



Highlights

SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

Proposed Budget Increase of 0.69% Maintains Class Sizes and Sustains Programs

Dear Community Member,

The Board of Education is dedicated to providing meaningful opportunities for our students amid ongoing economic challenges and increasing unfunded state mandates. The proposed 2016-17 budget will provide all students with an engaging, rigorous and equitable academic experience while remaining within the allowable tax levy cap.

This budget achieves its major objectives within the tax levy cap. The District will add two 5th grade teachers and support staff, as well as additional sections at the high school level to accommodate growing enrollment and maintain current class sizes. To better serve special education students requiring year-round services, the budget provides for an in-district summer program to ensure their ongoing progress.

The tax levy cap has forced program cuts in past years; however, **this year's proposed budget sustains existing programs and maintains class sizes throughout the District.** The District remains committed to continuous improvement in the educational experience for all students, even in the face of these constraints. We are most excited that the budget supports the ongoing work of creating multiple measures to better inform teachers, students and parents about student growth. We believe that children need more than academic skills to succeed in life. This budget provides for the development of a cutting-edge, research-based curriculum to help students develop their social and emotional intelligence and better understand themselves as learners.

The ability of the Superintendent, the leadership team and the Board to develop a budget within the tax levy cap while maintaining programs is the **result of careful long-term strategic initiatives and fortuitous external financial variables.** The District's strategic initiatives include a restructured teacher contract, a teacher retirement incentive, and careful monitoring of current expenditures. A number of external factors positively impacted this year's budget, including a reduction in mandated pension costs, stabilized property values, an increase in real property improvements, and reinstatement of annual state aid. These factors, in addition to comprehensive oversight, aligned to protect programs in the 2016-17 budget. It is important to note that without these positive external developments, even our recognized excellence in financial management would have only partially mitigated the reductions required to create a budget within the tax levy cap.

The Board has long been committed to responsible and strategic fiscal management. **Over the past six years, the Harrison Central School District tax levy has been at or below the cap;** the budget increase has averaged only 1.4% during this period. The 2016-17 school budget proposes **an increase in spending of 0.69%**, which results in an **estimated tax rate increase of 0.96%.**

Throughout the budget development process, we have worked with members of the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, and we appreciate their thoughtful feedback. As always, we remain committed to providing the highest quality education, while ensuring the responsible management of tax dollars. We are grateful for your consistent support for the education of the children of our community.

Sincerely,

Board of Education: Abby Mendelsohn, President; Joan Tiburzi, Vice President;
Trustees: Dennis DiLorenzo, Rachel Estroff, Kelly Mangan, Robert Sullivan, Lindy Wolverton

Louis N. Wool, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Harrison High School Wins Best In Nation Verizon App Challenge

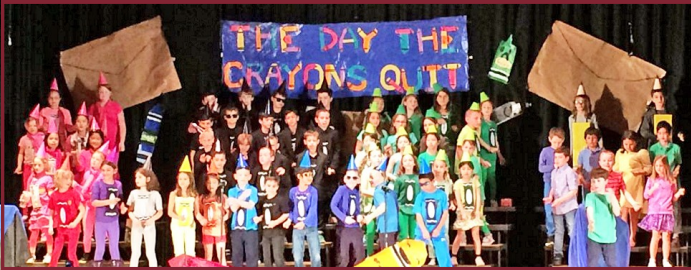


The HHS IB Technology students were named **Best In Nation** in the fourth annual Verizon Innovative App Challenge for their mobile app concept "Pay It Forward". HHS has won **Best In State** the last three years.

The App is designed to allow consumers to combat hunger by donating an extra meal or cash donation to those in need when they place an order for themselves.

- ✓ Team won a sizeable grant from the Verizon Foundation for Harrison High School technology.
- ✓ Students worked alongside experts from the Center for Mobile Learning at the MIT Media Lab - turning their concept into a real, working mobile application.
- ✓ In June, the team from Harrison will travel to Nashville to present the Pay It Forward App at the National TSA Conference.
- ✓ The completed app will be made available free of charge via Google Apps.





PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Program

- ✓ Maintains district-wide class size
- ✓ Provides an additional 5th grade teacher at Parsons and Harrison Avenue Elementary schools
- ✓ Increases one elementary instructional coach - (provides one full-time instructional support person in all four elementary schools)
- ✓ Upgrades two instructional coaches to assistant principals
- ✓ Creates an extended year in-district special education program
- ✓ Implements after school/evening instructional supervision for Student Union and Fitness Center
- ✓ Implements evening operation of food kiosks for Student Union and Fitness Center
- ✓ Adds evening security personnel

Operations and Safety

- ✓ Provides additional card readers district-wide, additional cameras and door upgrades
- ✓ District-wide field/facility upgrades and improvements
- ✓ Completes perimeter awning to provide protective coverage for students at the High School
- ✓ Completes student plaza/concession at High School gymnasium
- ✓ Upgrades Wi-Fi hub/access points district-wide to meet increased demand
- ✓ District-wide classroom renovations
- ✓ Continues district-wide asbestos abatement
- ✓ Continues Energy Performance Audit and implementation plan
- ✓ Partial roof replacement at High School, Middle School, and Harrison Avenue Elementary school
- ✓ Additional storage at High School to address safety concerns
- ✓ Paving and masonry repairs
- ✓ Other repairs as necessary

2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

PROGRAM	BUDGET 15-16	BUDGET 16-17
Regular Instruction	\$36,514,269	\$36,926,600
Special Education Instruction	\$10,801,666	\$10,860,048
In Service Training	\$376,000	\$407,000
Library/Audio-Visual	\$1,407,438	\$1,427,632
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$707,320	\$787,424
Guidance	\$1,284,497	\$1,275,231
Health Services	\$1,256,004	\$1,274,558
Psychological & Social Work Services	\$1,410,516	\$1,364,161
Co-Curricular Activities	\$562,920	\$614,379
Interscholastic Athletics	\$1,254,087	\$1,277,497
Pupil Transportation	\$5,987,899	\$5,845,242
Benefits	\$21,932,692	\$21,669,754
Legal	\$259,500	\$280,000
Interfund Transfers	\$120,000	\$198,000
PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$83,874,808	\$84,207,526
ADMINISTRATION		
Board of Education	\$93,300	\$117,280
Central Administration	\$555,665	\$563,354
Business Administration	\$1,113,526	\$1,123,742
Legal	\$259,500	\$280,000
Personnel & Public Information	\$622,821	\$648,371
Central Printing & Mailing	\$208,487	\$213,715
Central Data Processing	\$730,762	\$824,583
Special Items	\$738,975	\$767,913
Curriculum Development & Supervision	\$5,735,184	\$5,918,208
Benefits	\$3,644,727	\$3,534,294
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$13,702,947	\$13,991,460
CAPITAL		
Buildings Operation and Maintenance	\$7,109,571	\$7,184,384
Judgments and Claims/Assessments	\$275,000	\$273,000
Debt Service and Interfund Transfers	\$2,372,000	\$2,615,240
Benefits	\$1,945,794	\$1,761,772
CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$11,702,365	\$11,834,396
TOTAL BUDGET	\$109,280,120	\$110,033,382

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Payments in Lieu of Taxes
County Sales Tax
Miscellaneous Revenues
Health Services for Other Districts
Interest & Earnings
State Aid
Federal Aid

TOTAL NON-PROPERTY TAX REVENUES

APPROPRIATED RESERVE
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE

REAL PROPERTY TAXES

ESTIMATED TAX RATES (per \$1,000 of assessed valuation)

Harrison
Rye Town
North Castle

BUDGET 15-16	BUDGET 16-17	% CHANGE
\$109,280,120	\$110,033,382	0.69%
\$869,337	\$1,027,921	18.24%
\$1,461,000	\$1,440,000	-1.44%
\$521,000	\$487,000	-6.53%
\$235,000	\$240,000	2.13%
\$95,000	\$125,000	31.58%
\$4,022,104	\$4,363,711	8.49%
\$25,000	\$0	-100.00%
\$7,228,441	\$7,683,632	6.30%
\$370,000	\$200,000	-45.95%
\$1,630,000	\$1,200,000	-26.38%
\$100,051,679	\$100,949,750	0.90%

REVENUES
AND
TAX RATES

\$750.99	\$758.23	0.96%
\$13.00	\$12.13	-6.68%
\$548.42	\$539.18	-1.69%

HCSD Year In Review: Accomplishments, Accolades, and Awards

The 2016 Washington Post Challenge Index ranks **Harrison High School #1** in Westchester County at preparing all students for college and career readiness. U.S. News and World Report awarded HHS a **Gold Medal** distinction.

HHS junior Tasha Garayo won the Greg Horrace Award for Medicine at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair. **HHS junior Emma Abramson** captured fourth in Medicine & Health.



LMK students opened a **Genius Bar** to help students and teachers if they are experiencing problems with their phone, device, Google Apps, or anything else technology related.

The **Caring Kids Club** at Purchase Elementary School hosted its first annual shoe drive to benefit the Soles 4 Soles organization. They collected nearly 400 pairs of shoes for this worthy cause over a two week period.

The **HHS Fifth Annual Field of Honor**, dedicated to veterans, opened in April and proceeds will benefit resident and father Detective Sergeant Joseph Lemm.



HHS seniors **Zach Evans**, **Michael Nannariello**, and **Jack Witte** were honored by the Golden Dozen Football Organization.

The **HCSD** unveiled **three new playgrounds** at its elementary schools replacing outdated wooden playgrounds at **Parsons Memorial**, **Purchase**, and **Harrison Avenue** Elementary schools. The state of the art equipment provides multiple activities for children of varying abilities. The playground at **S.J. Preston Elementary** school was replaced this spring.

The **HHS DECA Club** had 31 students compete at the New York State competition. **Matthew**

Griff, **Grant Muller**, **Adam Elijamal**, and **Akshat Sanghavi** advanced to Nationals.

The **HHS Relay for Life** was named the American Cancer Society's Rookie Event of the Year, having raised \$84,000. This year's event will be held June 4.



The **Winter and Spring Boys and Girls Track and Field** teams captured the League Championships.

Teachers and students initiated the first annual Wellness Day and Jog-A-Thon at **Parsons Memorial Elementary School**.



Louis M. Klein Middle School eighth grade science teacher **Fred DePalma** spent his winter school break becoming a Certified Lunar Rock and Meteorite Specialist from NASA and was able to commission the actual rocks and lunar samples that astronauts brought back to earth from the Apollo moon missions for all eighth graders to study during their rocks and minerals curriculum unit. As a result of his training, DePalma can commission the rocks for a two week period every year. Elementary and Middle School students can look forward to seeing these national treasures when they reach the eighth grade.



The **Rye Town/Harrison Varsity Hockey team** won the League Championship for the third time in four years and advanced to the Section 1 finals for the second year in a row.



HHS seniors Emily Kohutnicki and **Emma Smolev** were selected to participate in **White Plains Hospital's Pre-Med program**, run by HHS graduate Dr. Kaare Weber. The program provides students the opportunity to work in a small group with medical doctors from a variety of fields.

HHS art students **Gia LaVista**, **Cyle Rockoff**, and **Sakura Tateiwa** participated in the 2016 StArt Exhibition at the Osilas Gallery at Concordia College. Cyle was also the runner-up in the **Congressional Art competition** sponsored by US Congresswoman Nita Lowey.

Harrison Avenue continued its successful Genius Hour, based on the Google initiative, allowing students to research a topic of interest and present the findings to their peers and teachers.

The **HHS Debate team** captured the top three spots in two regional Championships. **Elyssa Alfieri**, **Kathryn Kenny**, and **Sarah Ryan** will attend the NCFL Nationals and **Sammi O'Reilly**, **Kathryn Kenny**, and **Raffi Piliero** will attend the NSDA Nationals.

HHS Technical Theatre students learned the complexities of running a large scale musical production from the current stage manager of the successful Broadway production **Finding Neverland**.

S.J. Preston students collected over 1,000 items for the Harrison Food Pantry in late January, a crucial time of need for the pantry.





Harrison Central School District

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Abby Mendelsohn, *President*
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Dennis DiLorenzo, *Trustee*
Rachel Estroff, *Trustee*
Kelly Mangan, *Trustee*
Robert Sullivan, *Trustee*
Lindy Wolverton, *Trustee*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Louis N. Wool, Ed.D.

HCS D has received the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for their fiscal year end 2014 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFRs). This is the **7th consecutive** year the District was been awarded this distinction for achieving the highest level of excellence in public sector financial management from the **Government Finance Officers Association**.



The Harrison Fine and Performing Arts Department hosted the NYSSMA adjudication this year where over 1,900 students from across Westchester performed in all musical disciplines. Also, the inaugural *The Pedros: An Open Mic Invitational* will be held at Harrison High School on May 14th, 2016, allowing musical theatre students from high school productions across Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties the opportunity to perform a short number on stage. This event is a precursor to the Metropolitan Theater Awards given out on June 6, 2016.

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. — At your neighborhood elementary school

REGISTRATION

As there is no personal registration for school elections, voting in a budget vote does not automatically entitle one to vote in a general election. Therefore, all citizens are strongly encouraged to register to vote with the Westchester County Board of Elections. Registration materials are available at www.westchestergov.com/boe or the Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY, (914) 995-5715; (Business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

There is no personal registration. At the time of the vote, voters will sign a statement affirming that they possess the following qualifications : 1) A citizen of the United States; 2) 18 years of age; 3) A resident of the District for a period of at least 30 days. Voters must be able to produce at least one of the following proofs of residency: a driver's license; a non-driver identification card; a utility bill; or a voter registration card.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for an absentee ballot may be obtained at the office of the District Clerk, 50 Union Avenue, Harrison, or may be downloaded from the District website, www.harrisoncsd.org. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter. Completed ballots must be received in the District Clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on election day.

For more information: www.harrisoncsd.org or call (914) 835-3300