

# Northern Adirondack CSD BOBCAT NEWS



## Northern Adirondack CSD Capital Project: A Look at Our Future

### Public Information Session Highlights: Planning for the Next Decade and Beyond (11/12/25)

The Northern Adirondack CSD held a Public Information Session on November 12th, 2025, to present a proposed capital improvement project. The driving factors behind this project stem from the fact that it has been **15 years between capital improvement projects**. Critical infrastructure and building systems are now **nearing the end of their useful life**. Many original systems are no longer **code compliant or efficient**, and there are significant facility maintenance needs across the campus.

The proposed project is divided into **Two Propositions** to address both immediate, critical needs and future-focused enhancements.

### The Financial Foundation: Proposition 1 is Tax Levy Neutral

The most important takeaway for local residents is that **Proposition 1 (\$38,000,000) will not place any additional financial burden on local taxpayers**.

This is achieved because the debt service (bond payment) for Proposition 1 is structured to be **Tax Levy Neutral**. The District is offsetting the entire local share of the new debt through a combination of:

- 1. New York State Building Aid:** The State pays the vast majority of the project cost (NAC's aid ratio is very favorable).
- 2. Expiring Debt:** The District has previous capital project debt that is scheduled to expire in the coming years. By timing the new debt to coincide with the retirement of old debt, the annual local tax levy portion for capital projects remains stable.

In short, the community will receive **\$38 million in essential infrastructure upgrades with NO increase to the current local tax levy amount**.

Capital Project Continued on page 4

## Principal Messages

### Director of Pupil Personnel Services Emily Blair



As we continue working to support all our children and youth in the NAC District, I want to share information about four excellent organizations that provide valuable programs and services for families.

#### 1. Autism Alliance of Northeastern New York (AANE-NY)

The Autism Alliance of Northeastern New York is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum and their families by connecting them with resources, hosting educational workshops, and creating opportunities for social inclusion.

Visit: [www.aaneny.org](http://www.aaneny.org)

**Tip:** Visit their website and subscribe to their monthly newsletter to stay informed about events and new resources.

#### 2. North Country FACE Center (OSE Educational Partnership)

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center supports family involvement in education for children with disabilities across the North Country region (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and St. Lawrence counties). They provide training, information, and support to families and schools to help all students succeed.

Learn more: <https://osepartnership.org/center/north-country-face-center>

**Tip:** Contact the FACE Center team if you have questions about special education processes or how to support your child's learning.

#### 3. New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

OPWDD coordinates services across New York State for individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other conditions. They help individuals access supports that promote independence, employment, and community inclusion.

Website: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/>

Messages Continued on page 6

# Unveiling Our New Athletic Hall of Fame

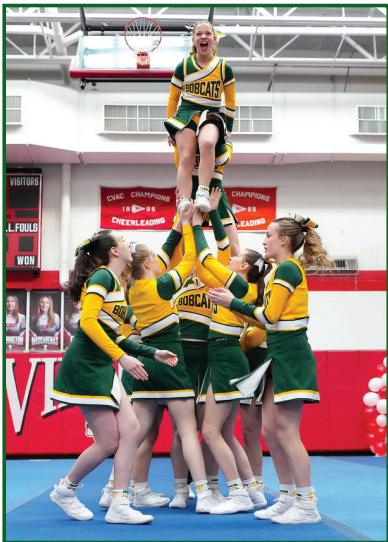


It is with great pride and honor that we are able to announce the launch of an Athletic Hall of Fame here at NAC, aimed to recognize and celebrate the exceptional achievements of alumni, coaches, and teams who have made significant contributions to our school's athletic programs over the years. This initiative is set to preserve and honor Northern Adirondack's rich athletic history while inspiring future generations of student-athletes.

Through this initiative, we are proud to honor athletic achievements made before the creation of what we know today as "Northern Adirondack Central School" in the early 1970s. Graduate and previous coaches from Altona, Lyon Mountain, and Ellenburg are welcome to be nominated as they are just as much a part of that rich history of community and athletics.

The Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting public nominations. This year's due date for nominations will be May 15, 2026. Information about the Athletic Hall of Fame and the nomination form can be found on the school's website ([www.nacs1.org](http://www.nacs1.org)) on the athletics page. Paper copies of the nomination form are also available in the Middle/High school office. The completed form and attachments must be dropped off to the Middle/High school office or mailed to the office of the NAC Athletic Director.

All nominations will be reviewed by the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. Through a voting process, the 2026 Athletic Hall of Fame



inaugural class will be selected in June 2026 with a celebration ceremony to follow in the fall. The annual schedule of events will mirror this process.

The NAC Athletic Hall of Fame is designed not only to honor individual and team achievements but also to foster a deeper sense of pride and unity within the Northern Adirondack community. By celebrating the accomplishments of its past, we hope to inspire the next generation of student-athletes to strive for greatness both on and off the field.

With NAC pride,  
Chad Duprey  
HOF committee chair



## Events Calendar

**Note: Early Dismissal  
Times have changed**

*Elementary 10:55  
Middle High School 12:30*

**November 20**  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences

**November 26-28**  
Thanksgiving Break  
NO SCHOOL

**December 6**  
PRIDE Assembly

**December 16**  
Special Vote  
Middle High School  
Noon- 8pm

**December 16**  
Holiday Concert/Art Show  
Middle High School  
6pm

# Welcome New Faculty

## Madison Burnell



Madison is no stranger to NAC; she attended the school from kindergarten through senior year and is thrilled to return, this time as a teacher. She describes the NAC community as one of a kind and is grateful to be back in a place that shaped her so positively. Madison earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from SUNY Potsdam and went on to receive her Master of Science in Teaching in Childhood Education from SUNY Cortland. Before returning to NAC, she spent two years teaching fifth grade at Cumberland Head Elementary School. Some of her favorite classroom moments so far have been reading to students gathered around her on the carpet, something that brings a wave of nostalgia to her students and to her as well.

**Fun Fact:** Madison has a passion for theatre and has performed in over twenty plays and musicals, including her memorable role as Ms. Darbus in High School Musical during her senior year at NAC. Most recently, she was part of the Fiddler on the Roof production at the Strand Theatre.

## Lydia Pivetta



Lydia is our new sixth grade math teacher. She is a proud graduate of the district and was drawn back by the strong sense of community she has always felt here. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Cellular Neuroscience and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Before stepping into her current role, she gained valuable experience as a building substitute in the elementary school over the past few years. One of her favorite moments so far has been competing against her students during this fall's pep rally, creating fun and memorable connections outside the classroom.

**Fun Fact:** Lydia was a member of the NAC varsity cheer team for five years!

## Delaney Boulrice



Delaney is NAC's newest 7th grade special education teacher. As a proud graduate of the district, Delaney remembers the positive environment her teachers created and was inspired to return to NAC as an educator. Before stepping into her current role, she spent about four years as a substitute in the elementary school, gaining valuable experience and building strong connections with students. In fact, many of the 7th graders already knew her from their elementary days and were excited to see her again on the first day of school. Delaney holds a Bachelor's Degree in Childhood Education and a Master's Degree in Special Education.

**Fun Fact:** She played the flute for six years.

## Halloween Fun



## The Decision-Making Process

The project scope and cost were developed using a data-driven approach, prioritizing critical needs based on the **Building Condition Survey** and **Facilities Priorities identified by the Capital Project Committee**. The final step is the community-wide **Vote**, scheduled for **December 16th, 2025**

## Proposition 1: Addressing Critical

Proposition 1 focuses on **Critical Infrastructure/Systems Replacement** and includes immediate, high-need items and **All Building Work**. The total projected cost for Proposition 1 is **\$38,000,000**. This proposition includes work that is **NYSED aid-eligible** and, as noted, is structured to be **Tax Levy Neutral**.

### Elementary School Scope

The proposed work at the Elementary School focuses on essential systems and maintenance:

- **Roof Replacement** (Eliminating leaks and degradation).
- Bathroom Renovations.
- Envelope/ Foundation Upgrades.
- **Building Management System Replacement** (Improving energy efficiency and climate control).
- Piping Replacement (Storm, Sanitary, Supply) and Closure of Artesian Well.
- Fire Alarm System and PA System Upgrades.
- Electrical Panel Replacement.

### Middle-High School Scope

The Middle High School also requires significant system replacements and upgrades:

- **Roof Replacement.**
- Interior Upgrades Including Floor Repairs.
- Envelope / Foundation Upgrades.
- **Building Management System Replacement.**
- Control Valve Replacement and Boiler Improvements.
- HVAC Unit Upgrades.
- Fire Alarm/ PA System Upgrades.
- Electrical Service / Panel Replacement and Upgrades
- Install a **Stand-By Generator** (Ensuring continuity of operations during power outages).
- Roof repair and replacement work

### Bus Maintenance Garage & Campus Scope

The work on the Bus Maintenance Garage includes **Asphalt Paving Replacement** and **Boiler/ Heating Upgrades**.

## Proposition 2: Enhancements and Future Growth

Proposition 2 represents **additional scope beyond the aid ceiling and quality of life upgrades**. It allows the District to enhance student opportunity and community use. **It can only pass if Proposition 1 passes**. The total projected cost for Proposition 2 is **\$10,990,000**.

### A Dire Need for the Athletic Complex

The investment in the **Multi-Sport Artificial Grass Athletic Complex** is driven by the severe and dangerous conditions of our current fields. The state of our playing surface has reached a crisis point:

- **Varsity Baseball and Softball:** Our teams have been unable to host a single home game on our campus for the past **three consecutive years** due to unplayable field conditions, forcing our athletes to compete at off-site locations.
- **Soccer Field:** While currently playable, the turf is uneven and not ideal, leading to increased risk of injury and inconsistent competition.

A new artificial turf complex would provide a safe, high-quality, and reliable surface for all our student athletes and allow our teams to proudly host games on our campus once again.

## Strategic Investment in the Agricultural Program

The New Agricultural Program Building is more than just a facility; it is a smart, strategic investment designed to maximize State Aid. **This program is steeped in many years of pride and tradition here at Northern Adirondack CSD**, and this new facility will ensure it thrives for generations to come.

The structure is designed to contain a much-needed Agriculture Classroom and Lab Space along with the necessary facilities for bathrooms and storage. **This additional classroom and lab capacity significantly enhances our ability to provide rich, hands-on learning experiences, directly supporting the skills outlined in the NYS Portrait of a Graduate framework.** Specifically, it will foster critical thinking, collaboration, and applied learning through projects like soil analysis, plant propagation, and machinery maintenance. This facility will also help the program grow, potentially allowing us to include an **outdoor growing area for harvestable fruits and vegetables** that can be used directly in our school cafeteria as well as made available to the community at a produce stand in the future.

**NYSED Aid Eligibility:** By including the required instructional space (the classroom/lab) within the new building, the entire structure-including the storage and bathroom components-becomes eligible for the high level of NYSED Building Aid (our possible 89% aid ratio).

**Maximizing Local Dollars:** Had the District proposed a standalone building for just bathrooms and storage, it would have received little to no State Aid. The strategic combination ensures that local dollars are leveraged to the fullest extent possible, making this modern facility affordable for the community.

## Cost Overview and Timeline

### Cost Overview Summary

The data for the cost breakdown was prepared by Fiscal Advisors.

| Cost Category  | Proposition 1 Total   | Proposition 2 Total   |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Construction Total   | \$31,954,000          | \$10,990,000          |
| <b>Total Cost</b>  | <b>\$38,000,000</b>   | <b>\$10,990,000</b>   |
| <b>Average Annual Tax Impact</b>                           | <b>\$0.00</b>         | <b>\$830,474</b>      |
| <b>Average Annual Impact per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</b> | <b>\$0.00/\$1,000</b> | <b>\$1.16/\$1,000</b> |

### Proposed Capital Project Timeline

If the community approves the project on December 16th, 2025, the project will follow this estimated timeline:

- Voter Authorization: December 16th, 2025.
- Design Phase: January 2026 - August 2026.
- SED Submission: September 2026 - January 2027.
- Construction: Spring 2027 - Fall 2028.

### Get Out and Vote!

Your participation is crucial to securing the necessary funding and improvements for the Northern Adirondack CSD facilities, ensuring our students have safe, modern learning and athletic environments without increasing the current tax burden for critical work.

| Event                      | Date                     | Location                     | Hours             |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Voter Authorization</b> | <b>December 16, 2025</b> | Middle High School Cafeteria | 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. |

## Messages Continued

**Tip:** Visit the “Access Supports → Get Started” section on their website to learn about eligibility and how to begin the application process.

### 4. Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc. (CCCCNC)

The CCCCNC offers free programs for families with children from infancy through young adulthood, including developmental playgroups, parenting education classes, parent support groups, and specialized support for families of children with disabilities.

Find out more: <https://caringfornorthcountrykids.org/child-care-coordinating-council-of-the-north-country-inc/>

**Tip:** Check their Family Resource Centers and “Families with Children with Disabilities” programs for consultation, training, and community connections. Opportunities are helping build knowledge for the faculty and staff as we continue to support students through the MTSS process.

My office is available for questions, but please reach out to your child’s classroom teacher first for more information.

## Middle-High School Principal Robert Witkiewicz

Hello MHS Families,



What a fantastic fall it’s been so far! I’m thrilled to share that the work on our gym floor is finally complete — and it looks incredible. It’s been a long season without access to our main gym, but the wait was worth it. Just in time, too, as we were able to host the Volleyball Sectionals right here at home! Although our girls came up short after a hard-fought five-set match, the energy and excitement in the gym were electric. It was wonderful to hear

the roar of the crowd again.

Our Boys Soccer team also continues to make us proud, capturing yet another sectional title and winning their first round of Regional play. They’ll be heading to Yorktown on Saturday, November 8th, to compete for a spot in the Final Four. Let’s wish them the best of luck — go Bobcats!

Earlier this fall, we held our first pep rally of the year, and it was an incredible success. Seeing everyone together, showing off their Bobcat spirit, truly reminded me of what makes our school special. The celebration continued with a memorable homecoming dance that brought plenty of smiles and school pride.

Another highlight was our **Senior Halloween Parade** — always a favorite tradition. Our seniors had a great time dressing up and visiting the Elementary School, and the excitement on the younger students’ faces was priceless. It’s one of those moments that reminds us how strong and connected our school community really is.

Looking ahead, **Parent-Teacher Conferences** will take place on **Thursday, November 20, 2025**, from **12:30–2:30 p.m.** and again from **3:00–6:00 p.m.** Families can begin signing up for appointments starting **November 10th**. These conferences are such a valuable opportunity to connect, discuss progress, and set goals for the rest of the school year.

Thank you all for your continued support and for being such an essential part of the NAC family. I’m so proud of our students, staff, and community for making this a place where everyone can learn, grow, and thrive.

Warmly,  
Mr. Witkiewicz



## Elementary Principal Lisa Silver



I want to thank the community for their support and involvement in getting our school year off to such a wonderful start.

You have clearly made your child's education a priority as we embark on another year of learning. Our PK-2 Open House on September 2nd had 88% of our families attend. This was an opportunity to meet the teachers and see the classrooms. It's always helpful to make those connections early in the school year.

The Annual Fall Festival had over 500 students and their families in attendance! Fun and exciting prizes were given away as well as great food available to everyone in attendance.

The Welcome Back Assembly treated students to an amazing Magic Show. Student participants were even more amazed when they played a part in making the magic happen!



Local author Kate Messner spent time with students in grades 4 & 5 discussing her new book as well as talking about the steps an author takes to make a book come to life.



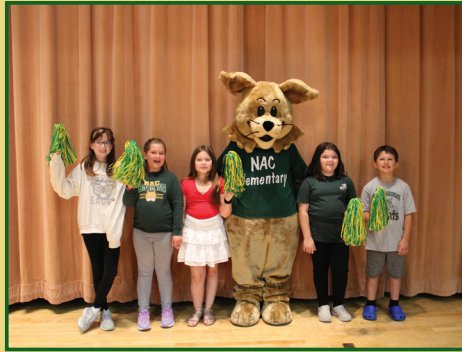
The local Fire Departments once again rallied behind our students and community by coming together during Fire Prevention Week. Altona, Lyon Mountain, Churubusco, Ellenburg Depot, Ellenburg Center and Town of Ellenburg EMS showed up with their equipment and gear to talk with our students about the important role they play in our community and what the students need to do to stay safe.

The Leader In Me program continues to support our students in leadership roles and in practicing the 7 Habits. Please watch for the Habit Builders Worksheet that comes home each month to assist your child in further developing the ability to be responsible for oneself and to help your child be a leader. These 7 Habits also lay the groundwork for your child to do their part in helping NAC Elementary reach our school wide goals to be fluent readers, to be fluent in the four basic math operations and to have an attendance rate of 95% or higher each month of the school year. We surpassed our goal for September with an attendance rate of 96%. Way to go boys and girls!

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on November 20. Please be sure to schedule a time to talk with your child's teacher so we can continue with a partnership that promotes the learning and leadership of our students.

With Bobcat pride,  
Ms. Lisa M. Silver, Ed.D.  
Elementary Principal

# School Spirit!



Northern Adirondack Central School  
P.O. Box 164 • 5586 Route 11  
Ellenburg Depot, NY 12935  
(518) 594 - 7060

NON - PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID BY  
PERMIT NO. 1  
ELLENBURG DEPOT, NY 12935

## Local Postal Customer