023, The Niagara Falls City School District held the 4th Annual District Science Fair and STEM Expo. During the evening, scientists from ThermoFisher and Niagara University completed formal judging of the independent projects created by students in grades 4-6 from across our District.

Awards were given to 1st through 3rd place at each grade level:

**Grade 4**  
1st Claire Wojton (Harry F. Abate Elementary)  
2nd Essie Joyce (Harry F. Abate Elementary)  
3rd Audrey Anthony (Harry F. Abate Elementary)

**Grade 5**  
1st Blake Copelin (GJ Mann Elementary)  
2nd Luciano Cafarella (Harry F. Abate Elementary)  
3rd Joseph Hosler (79th Street Elementary School)

**Grade 6**  
1st Nicholas Mease (79th Street Elementary School)  
2nd Karter Geiger (Hyde Park Elementary School)  
3rd Madison Starnes (Hyde Park Elementary School)

In addition, much of the STEM program K-12 was highlighted:

- Niagara Falls High School STEM courses were featured by Science Teacher Kate Johnston and Science Teacher Madison Dalporto, who also brought several high school students with her.
- Prep level was represented by New York State champion robotics teams from LaSalle lead by science teachers Michael McGrath and Edward Wisniewski
- Prep level also showcased the drone, presented by Science Teacher Max (Arthur) Teller, and 3D printing programs, presented by Prep Level STEM Coordinator Richard Clark
- Outside of the science fair, elementary also featured an afterschool robotics club lead by Science Teacher Valerie Klender

Community organizations were also present to engage families in STEM activities: NY Power Authority, ThermoFisher, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Aquarium of Niagara

The organizers thanked the District for being a strong advocate for the STEM disciplines,

and also thanked Principal Lynne Tompkins and Assistant Principal Angela Manella for hosting at Abate Elementary.





## 2023 Niagara Falls Public School Board Candidates



Anthony Paretto

Anthony Paretto seeks a third term on the Niagara Falls City School District Board of Education. Voters first elected Paretto to the Board in 2013. As a Board member, Paretto is most proud of the District’s continuing improvement in high school graduation rates. In 2022, the graduation rate was 83.5%, an increase of 16% in three years.

Paretto is a City of Niagara Falls electrician and has worked for over 20 years as a union electrician. He resides in LaSalle with his wife Sue and three children, daughter Kaitlyn and sons Michael and Anthony, all three Niagara Falls High School graduates and college graduates. In addition, he is a long-time volunteer coach for the Niagara Falls High School Football Wolverines.

In addition to improving high school graduation rates, Paretto is passionate about several critical areas in the Niagara Falls School City District (NFCSD) that will remain high on his agenda should he be re-elected.

These areas include:

- Skilled trades training - With the District’s program of identifying students as early as middle school who have an aptitude for the trades, and with the help of the unions and in collaboration with Niagara County Community College, the District is giving students an early start to a rewarding career in the skilled trades.

- Student protection – Paretto believes that nothing is more important than the safety of NFCSD students and staff. He supports the District’s emphasis on best practices and protocols to govern emergencies and crises by using the 2022 federal “Safer Communities Act” grant of \$1,000,000 to support school safety measures.

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) - The NFCSD remains the only District in New York State to construct dedicated STEM classrooms in every school.

- Pre-Kindergarten for 3-year-olds - Paretto supports identifying adequate funding to expand the program throughout the city.

“I take the responsibility of serving on the school board very seriously, have an excellent meeting attendance record, and have vigorously championed causes that support the district’s vision statement to be a world-class, quality organization educating all students for life,” Paretto said. “I know the challenges and triumphs that students and public schools face. Students deserve the best education we can provide. Through a strong continued partnership among our educators, superintendent, and school board members, the Niagara Falls City Schools will continue to reach toward excellence --- my commitment to this goal could not be stronger.”



Portland Jackson

So who am I? A mother, a daughter, and a sister. I have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. My mother passed away 2 years ago; growing up in her household and being a single parent was hard, but I took this inconceivable obstacle in a way that perfected me to be the person I am today and

for the good of it. I am a true and dedicated hard worker. I work to make a positive impact in the many aspects of my life-- in my community, church, and family. All these factions are investments and are essential to our youth’s development into our future leaders.

I graduated from Niagara Falls High School and received an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Niagara County Community College. Thereafter, I attended D’Youville College and studied exercise and sports studies.

I am a Case Manager and Housing Authority Service Coordinator for Heart, Love, and Soul. I previously held a position as a Community Organizer for the Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope (NOAH).

I have a strong commitment to the Niagara Falls community:

- ~ Vice President of Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope.
- ~ The Board Secretary for MEN STANDING STRONG TOGETHER
- ~ Board of Director of the St. Francis Center
- ~ Board of Director of the LaSalle Education Club
- ~ Board of Director of the Lions Club
- ~ Facilitator for Racial Healing Circles

As a potential School board candidate, I am committed to family values and motivated to improve the educational system for all our children. It is not about us, but our CHILDREN and their future.

## NFCSD LaSalle Prep robotics teams poised to take on the world

LaSalle Prep School in the Niagara Falls City School District (NFCSD) is home to one of the strongest robotics programs on the planet. The intelligent, highly-motivated LaSalle robotics students are constantly working – before and after school, during lunch breaks, and on weekends. The students are drawn to the challenge, and their passion for mastering the unknown pays off.

Four teams from the LaSalle Robotics Program have qualified for the VEX IQ World Robotics Championships April 30 – May 2, 2023, in Dallas. They will compete against 800 teams of 3,400 students from around the globe.

*The World qualifiers from LaSalle Prep are:*

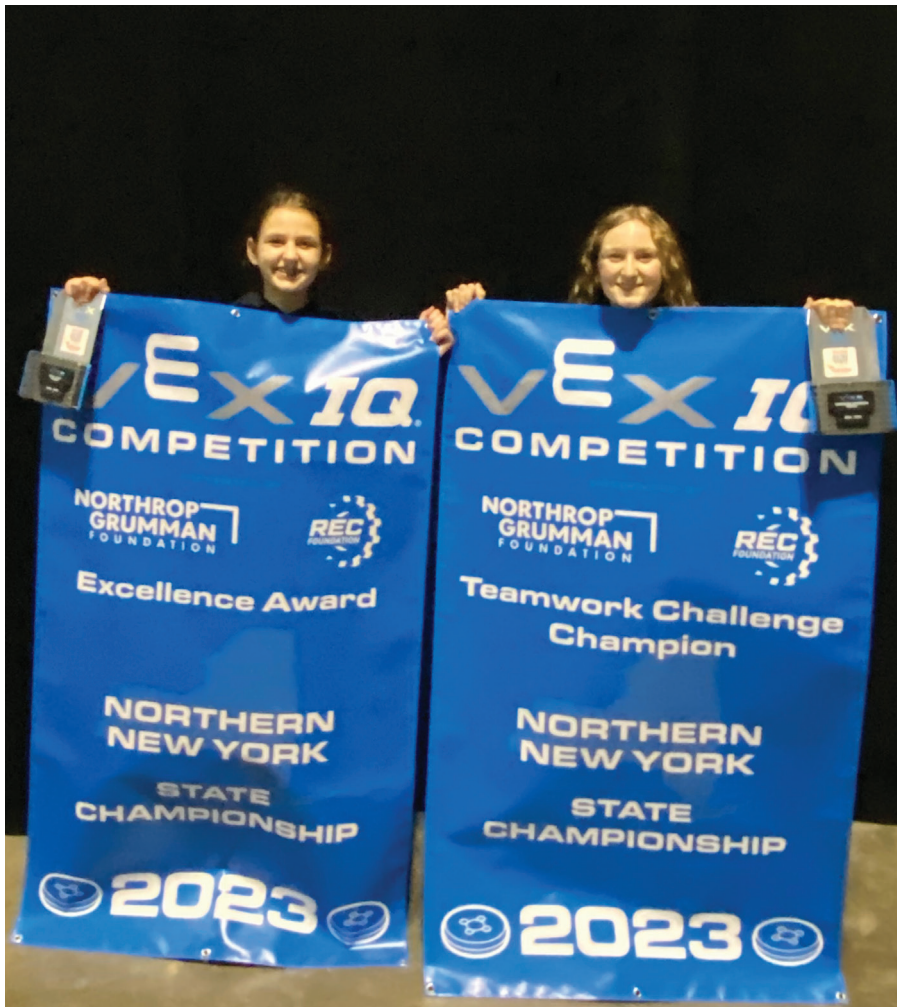
- “The French Toast Mafia” - Anelie Copelin, Lilliana Misterkiewics (ranked 5th in New York state skills)
- “The 2 Stouges” - Dominic Condino, Kyle Dean (ranked 2nd in New York state skills)
- “The Prestige” - Ryan Brady, Makayla Parise, Ian Aube (ranked 1st in New York state skills)
- “Robo Revenge” - Michael Mettler, Brodie Kennedy, Aiden Chase (ranked 3rd in New York state skills)

“I always say I will put our Niagara Falls City School District students up against any students in the area,” said NFCSD Superintendent Mark Laurie. “Now I can also truly say, thanks to our LaSalle robotics teams and their dedicated coaches, that our students measure up to those worldwide.”

“It’s nice to see Niagara Falls show the world what we can do,” said robotics coach Michael McGrath. “Ours is a world-class program.”

Last year, the French Toast Mafia finished as the world’s second-best team. In 2022, Niagara Falls teams also finished 7th, 8th, and 9th in the world in their respective divisions.

LaSalle Robotics also showed off its talents on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at the Northern New York State VEX IQ Championships in Syracuse—LaSalle teams placed in all the top categories.





## Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda students engage in a diversity discussion after watching the movie Till

Fifty (50) Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda middle and high school students gathered on Friday, March 3, 2023 at Harry F. Abate Elementary School to view the movie “Till.” Following the film, Richard Thomas, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers director of youth services and Samika Sullivan, director, Niagara Falls Housing Authority led the students in a discussion about diversity.

“Till” is the true story of Mamie Till Mobley’s relentless pursuit of justice for her 14-year-old son, Emmett Till, who, in 1955, was brutally lynched while visiting his cousins in Mississippi. Mobley insisted that her son’s casket be left open for his funeral to show the world his beaten, swollen, and disfigured face.

After viewing the first half of the film, the students wrote down their feelings and reactions on stickynotes and posted them on the back wall of the auditorium.

“I feel disgusted and sad for the kid because he didn’t deserve that,” wrote one student. “And the person who did that is horrible.”

Students and administrators from Niagara Falls High School and North Tonawanda High School have been working together on various events that focus on teaching diversity awareness.

The students toured the Underground Railroad Heritage Center and went on a roller skating adventure for fun together, and then got serious as they listened to a talk given by Mark Talley, whose mother died in the Tops mass shooting in Buffalo in May 2022.

The students watched the second half of the movie “Till” at a later date.



2022-2023  
Board of Education  
www.nfschools.net



Russell Petrozzi  
President  
297-8663 (h)  
282-7971 (w)



Anthony Paretto  
Vice President  
371-0986 (h)



Earl Bass  
471-9775 (c)



Robert Bilson  
940-4990



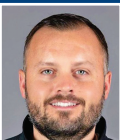
Vincent “Jimmy”  
Cancemi  
622-2992 (c)  
284-2688 (w)



Michael Capizzi  
481-2312



Clara Dunn  
998-4539



Paul Kudela  
308-1819



Nick Vilardo  
946-8522



Mark Laurrie  
Superintendent  
286-4190 (w)

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME  
at all Board of Education Meetings.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 AP Exams Begin 79th St. School PEG Meeting 6:30 p.m.	2 NFHS Blood Drive CES PreK-4 and 6th Gr. Moving Up Pictures Computer-based Testing, Grades 3-7 Mathematics Begins	3 GPS PEG Meeting	4 BOE Review Meeting 5:30 p.m. BBP PreK-3 Cap & Gown Picture Day	5	6
7	8	9 Maple Ave. PEG Meeting 6:00 p.m. NYS Computer-based Testing, Grades 3-7 Mathematics Ends	10 79th St. School Family & Caregivers Meeting 9:00 a.m. GPS 8 th Gr. D.C. Trip Meeting 5:30 p.m.	11	12 AP Exams End	13
14	15	16 NFHS Spring Choir Concert 7:00 p.m. Board & Budget Vote Day	17 BOE Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m. GPS 8th Gr. D.C. Trip May 17 – 19	18	19	20
21	22 NFHS Spring Spirit Week May 22-26	23 NFHS Spring Spirit Week	24 NFHS Spring Spirit Week	25 CES PEG Meeting 5:30 p.m. NFHS Spring Spirit Week	26 NFHS Spring Spirit Week	27
28	29 Memorial Day No Staff/No Students	30 DPC Social Meeting 5:30 p.m.	31 BBP Walk-A-Thon & Health Fair			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Regents Exam U.S. Hist. & Gov't.	2	3
4	5 79th St. School PEG Meeting 6:30 p.m.	6 Maple Ave. PEG Meeting 6:00 p.m.	7 NFHS Spring Band Concert GPS PEG Meeting	8 BOE Review Meeting 5:30 p.m.	9	10 NFHS Senior Class Day
11	12 Senior Awards Ceremony	13	14 June Regents Exams Begin	15 CES PEG Meeting 5:30 p.m. BBP PreK-3 Celebration	16 NFHS Senior Prom Third Trimester Marking Period Closes 40 Week Marking Period Ends BBP PreK-4 Celebration	17
18	19 Juneteenth Observance No Staff/No Students	20 BBP Kindergarten Celebration BBP Gr. 2 Moving Up Day	21 SCD – Prep Schools AM Students/PM Professional Development Last Day to Enter Grades	22 Regents Exams End Graduation Rehearsal SCD – Prep Schools, AM Students /PM Professional Development Last Day for Students /10 Month Associates Last Day for Teachers to Enter Grades	23 Graduation Ceremony 6:00 p.m. Rating Day - No Students – Last Day for Teachers	24
25	26	27 Report Cards Printed	28	29 Report Cards Mailed	30	

HFA - Abate School  
CES - Cataract Elem.  
HJK - Kalfas School

GJM - Mann School  
NSS - Niagara St.  
GPS - Gaskill Prep

LPS - LaSalle Prep  
CEC - Comm. Ed.  
PAC - Performing Arts Center at NFHS

BOE - Board of Education  
SCD - Superintendent’s Conference Day  
UPK - Universal PreKindergarten

NFT - Niagara Falls Teachers  
DPC - District Parent Committee