



Tonawanda

City School District

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

On behalf of the Tonawanda City School District, I hope your year is off to a great start, and I extend warm wishes for continued success. Thank you for the ongoing support, trust and partnership you show our schools. Your commitment makes it possible for our students to learn, grow and benefit from the many programs and opportunities available throughout our district.

Our educational program remains grounded in high-quality instruction, strong academic expectations and appropriate supports that help every student succeed. We strive to create learning experiences that spark curiosity, encourage exploration and prepare students to think critically. We are proud of the many ways our students engage—whether in extracurricular clubs, athletics, performing arts or STEAM programs—while also working hard to reach their academic goals.

One of our district's greatest strengths is our dedicated staff. Every employee plays an essential role in shaping our learning environment and expanding opportunities for students. Their professionalism, care and daily efforts make a lasting impact on the success of our schools and the well-being of our students.

This year marks a significant milestone as we begin the first phase of the TONA2024: Middle/High School Building Infrastructure & Enhancement Capital Improvement Project. Construction is set to begin as we near summer. This tax-neutral project will strengthen our instructional spaces, enhance building safety and security, and improve both the learning and working environments for students, staff and community members. We remain grateful to the voters who supported this investment in our district's future.

As we prepare the 2026–2027 school budget, we are planning for the fourth year of debt service payments associated with the TONA2020: Elementary School Consolidation Capital Project, which will be reflected in the “tax cap” calculation and in the school tax bills issued in the fall of 2026. Even with this scheduled obligation, we remain committed to responsible long-term financial planning and to staying under the NYS tax cap each year.

It is a privilege to serve the students, families and residents of the City of Tonawanda. The care and compassion our staff show every child is at the heart of our mission. We continue to offer a comprehensive educational experience that helps students reach their full potential—in academics, the arts, athletics, leadership, social-emotional learning, civic engagement and community service.

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Kindergarten and Universal Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Registration for Tonawanda CSD's 2026–27 Kindergarten and Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK/Pre-K) programs is now open!

Our UPK program is offered at multiple locations with both morning and afternoon sessions, as outlined below:

- **Tonawanda Elementary School:**
Two daily sessions- 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-2:45 p.m.
- **Child's Creative Development Center:**
Two daily sessions- 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-2:45 p.m.

For specific registration information, please visit the registration page on the district website tonawandacsd.org by clicking on student registration on the menu bar, or scan the QR code to the right.



Stay Up to Date and Connected with the Tonawanda App

Download the Tonawanda app and stay in the know with the district, schools and your students' classes. Access Rooms through the app to chat with your student's teachers and keep up with classroom announcements.

Scan the QR code to the right to find out how you can download the app and set up Rooms.





Superintendent's Message

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Our students rely on our staff for encouragement, guidance and opportunities to grow. Together, we are preparing every child to become a confident and capable Timberwolf graduate, ready to contribute to our community, our nation and our world.

Thank you to all of you for standing with us and sharing in the pride of our district. I am honored to serve as your Superintendent. Please feel free to contact me at toldenburg@tonacsd.org or 716-694-7784 if you have any questions or information you would like to share.

Go Timberwolves!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy A. Oldenburg'.

Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Upcoming Dates

March 9: JV/V Spring Sports Begin

March 10: BOE Meeting

March 13: Staff Development Day- Early Release Gr. UPK-12, PM Session Report

March 16: Mod. Spring Sports Begin

March 27: SAT

April 2: End of Third Marking Period

April 3-10: Spring Recess, No School

April 13: Start of Fourth Marking Period

April 14: BOE Meeting

April 16: UPK Graduation Pictures

April 21-22: NYS Grades 3-8 ELA Assessment

April 21: BOE Meeting (BOCES Vote)

April 28-29: NYS Grades 3-8 Math Assessment

May 1: HS Honor Roll Student Lunch

May 8: Staff Development- Early Release, UPK-12

Excellence as the Norm: How Tonawanda Empowers Every Learner

Tonawanda City School District is committed to fostering an environment where excellence is not just expected, it is the standard. We will increase our graduation rate by improving literacy rates, ensuring students meet high academic standards and fostering an engaging atmosphere that promotes success for all. As a district we are working to create an exceptional learning experience and foster continued growth for all students to reach their highest potential for all our students by:

1. Maintaining a Culture of High Expectations

A culture of high expectations is at the heart of everything we do. We believe in the potential of every student and hold them to rigorous standards that encourage both academic excellence and personal growth. Our teachers, staff and administrators work collaboratively to inspire students to reach their full potential by setting ambitious goals, supporting perseverance and celebrating achievement. We continuously strive to create an environment where every student can succeed—no exceptions.

2. Articulating the Curriculum

Our curriculum is carefully crafted to ensure a coherent, rigorous and meaningful educational experience. It is designed to be challenging, inclusive and aligned with both state and national standards. As a district, we are working on clear communications of our curriculum to students, parents and educators alike, so everyone knows the goals and expectations at each grade level. We also encourage a deep understanding of content, ensuring that all learners make meaningful connections between what they learn and how it applies to the world around them.

3. Ensuring Best Instructional Practices

To ensure our students are engaged and achieving at high levels, we place a strong emphasis on utilizing best instructional practices. This includes ongoing professional development for our educators, promoting innovative teaching strategies, and ensuring that all instruction is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of our learners. By adopting evidence-based instructional practices, we ensure that all students are provided with the tools they need to succeed.

4. Administering Common Benchmark Assessments

To monitor progress and make data-driven decisions, we implement a series of common benchmark assessments throughout the year. These assessments allow us to evaluate student performance in real-time and determine whether instructional practices are having the desired impact. By analyzing the data from these assessments, we can identify strengths and areas for growth, providing valuable insights that inform both curriculum adjustments and targeted support for students. Our goal is to ensure every student is on track to meet or exceed their academic goals.

5. Providing Interventions

We recognize that not all students learn at the same pace, and that's why we provide targeted interventions to support those who may need extra help. Whether through individualized tutoring, small group instruction or specialized support services, we ensure that every student has access to the resources they need to overcome challenges and achieve success. Our commitment to providing timely, evidence-based interventions helps students stay on track, build confidence and reach their academic goals.

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Tonawanda District News



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6. Monitoring Results

Monitoring student progress is a continuous process at Tonawanda. We are dedicated to using a variety of assessment tools to measure student learning and growth. This includes formative and summative assessments, as well as real-time data collection, to track progress and make adjustments as necessary. Our focus on monitoring results ensures that we can quickly identify where additional support may be needed and adjust our teaching strategies to meet the needs of all students.

Together, these efforts form a cohesive system that guarantees every student receives the highest quality education possible. We are proud of the work we do and remain dedicated to fostering an environment where academic success is within reach for all students. As we continue to set high expectations, provide top-tier instructional practices and use data to drive our decisions, we are confident that our students will thrive.

Celebrate Excellence: Nominate a Distinguished Alum for the Class of 2027

Nominations are now open for the Tonawanda CSD Distinguished Alumni Class of 2027.

This award honors Tonawanda High School alumni who have gone above and beyond the norm in professional and personal endeavors to positively impact their profession, their community and their fellow man. Started in 2001, this award recognizes those who have inspired others, been positive role models in our community and have promoted the excellence of our schools with their achievements.

Qualifications:

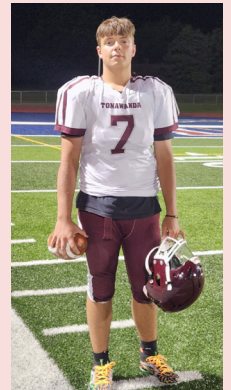
- The nominee must have graduated from Tonawanda High School at least ten years prior to recommendation.
- The nominee may be male or female, living or deceased.
- The nominee should be distinguished in a field of endeavor, including, but not limited to, government, science, education, community service, medicine, literature, law, religion, music, civil service or other noteworthy ventures.

To place your nomination, visit our website, tonawandacsd.org, and click on our community or scan the QR code to the right.



New School Record

Cole Keleman broke the Tonawanda High School Football's career passing record, passing for 2,669 yards! The previous record was set in 2020 by Justin Mangold, who finished his career with 2,071 passing yards.



Tonawanda Athletes Show Great Character on the Field

Derek Leiker received the Sportsmanship Player of the Year for soccer. The soccer team also won the Sportsmanship Team of the Year. Both awards were given by the league.



TCSD Family Support Center

What do we do?

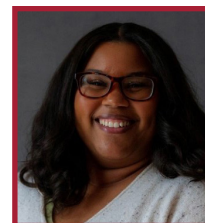
We're a totally free, confidential resource that could help you and your family.

- Individual and Group Counseling
- Access to Non-Perishable Food, Clothing & Hygiene Items
- Family Engagement Events
- Community Resource & Mental Health Referrals

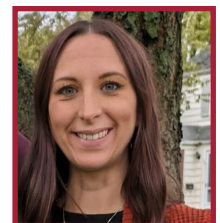
Contact us to access services or learn more!

Give us a call at 716-213-5095 or email us at FamilySupportCenter@tonacsd.org.

You can also visit our Family Support Center webpage at tonawandacsd.org, click on our district and then Family Support Center for the most up-to-date event information. Or scan the QR Code below.



Mrs. Missert
FSC Program Coordinator



Mrs. Jackson
FSC School Counselor



Art Department Inspires Student Creativity

Though composed of just four dedicated teachers, the K-12 Art Department serves over 1,000 students, offering a rich and diverse visual arts experience at every grade level. With a commitment to fostering creativity, craftsmanship and critical thinking, the department provides opportunities for students to explore a wide range of media, including drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, fiber arts, sculpture and digital design. By emphasizing both skill development and personal expression, the department nurtures students as artists, problem-solvers and engaged learners.

Early Elementary: Building Foundations

In kindergarten and first grade, students focus on developing foundational skills using essential art tools such as crayons, markers, scissors, glue and paintbrushes. Kindergarteners have explored painting techniques through projects like “Melted Snowmen,” learning how brush movement can manipulate paint while reinforcing cutting and gluing skills. First graders have created dynamic blizzard scenes, integrating coloring and painting techniques while learning about local weather phenomena. These early experiences emphasize experimentation, craftsmanship, and creative problem-solving.

In second and third grade, students build on these skills by exploring



crayon techniques such as shading, blending and texture rubbing. Cross-curricular projects, like the “Winter Object Mosaics,” allow students to integrate math skills such as measuring tesserae and exploring patterns, which demonstrates how art can reinforce and deepen learning across subjects.



Upper Elementary: Connecting to History and Contemporary Practice

Fourth and fifth grade students expand their artistic horizons by connecting to both historical and contemporary influences. Fourth graders created oil pastel landscapes inspired by Impressionist painters, exploring color, movement and atmospheric effects. Fifth graders examined visual culture by designing cropped candy paintings inspired by working artists in advertising and logo

creation, helping students understand how art intersects with everyday life and professional practice.

Middle School: Exploration Across Media

In middle school, students engage in intensive exploration across multiple media. They paint portraits, sew collages, sculpt coiled ceramic vessels, create relief prints of buffalo, fold origami and draw optical illusions. Students learn about artists who specialize in each medium, gaining context for their work and inspiration for their own creative choices. This broad exposure supports informed experimentation and helps students identify areas of interest for future high school study.



High School:

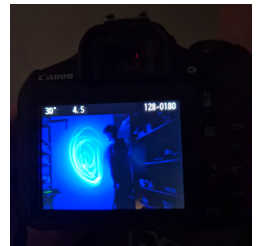
Focused Practice and Conceptual Growth

At the high school level, students deepen both technical skills and conceptual thinking. In Studio Art, students construct slab-built puzzle boxes in clay, honing craftsmanship and problem-solving abilities. Drawing & Painting students refine facial features and color schemes, producing portraits that reflect their growing mastery of composition and technique. Advanced Drawing & Painting students undertake projects based on photographs of ordinary behaviors, exploring how art records daily life and challenging them to consider how future generations might interpret contemporary culture.

Fiber Arts, a brand-new course this year, allows students to experiment with embroidery, fabric design and machine sewing. Desktop



Publishing students are hard at work capturing the school year’s moments and designing the 2026 Tonawanda High School yearbook. Ceramics students have deepened their understanding of hand-building methods and are taking their first turns on the pottery wheels. In Studio in Crafts, students explore the rich history and techniques of mosaics and collage, developing both craftsmanship and an appreciation for diverse artistic traditions. In Intro to Digital Photography, students experiment with techniques such as light painting, inspired by artists like Man Ray and Pablo Picasso. These projects teach technical skills while encouraging students to think creatively about photography as an expressive medium.



The IAAP Pathway: A Milestone for Artistic Achievement

The department is proud to be among the first districts in Western New York to offer the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP); an arts-based pathway to graduation. This program allows students to demonstrate advanced artistic growth, reflection and sustained commitment to their creative practice. This spring marks a milestone as the first students complete the IAAP, showcasing the department’s dedication to innovation and student achievement in the arts.



Tonawanda High School



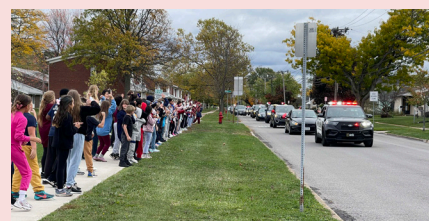
Another Successful Year of Christmas for Kids

Each year, Tonawanda High School's National Honor Society proudly hosts Christmas for Kids, a cherished tradition that brings warmth and joy to families throughout the Tonawanda City School District. With the help of countless donations and generous sponsors, the NHS organizes support for approximately 100 local families, ensuring that every child experiences the magic of the holiday season. Students dedicate their time to collecting gifts, sorting donations and partnering with community members to make the event an unforgettable celebration of compassion and connection.

This event exemplifies the true spirit of the season: neighbors helping neighbors and students giving back to their community in meaningful ways. The continued success of Christmas for Kids reflects the shared commitment of Tonawanda's schools, families and local businesses to care for one another. Through this collaborative effort, the National Honor Society not only brightens the holidays for hundreds of children but also reinforces values of kindness, empathy and service that shine far beyond December.



T-NT Week Fun



Wolfpack Reading: Balloons Over Broadway

The Wolfpack Reading Program continues to be one of the most heartwarming traditions in our district, bringing high school students together with elementary learners for a shared celebration of reading.

Older students visited classrooms to read favorite picture books, model fluent reading and inspire a love for stories among our youngest learners. The joy on both sides of the partnership was evident. Students listened intently and asked questions, while our high school readers embraced the opportunity to lead by example and connect across grade levels in such a positive and meaningful way.

Adding to the excitement, this year's Wolfpack Reading Day also featured the much-anticipated Balloons Over Broadway parade, a creative tribute to the beloved picture book by Melissa Sweet. Elementary students paraded through the halls showcasing their handmade balloon creations, inspired by the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Their colorful, imaginative designs filled the school with cheer and community spirit. The collaboration between the older and younger students made the day truly special, a celebration of creativity, literacy and the joy that comes from learning together.



Tonawanda Middle School



T-NT Week at TMS



WEB: Making Year-long Connections!

The WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) leaders have been providing mentorship for their sixth grade groups throughout the school year, beginning with the WEB Welcome Event in August. Since then, they have further connected by leaving notes of encouragement and visiting sixth-grade classrooms to teach lessons about leadership, teamwork, responsibility and lifting others up. The purpose of the WEB program is to support sixth grade students as they transition to middle school, while developing leadership skills for the eighth-grade mentors.

“WEB has been instrumental in providing our eighth graders with invaluable leadership experience. I’ve seen many students really step out of their comfort zone, open up and flourish as WEB leaders,” said Leah Kane, TMS teacher. “They have a strong sense of pride and purpose in their role, and I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

WEB leaders are selected based on demonstrating kindness, helpfulness, compassion and a fun attitude. This program provides student leaders with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the culture of their school and build connections across all grade levels.



House Meetings Help Build Relationships

As part of our new Four Houses, One Family initiative, we have added house meetings to build community and increase student engagement. At the middle school level, building strong relationships and a sense of belonging is just as important as academic learning. One of the ways we intentionally support our students is through house meetings. Our students are connected with staff and peers within their house, which combines students in grades 6-8. The meetings are led by house leaders in the school.

These house meetings provide students with a smaller, supportive community within our school. These groups create a space where every student is known, valued and connected to both peers and caring adults outside of their grade level and classrooms.

During house meetings, students engage in activities that strengthen communication, collaboration and leadership skills. They also allow time to celebrate successes, reinforce positive behavior and focus on our school values. These moments help build a positive school culture and promote respect, responsibility and kindness throughout our building.

“It was wonderful to see students connecting across grade levels as they collaborated and cheered one another on,” said TMS teacher Kim Jachlewski. “The house team meeting helped strengthen our sense of community and build a positive, unified school culture. We’re off to a great start!”

Most importantly, house meetings give students a voice. In a smaller group setting, students feel more comfortable sharing ideas, reflecting on their experiences, and taking ownership of their actions and learning. The relationships formed in house meetings often lead to improved engagement, stronger connections to school and a greater sense of pride in our building.



Tonawanda Elementary School



Tonawanda Elementary School: A Community Where Everyone Matters

At the heart of Tonawanda Elementary School is a shared vision that guides everything we do. We aim to create an environment where all students feel that they belong to our school community, that they matter and that they are contributing to their own success and the success of others. This vision is something we work to bring to life every day at TES through our work in classrooms, in our relationships and in our extracurricular activities.

We strive to ensure that TES is a school where students are kind to themselves and others, are safe and are ready to learn. These core values shape how we treat one another, how we approach challenges and how we encourage growth. Whether students are in the classroom, on the playground, or participating in school-wide events, these expectations help create a positive and inclusive learning environment for everyone.

Learning Beyond the Classroom and Encouraging Leadership

One of the things we are especially proud of is our team's commitment to making extracurricular opportunities available to our students. These activities allow our students to explore their interests, develop new skills and build meaningful connections with peers and adults.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs: Art Club, Book Club, Cheer Club, Creative Writing, Game Time, Kindness Club, Leadership Club, PBIS Club and Thankful Timberwolves. Each of these clubs provides a unique space for students to engage, express themselves and contribute positively to the school community.

We are proud of our Band and Chorus programs, which showcased their hard work and talent at the Winter Concert for families and community members. Our school musical is always a highlight of the year for students, staff and the TES community. Events like the concert and the musical give students the opportunity to build confidence and experience the joy of performing for others. They continue to be a great example of how the arts bring our community together.

We are also proud of programs that teach responsibility, leadership and real-world skills. Wolf-Mart continues to be a meaningful way for students to be acknowledged and to be rewarded for demonstrating behaviors that we can all be proud of as a community. In addition, we are excited about a new program called HOWL, Helping Others With Leadership. This program is quickly making a positive impact, encouraging students who participate to offer support and guidance to younger students.

Yoga continues to be wildly popular with TES students. Students are learning and practicing critical life skills such as self-management, self-awareness, and stress and anxiety management, all while improving physical strength and flexibility.

We are grateful to the staff members who commit their time and energy outside of the classroom to make all of these opportunities possible.



Celebrating Student Achievement

Recognizing student effort and achievement is an important part of our school culture. One of our favorite traditions is the Student of the Month Parade, where we come together as a school community to celebrate students who demonstrate our core values. This monthly event not only celebrates individual students but also reinforces the behaviors and attitudes that help our students thrive.

TES Community Traditions

Our school year is filled with events that strengthen the connection between students and their school, families and community. Events such as Trunk or Treat, Turkey Trot/Harvest Walk and our Winter Craft event create opportunities for families to gather, celebrate and enjoy time together.





Tonawanda City School District
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Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150-1815
www.tonawandacsd.org

Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Get Connected with Tonawanda Athletics

We are very excited to announce that Athletics has paired up with SNAP! Mobile to create the Tonawanda Athletic App! Follow the team, get game information, sign up for notifications, purchase spirit wear, tickets and more.

Scan the QR code to the right to download the app and check out our online store, or visit tonawandatimberwolves.itemorder.com



Spring Sports Sign-ups

Spring sports are right around the corner, with tryouts and the start of the season in just a couple of weeks.

New York State allows all students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to participate in school sports, which have many benefits. Through sports, our students learn and build personal confidence, self-esteem, social skills, teamwork and sportsmanship. They will develop and create a network of relationships and find enjoyment in a lifelong skill. Studies have shown that students who participate in sports have higher personal expectations and achieve higher grades.

This spring, we are offering the following sports for your child to participate in:

- Boys Varsity Baseball
- Boys 7,8,9 Baseball
- Girls Varsity Softball
- *Girls JV Softball
- Girls Modified Softball
- Boys Varsity Lacrosse
- Boys Varsity Tennis
- Varsity Track and Field
- Girls Flag Football
- Unified Basketball

The benefit of playing school sports should not be overlooked in our school community.

Varsity and JV sports begin on March 9, while modified sports begin on March 16. Signups for spring sports are open until March 24.

Please have your child, if interested, sign up on our website at tonawandacsd.org, click on athletics, then sports registration. Or go directly through FinalForms at tonawanda-ny.finalforms.com. You can also scan the QR code to the right.

