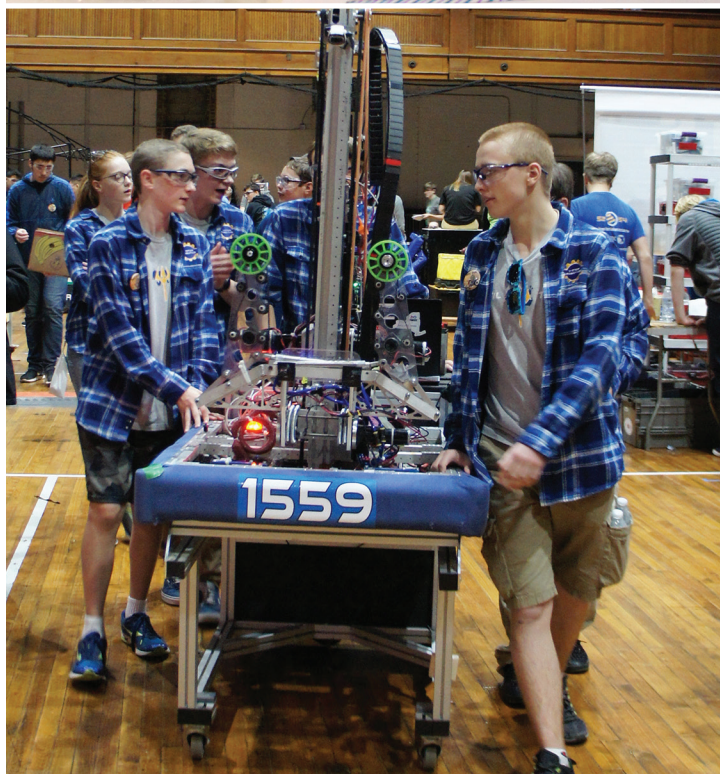


SPRING 2019

Excellence

ON DISPLAY

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS MAGAZINE



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Budget Vote Information

*District residents will cast ballots on the proposed 2019 – 2020 budget at the annual budget vote and Board of Education election on **Tuesday, May 21**. Voting will take place in the **Victor Primary School Gymnasium** from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Voters must be at least 18 years old, a registered voter and a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to May 21, 2019.*

Voter Registration

On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, the Victor Central School District will hold voter registration from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room. This registration is for residents currently not registered to vote in the general election.

For more information on voter registration and/or the upcoming budget vote, contact VCS District Clerk, Maureen Goodberlet at 924-3252, ext. 1402 or email her at goodberletm@victorschools.org.

VCS Board of Education

Karen Ballard
Tim DeLucia
Kristin Elliott
Debbie Palumbo-Sanders
Christopher Parks
Mike Vistocco
Mike Young

The Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Victor Early Childhood School boardroom at 7:15 p.m. Residents are welcome to attend.

District Clerk

Maureen Goodberlet,
(585) 924-3252 ext. 1402

Superintendent of Schools

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.

Excellence on Display is the official publication of the Victor Central School District.

(585) 924-3252 ext. 1407

www.victorschools.org

The 2019–2020 School Budget

*A Message from Our Superintendent Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.
and Debbie Palumbo-Sanders, President, Board of Education*

The 2018-2019 school year has been filled with many incredible achievements.

From impressive academic successes in the classroom to admirable extracurricular accomplishments in the arts, athletics and in the community, VCS students and staff exude excellence at every turn. This year, our District was honored on many fronts for this culture of achievement. *Buffalo Business First Magazine*, *US News and World Report* and *Niche.com* all named us a top school district in Upstate New York and *Niche.com* named us the number one school district for athletes in Upstate New York. Despite the many amazing accolades VCS has received, the heart of all of our success begins and ends with you.

VCS simply would not be the school district that it is today were it not for our entire community. Thanks to your continued support, we are an example of public education at its best.

In an effort to maintain our leading edge, VCS works carefully to create the best fiscal plan each and every year. The 2019-2020 budget is no different. In addition to supporting the intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being of all of our students, we are also dedicated to preparing a budget that is responsible and fair to our taxpayers.

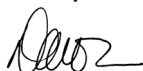
The 2019-2020 Victor Central Schools' fiscal plan reflects this. Our proposed budget of \$73,732,603 includes an increase in building aid of \$1,451,672. This is the building aid we expected to receive from the state for our current capital project. When this aid and the corresponding debt is separated out, the budget-to-budget increase for 2019-2020 is \$2,904,789 or 4.19%, our proposed budget includes a true value tax rate of \$15.94 per thousand, down from last year's rate of \$16.14. For taxpayers, this rate equates to a 1.24% **decrease** from this year's true value tax rate.

At \$73,732,603 the 2019-2020 budget is both responsive and responsible. It allows us to add new and much needed positions across the District. For a complete listing of specific proposed positions, see page 10.

Building a school budget is no small feat. Each year, we are faced with both new and existing challenges, from shifts in student numbers and needs to outside governmental factors. Despite the landscape on which we build our budgets, we continue to remain true to our goals of providing every child with a high quality education while being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

We hope that you will take the time to review some of the finer points of the 2019-2020 budget in this publication. In doing so, we also hope that you agree that VCS continues to set the stage for success for our students, staff and entire community.

Sincerely,



Dawn Santiago-Marullo Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Debbie Palumbo-Sanders
Board of Education President

Proposed Expenditures

New York State law provides that all district budgets be identified in three categories:

Administrative Expenses

- Curriculum Development
- Staff Development
- In-Service Development
- Personnel
- District Audit
- Tax Collection
- Central Printing/Mailing
- District Votes

Program Expenses

- All Student Services
- Instructional Support
- Transportation Operation
- Instructional Salaries and Benefits

Capital Expenses

- All Facilities Costs
- Debt Service
- Operations/Maintenance
- Supplies
- Utilities
- Personnel

Expenditures by Component

Administrative Component

	Budget 2018-2019	Proposed Budget 2019-2020	Difference
Board of Education	78,780	100,345	21,565
Central Administration	224,480	206,974	(17,506)
Finance	369,384	420,710	51,326
Staff	626,372	656,484	30,112
Central Services	469,269	505,700	36,431
Special Items	903,439	947,685	44,246
Curriculum Development	568,843	535,659	(33,184)
Curriculum Supervision	1,722,671	1,826,020	103,349
Pupil Personnel Services	363,038	442,143	79,105
Employee Benefits	1,794,974	1,752,629	(42,345)
Administrative Budget	7,121,250	7,394,349	273,099

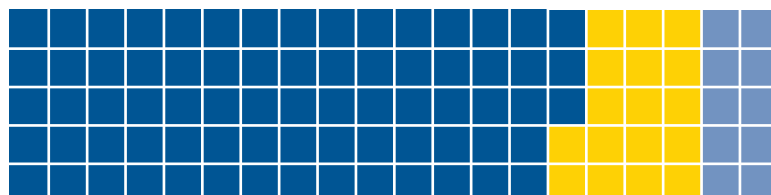
Program Component

Legal Services/In-Service	20,700	20,900	200
Teaching	28,816,052	30,887,064	2,071,012
Instructional Media	1,379,708	1,561,971	182,263
Pupil Services	2,474,540	2,559,587	85,047
Co-Curricular/Interscholastic Athletics	1,336,870	1,437,421	100,551
District Transportation Services	2,783,226	2,806,047	22,821
Community Services	10,646	11,000	354
Employee Benefits	15,362,299	14,745,412	(616,887)
Total Program	52,184,041	54,029,402	1,845,361

Capital Component

Operation	2,359,661	2,386,780	27,119
Maintenance	1,129,214	1,376,991	247,777
Employee Benefits	895,751	907,184	11,433
Debt Service	5,532,962	7,637,897	2,104,935
Total Capital	9,917,588	12,308,852	2,391,264
Total Budget Increase	69,222,879	73,732,603	4,509,724

Programs: 73% Capital: 17% Administration: 10%



Bus Purchase Proposition

School bus fleet maintenance and safety are driving a bus purchase proposition on the ballot May 21, 2019. Residents will be asked to approve the purchase of five 77-passenger buses, one 30-passenger mini-bus and one 24-passenger wheel chair mini-bus.

The proposition totals \$859,661. New York State will provide 69% of the funding through NYS Transportation Aid. The new buses will replace vehicles that are at least 12 years old and have mileage in excess of one hundred thousand miles.

Notice is further given that a Bond proposition in substantially the following form shall be presented to the qualified voters of the district at such Annual District Meeting and Election.

Bond Proposition Resolved:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Victor Central School District, in the Counties of Ontario, Monroe and Wayne, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to purchase various school buses and vehicles for use by the District; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$859,661;
- (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$859,661 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and
- (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$859,661 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

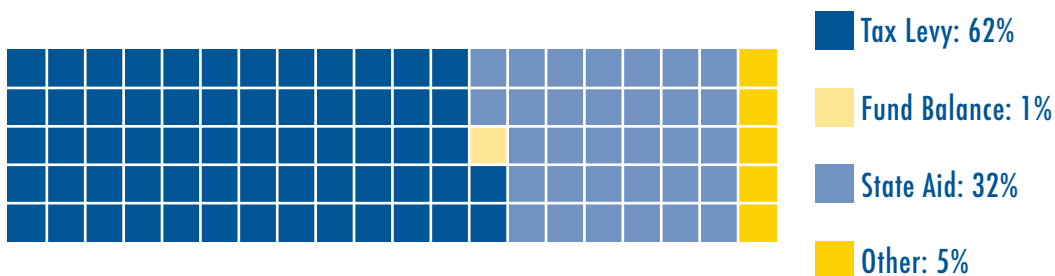
Budget Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of Victor Central School District be authorized to expend \$73,732,603 during the school year 2019-2020 and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

Victor Central School 2019-20 Budget Revenue Plan

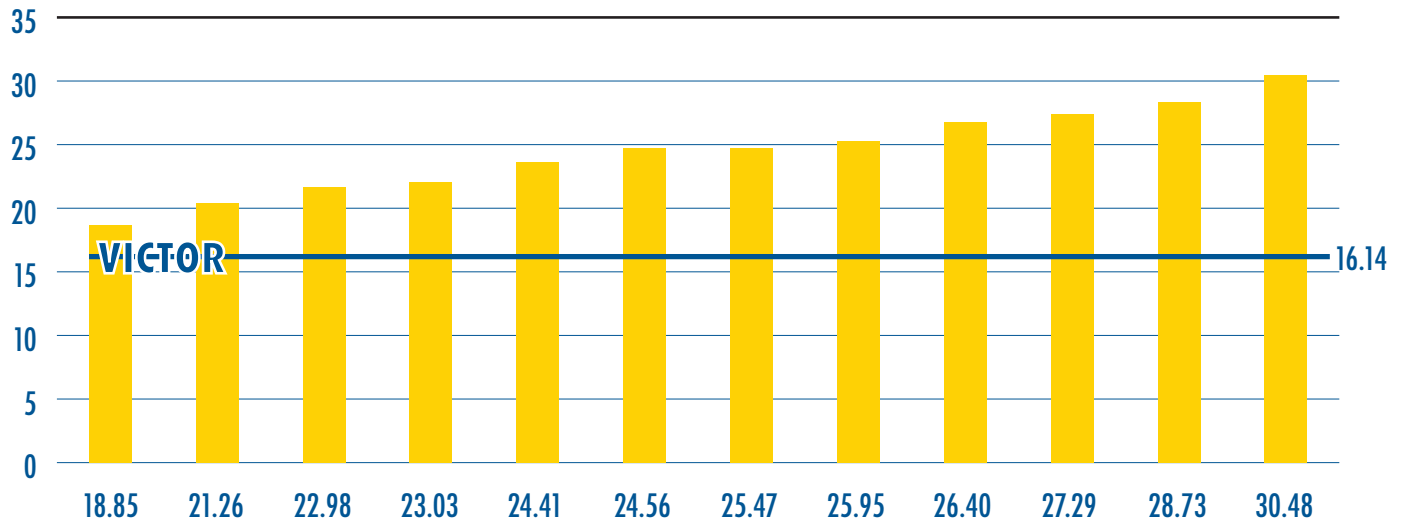
	Budget 2018-19	Proposed 2019-20
State Aid	21,381,402	23,390,293
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	2,589,158	2,642,451
Interest and Earnings	80,000	250,000
Liability Reserve	49,681	55,000
Employee Benefit Liab Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unemployment Reserve	40,000	65,000
Workers Comp Reserve	50,000	50,000
Debt Service	190,000	300,000
Other Sources	380,400	380,400
Fund Balance	529,000	529,000
Tax Levy	43,783,238	45,920,459
TOTAL REVENUES	69,222,879	73,732,603

Where the Funding Comes From



2018-19 True Tax Rate Comparison

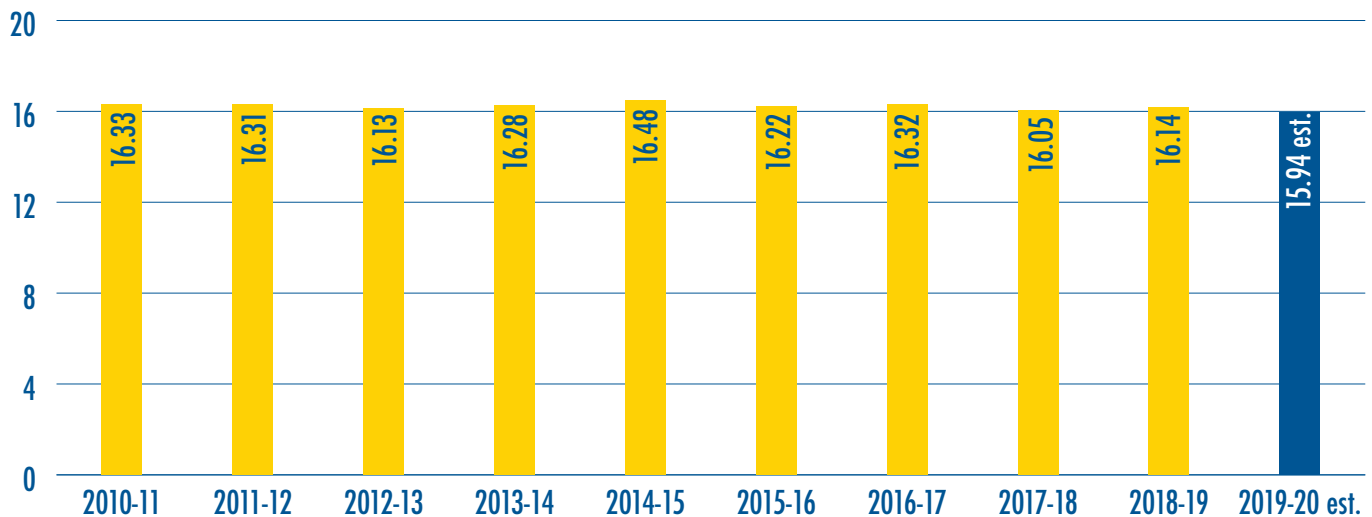
(Source: Four County and Monroe County School Board Association)



Tax Rates in the graph above represent the following districts (not necessarily in the order listed): Bloomfield, Brighton, Canandaigua, East Irondequoit, Fairport, Honeoye Falls-Lima, Manchester-Shortsville, Palmyra-Macedon, Penfield, Pittsford, Victor, Webster, and West Irondequoit

The figures above represent the true value tax rate per \$1,000 of home assessment. In comparing the 2018-19 true value tax rates among Ontario County schools plus our contiguous and academic benchmark districts in Monroe County, Victor's true tax rate was the **lowest at \$16.14 per thousand**.

Victor Central Schools' Tax Rate History per \$1,000



STAR Program Information

The NYS School Tax Assessment Relief (STAR) program provides qualified homeowners with a \$30,000 assessment reduction for tax purposes. Senior citizens receive a \$68,700 exemption.

2018 Estimated Basic STAR
Exemption Savings

\$478

Victor Central School NYS School District Budget Notice

Property Tax Report Card

The following is the Property Tax Report Card information that we are required to send to the newspaper per NYS regulations:

	2018-2019	Projected Budget 2019-2020
Total Budgeted Amount	69,222,879	73,732,603
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 school year		4,509,724
Percent Increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		6.51%
Change in Consumer Price Index		2.44%
Total Proposed School Tax Levy	43,783,238	45,920,459
Total Permissible Exclusions	945,587	1,361,181
Proposed School Tax Levy Limit <i>(without permissible exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)</i>	42,837,651	44,559,278
Administrative Component	7,121,250	7,394,349
Program Component	52,184,041	54,029,402
Capital Component	9,917,588	12,308,852

Should the 2019-2020 budget be defeated and a contingent budget be adopted, the Victor Central School District Board of Education will make the final determination of budget cuts in a contingency budget. The following is a list of options the Board may choose to eliminate or reduce: some athletic teams, administrators, teachers, support staff, and instructional programs. In addition, equipment purchases must be eliminated and all community groups will be required to pay for the use of buildings (please note that Section 2023 of the Education Law requires school districts to provide this statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget).

A Budget Q & A

What is a tax levy?

A tax levy is the total sum of money raised by a school district after subtracting out all other sources of revenue, including state aid. The tax levy is used to determine the tax rate for property owners.

What is a tax rate?

A tax rate is the amount of taxes paid by property owners for each \$1,000 of assessed value of their property. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another, based on such things as equalization rates and assessed property values.

What is the New York State Property Tax Cap?

New York State's Property Tax Cap law establishes an annual tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by the lesser of two percent or the rate of inflation, with some exceptions, based on a multi-step formula. The law does not restrict proposed tax levy increases to two percent however it does determine the level of voter support needed for a school budget to pass.

What is the New York State Property Tax Relief Credit?

If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive a check instead.

Recent changes in the law beginning this year:

- The value of the STAR credit may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption will not increase.
- The income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is now \$250,000.
- If your income is more than \$250,000, you must switch to the STAR credit.
- If your income is \$250,000 or less, you have the option to switch.

Three Residents Seek to Fill



Timothy M. DeLucia

Address

1452 Mertensia Road
Farmington, NY 14425

District Resident

33 years

Education

BS, Business Administration – Rochester Institute of Technology

Profession

Retired Business Manager

Community Activities

- Current Vice President of the VCS Board of Education
- Farmington Zoning Board of Appeals Chair

VCS Board representative to the

Leadership Committee

District Audit committee

District Advocacy Committee

District Advocacy Sub-committee

NYSSBA Federal Relations Network

NYSSBA Legislative Committee

Monroe County SBA Information Exchange Committee

Monroe County SBA Labor Relations Committee

Monroe County SBA Legislative Committee

Family

Wife - Marilyn, Son - Michael (1997 VCS Grad)

Daughter - Erin (1999 VCS Grad)

Personal Statement

As a Board Member, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the school community and to be part of the process that has enabled us to provide a wealth of educational opportunities for our students. These opportunities offer our students the preparation needed to be “world ready,” follow their dreams, and to meet the challenges for success.

I have been privileged to work with a talented and dedicated team of District professionals that have provided programs to meet the needs and interests of ALL students, while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the District residents. I will continue to support these efforts.

Continued on page 9



Christopher J. Eckhardt

Address

55 Woodworth Street
Victor, NY 14564

District Resident

20 years

Education

Bachelor of Business Administration from Saint Bonaventure University

Profession

District Treasurer for Fairport Central School District

Community Activities

- Youth Coach for Victor Community Softball for 8 years
- Past member of Victor Community Softball Board
- Youth Coach for Victor Parks and Recreation Girls Basketball for 6 years

Family

Wife - Tricia,

Daughters – Meghan 14 and Lizzie 12

Personal Statement

I am a twenty year resident of Victor and have two daughters who attend the Victor Central School District. My wife Tricia and I have seen the positive educational opportunities they have experienced in this District.

I am running for the Victor Central School District Board of Education to serve the community, and be part of a collaborative effort to set the vision and goals for the District. I have twenty-four years of experience in public school finance. I worked for eight years in public accounting, specializing in auditing school districts. The last sixteen years I have spent as the District Treasurer for the Fairport Central School District.

I would consider it an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board of Education, and work together to ensure all of our children continue to have the exceptional opportunities that the Victor Central School District provides.

Board of Education Seats



Kristin V. Elliott

Address

7136 Valentown Road
Victor, NY 14564

District Resident

25 years

Education

Fairport High School, 1987
University of Buffalo (SUNY) BA Geography, 1992
Roberts Wesleyan College, M.Ed., 1998

Profession

- Gates Chili High School – Secondary Science Teacher 1994 – present; CT/Collaborative teaching model, AIS 18 years
- Doodie Pack LLC – Founder and President 2009 – present. Customized, durable, canine utility pack

Community Activities

- Current Member Victor Board of Education – since 2016
- Champion Hills – Member/League Participant 2012 – present
- St. John Fisher College Crew Photographer 2016 – present
- Booster Club - Victor Track, Basketball, Golf
- Pastel Society of Western N.Y. – Member/Artist

VCS Board representative to the

- Graduates of Distinction Committee
- Campus Improvement Committee
- Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Board Liaison

Family

Husband - Rick, Daughter – Savannah (2016 VCS Grad)
Daughter - Payton (2018 VCS Grad), Daughter – Carlee, Class of 2021

Personal Statement

I am proud to be a candidate, once again, for Victor Central School's Board of Education and I am thankful for having the opportunity to serve these past three years. As an educator of 25 years, I brought to the seat a skillset which has allowed me to provide insight and input into engaging conversations with students, staff, leadership

and the community. These conversations and relationships are ever more critical as we transition to a new Superintendent and continue to address the many academic, artistic, athletic, and mental health needs of our collective school population. Specific areas of concern I identified three years ago are the very objectives we have been working to improve upon today. I look forward to continuing the work. With an informed budget process, and open lines of communication, I am confident we can move forward with our progress. I humbly dedicate myself to listening, reflecting, and acting upon the voices raised in our community, and with that make effective decisions based on sound educational practice, fiscal responsibility, and a great deal of hear.

Timothy M. DeLucia (Continued from page 8)

I would be honored to continue to work as a Board member to support the vision to improve, develop, and offer a strong educational foundation for the children of our community.

Victor Bids Farewell to Twelve Retirees

This school year, Victor Central Schools bids farewell to twelve men and women who have made a big difference both inside and outside of our classrooms. Congratulations and best of luck in your future!

Victor Early Childhood School

Karen Dellert, 2003-2019, Elementary Teacher

Victor Primary School

Nancy Standinger, 1988-2019, Elementary Teacher

Martha Unrath, 2013-2018, Library Clerk

Victor Intermediate School

Susan Fischer, 2004-2019, Elementary Teacher

Nancy Burt-Preece, 1993-2019, Music Teacher

Senior High School

Peter Fleckenstein, 1999-2019, Technology Teacher

Margaret Daly, 1993-2019, Math Teacher

Facilities

Jose Hernandez, 2004-2019, Cleaner

Grover Chanthapheuy, 1988-2019, Cleaner

District

Susan Reed, 1997-2018, Technology Department, Typist

Melanie McGuire, 2005-2018, Director of Special Programs and Compliance

Dawn Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D., 1982-2019, Superintendent of Schools

VCS Budget Additions

Instructional

- ~ 1.5 FTE Special Education Teacher (VPS)
- ~ .5 FTE Academic Intervention Services Teacher (VIS)
- ~ .4 FTE Teacher (VSHS)
- ~ .4 FTE APE Teacher
- ~ 1.0 FTE Assistant Director of Special Education
- ~ 1.0 FTE Assistant Principal (VIS)

Non-Instructional

- ~ .2 FTE Aide (Library) (VECS)
- ~ .2 FTE Aide (Nurse's Office) (VECS)
- ~ 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Aide (VECS)
- ~ 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Aide (VPS)
- ~ 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Aide (VSHS)

Full Time Equivalent = FTE

VCS Implements New Phone System and Extensions

This past April, during spring break, Victor Central Schools completed the installation of a new phone system campus-wide. The new technology replaces a nearly twenty year old infrastructure.

VCS Director of Technology, David Henderson said all phone extensions, with the exception of District Office lines, were changed to support the new technology.

Below are the main office and attendance extensions for each building as well as administrative extensions. For specific staff members' numbers, please see the staff directory on our website:

<https://www.victorschools.org/district/staff-directory>

Phone: 585-924-3252

Early Childhood School, Grades Pre-K, K & Grade 1 . 2600

Attendance 2620

Dorothy DiAngelo, Principal

Melissa Goho, Assistant Principal

Primary School, Multiage, Grades 2 & 3 3600

Attendance 3620

Jennifer Check, Principal

Leah Kedley, Assistant Principal

Intermediate School, Multiage, Grades 4-6 4600

Attendance 4620

Kevin Swartz, Principal

Michele Maloney, Assistant Principal

Junior High School, Grades 7 & 8 5600

Attendance 5620

Brian Gee, Principal

David Thering, Assistant Principal

Senior High School, Grades 9-12 6600

Attendance 6485

Brian Siesto, Principal

Carrie Goodell, Amy Shannon, and Karl DuBash, Assistant Principals

Dawn Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools 1402

Zdenek Chumacero

School Resource Officer 6413

Joeseeph Dougherty

Assistant Superintendent for Business 1410

Darren Everhart

Director of Transportation 7600

Maureen Goodberlet

Secretary to the Superintendent/District Clerk 1402

James Haugh

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel 1416

David Henderson

Director of Computer Services 1110

Sherri Lasky

School and Community Relations 1407

Christopher Marshall

Director of Facilities and Operations 7127

Sheila McCarthy

Interim Director of Special Programs and Compliance . . 1451

Veronica Puglisi

Director of Educational and Support Services 1456

Kristin Swann

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services 1406

Alix TePoel

Director of Food Services 6470

Duane Weimer

Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics . . . 6306

Liz Welch

School and Community Relations 1408

Victor Central School Achievements

Academics

- In June, 2018, 98% of our students graduated with a Regents Diploma, 63% percent earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- This past October, the Victor Central School District was ranked 15 in academics out of 431 upstate New York school districts in 48 counties by *Buffalo Business First* magazine.
- In its 2018 rankings *U.S News and World Report* ranked Victor Senior High School the 63rd best school in New York State and the 558th best school nationally out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide.
- This February, *Niche.com* ranked VCS 14th out of the 50th best school districts, and number one in athletics in Upstate New York!
- In February, 2019 Victor Senior High School was one of 426 schools nationwide to receive the 2018-19 Project Lead the Way Distinguished School designation for its PLTW high school program.
- The Junior High School has maintained its extraordinary status as a New York State high performing middle school and "School to Watch" for the past 13 years, since first being designated in 2006.
- DECA: Forty-six students advanced to the State competition in March 2019. Eleven students qualified for the International Career Conference in April. Three students were also selected to attend DECA's THRIVE academy.

Arts

- This past fall, viola player, Barbara Hansen was selected to play in the NYSSMA Conference All-State Symphony Orchestra at Kodak Hall at the Eastman School of Music.
- This past fall our Senior High Drama Club produced the play *Romeo and Juliet*, and this spring, they put on the musical, *Big Fish*.
- This winter at the Rochester-Finger Lakes Middle and High School Art Exhibition at Rochester Institute of Technology, senior, Hanna Gefell won an award for her 2D illustration.

Athletics

- All 2018-2019 fall and winter athletic teams were named Scholar Athlete teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. To receive team recognition, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00.

Victor Central Schools boasted many Sectional and State athletic winners during the 2018-2019 school year:

- Fall 2018 Sectional Champions:

Girls Golf, Girls Volleyball

- Winter 2018 -19 Sectional Champions:

Wrestling: Alex Samson (132 lb. weight class) and Joe Theede (170 pound weight class); *Track:* Mike Bailey, 55 Hurdles Champion; Greg Cole-Allen, Shot Put; *Alpine Ski:* Lucy Haggerty, Slalom *Boys Swimming:* Brayden Murphy, 200IM

- Winter 2018 -19 New York State Champions:

Wrestling: Alex Samson, (132 lb. weight class) - Victor's first ever NYS wrestling champion! *Indoor Track:* Mike Bailey, 55 Hurdles



Traffic Control Attendants Drive Home Safety and Have Fun Doing It!



In September, 2016, VCS implemented a new facet to morning and afternoon drop off and pick up times when they hired a team of traffic control attendants. Chris Marshall, Director of Facilities and Operations at VCS said the new addition was driven by several factors, mainly the increase of campus traffic. While the initial introduction of our new yellow vested friends was met with some question and curiosity, the team was quickly embraced by students, staff and parents alike, because what they do is invaluable to all of us.

“The role of our traffic control attendants is two-fold: to get students and staff into buildings safely, and to keep traffic flowing,” Marshall said. They also help with parking at special events.

While safety and traffic flow are the crew’s top priorities, Marshall said, the group, comprised mostly of retirees, quickly discovered the job offers much more.

After all, why would someone in the comfort of retirement want to get up early and go to school again? The reasons are many.

VCS class of ’68 graduate Dick Crowley and retired United States Postal worker said he took the job not only because he likes the flexible hours, but because he missed the interaction with adults and children.

Don Grundke, a former sales manager, agrees the flexible hours and socialization are great motivators. “Working with the other guys has proven to be fun. We come

from many different backgrounds and have a good time together at work and outside of work!”

After forty years as the owner of a construction company, Jim Weld is having a great time building relationships. “The best part of this job is interacting with the parents, staff and all the students from high school down to the little ones at the Victor Early Childhood School. We strive to communicate to everyone that the safety of all children is our priority,” he said.

Tony Alfieri ran two and four color offset printing presses for forty years before he retired. Today, he enjoys being a traffic control attendant because it performs a valuable service and is a great way to mingle with students and parents. “I like the people I work with and we have a great time all the time! We also like the way the parents respect us,” he said.

Parents and students not only respect Don Lundberg’s guidance, they like his dance moves, too, especially during cold mornings at the Early Childhood School. This martial arts instructor says he became an attendant to help keep students and staff safe. He also likes the smiles he gets from them every day!

Eighty five year old retiree James Miller brings a wealth of experience to his traffic post. In addition to being married to Della for 66 years, this father of five children, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild, has traveled the world over, survived two lung surgeries and two strokes. Despite it all, he loves working at VCS.

While all of our traffic control attendants have various motivations for working at VCS, Doug Bailey summed it up best.

“Our jobs are important to us as we keep our students, teachers, parents and ourselves safe at the crosswalks. I do this because of the friendships I have made, and for the students, teachers and parents. After a day with no problems, we are happy that everyone is safe.”

Also on the team, but not quoted are Mike Rogan, Richard Vest and Rick Williams.

Celebration of Cultures Dinner Honors Us All

On January 18th, VCS hosted its sixth annual Celebration of Cultures dinner for English Language Learners (ELL), their teachers, friends and families.

Approximately 175 students, parents and staff showed just how important this dinner is to VCS' ELL community by coming out for the night of culturally delicious food and fun!

ELL teacher, Laurie Estochen said that this year's dinner, held at St. Patrick's Church in Victor, was particularly special because it was organized and hosted by ELL seniors Kataichiry Rohena Marquez and Joelymar Ruiz, students who have grown up with the program.

"I did the dinner because the ELL's are a family and we enjoy being together. It holds special memories for us all," Kataichiry Rohena Marquez said.

Joelymar Ruiz was equally passionate about helping make this special dinner take place. "It is my senior year and I wanted to make sure it happened because it is so important to the ELL community."

The Celebration of Cultures ELL dinner took root at VCS thanks to teacher Cristie Rydzynski who brought the idea from her previous school district. Former Primary School principal, Danny Dehm first embraced the idea by offering to host it in her school's auditorium, and the program has grown ever since.

According to Estochen, for the first four years the dinner took place a week before Thanksgiving and had more of a Thanksgiving theme. Two years ago, they needed to look at other options to accommodate attendance growth, costs and food factors. That's when they sought out the com-

munity room at St. Patrick's Church "They have a very large room for eating and an equally large kitchen and it is located conveniently in the village of Victor. This year, we made it a potluck style to lower the cost and give families the ability to share food. We also moved it to January, a little less stressful time of the year," Estochen said.

Regardless of its time or place, one thing is certain. The Celebration of Cultures Dinner is more than a meal, it is a memory maker filled with the finest international food, music, and memories that will last a lifetime.



2019 Volunteer of the Year Named

Farmington resident Kelly Danks was honored with VCS' 2019 Volunteer Committed to Service award at a special recognition ceremony in the JH/SH arts center on March 15th during the District's Superintendent's Conference day assembly.

Her nominator, Victor Intermediate School (VIS) Principal, Kevin Swartz said Danks is not only an active member of the VIS Building Council, but she has also been a regular volunteer and supporter of his building's book fairs for the past several years. In addition, she has been a driving force in planning the school's Family Literacy Nights, an event which Swartz said has been extremely well attended in recent years. "Like many parents, Kelly is busy managing the many aspects of family life. Despite having children who are engaged in many activities of their own, Kelly takes pride in giving back to our building and its initiatives," Swartz said.

Although Danks was nominated for her work at the Intermediate School, her volunteerism is far-reaching. She has been a member of all but one of VCS' Building Councils, a PTSA Building Representative at three schools, and a committee member on numerous PTSA initiatives, including the Harlem Wizards event, half-day enrichment days, the Holiday Shoppe, ice cream socials and staff appreciation days, to name a few. Outside of school, Danks is also an active team parent for the Victor Youth Travel Basketball and Baseball organizations and a leader for the Victor Community Church's Vacation Bible School and JAM children's programs.

"I volunteer for several different reasons," Danks said. "First I feel that volunteering is more of an exchange between people. Most people in their lives find

themselves in need of help at some point. So today I might have the ability to help others, but tomorrow I may be the recipient of someone else's volunteer effort. Adding my effort with the work of others makes everyone's lives better.

I also volunteer because I want to get to know my community better, to learn something new, to have a positive impact, and to be a part of a team," she said.

The Volunteer Committed to Service award was created in 2009 by Victor Central Schools and the Victor Teachers' Association as a way to pay tribute to those special men and women who give of their time and talents to VCS, whether through one major event or years of service to a group of students or a building.



A Farewell Message from Superintendent Dawn Santiago-Marullo

After 37 years at Victor Central Schools, this past winter, I made the decision to retire effective July 17th, 2019. It has been the honor of a lifetime to be part of this educational organization, both as a teacher and a leader in our District.

My decision to retire comes with mixed feelings. Through the years, as colleagues retired, they would say “you’ll know when the time is right.” The time has arrived for me and my husband Tom.

I truly love this school system and the people within it. Over the years, I’ve proudly served our students, staff, families and community members. Although I’m not a native of the Victor-Farmington area, it has become my adopted home. It’s the one place I’ve been connected to for the majority of my life.

Together we weathered tremendous growth in student population, several capital projects and the impact of the recession on school funding. Throughout all of it, we never lost track of what was most important, the children.

Thank you to the 16 Board of Education members I’ve worked with for the last ten years as superintendent and the many school board members that served during my 37 year tenure. We’ve done good work for our students and staff.

I hold in high esteem the hundreds of VCS staff members who have and continue to make VCS the prodigious school district it is. It has been my privilege to work side by side with so many dedicated people, individuals who love working with children.

I’ve also been blessed to have worked with countless administrators first as a teacher, then director and now as superintendent. Their dedication to our students

has been inspiring. They have and will continue to lead the District well.

Thank you to the families who entrusted us with their greatest treasure, their children, our students. It’s been a great partnership. I’m proud to say we’ve shared the expectation, “every child deserves to be prepared for his/her future with a high quality education.”

Thank you to greater Victor-Farmington community members and local businesses who have ensured that we had the resources we needed to do magnificent things on this campus. A special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time in support of our students and staff.

The children have always been at the heart of every decision I make. I’ll miss seeing them in action in the classrooms and beyond. I’ve been fortunate to have “season tickets” to the best visual and performing arts and athletic entertainment in the area. I’ve also been fortunate to attend events showcasing our students and staff’s work. It’s been a pleasure to watch them learn and grow.

I’m looking forward to the next phase of my life, to pursue some part-time professional endeavors which will allow me to spend more time with my family, especially my husband Tom and my granddaughter, Lucy, who is growing up so fast.

My time at VCS will forever be a significant part of who I am. During the next few months, I’ll continue to work to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for the support that has been provided to me over the years. I wish only the best for VCS and look forward to learning about the many accomplishments the future will bring this great District.



Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame Recipients Selected

Victor Central Schools is proud to announce its 2019 Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame (VPHOF) recipients. VPHOF was created to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of outstanding alumni, staff and community members who have excelled in the arts. It was also established to inspire current students to make contributions to the arts by reconnecting those selected for the hall of fame with our students, staff and community.

This year's recipients are actor, David Grant Wright ('79), and musicians, Bill Kelliher ('89), Tim Wheeler ('91) and Andy Martinek ('05). A special induction ceremony will be held to honor this year's recipients on **Thursday, May 9th at the Victor Early Childhood School Boardroom beginning at 6:45 pm.**

(Bill Kelliher is unable to attend this year's induction ceremony.) Friends and family are welcomed to attend!



David Wright '79



Bill Kelliher '89



Tim Wheeler '91



Andy Martinek '05

VSH College and Career Center Seeks Student Internships

The Victor Central School District is committed to providing our students with the best education and experience during their school years. As a part of this commitment, we believe that students can greatly benefit from career awareness and experiences. The VSHS College and Career Center is dedicated to partnering with area professionals. Through this partnership, our students gain exposure and a concrete vision of future opportunities. In addition, businesses establish working relationships with driven, hardworking students. From a job shadow and unpaid internship to a small group discussion, we appreciate your valuable time. If you have worked with us in the past, thank you! If you have not and are interested in working with our students, please email Cindy Mereness at merenessc@victorschools.org or call her at 585-924-3252 x6424.

Alumni Banquet Set for June 9th

On Sunday, June 9th, Victor Central Schools will celebrate its 124th Alumni Banquet at Ravenwood Golf Club, 929 Lynaugh Road, Victor, NY. The celebration will include a cash bar at 6:00 pm and a buffet dinner at 7:00 pm. The cost for this event is \$19 per person, payable upon arrival. Reservations are required.

To make reservations, please contact Sue Whitney Masseth, Class of 1966 by calling her at 585-727-2359 or emailing her at susanjmasseth@gmail.com

Senior High School Receives National Recognition for Commitment to Empowering Students

This spring, the national organization, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), recognized Victor Senior High School as a PLTW Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for students through its PLTW programs. Victor is one of just 21 districts across the United States to receive this honor.

"It is a great honor to recognize Victor Central Schools for its commitment to students," said Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. "These are leaders in what school should look like, and they should be very proud of ensuring students have the knowledge and skills to be career ready and successful on any career path they choose."

VCS currently offers PLTW Engineering for students in grades 9 through 12 and the interest in STEM classes is growing. This year, a PLTW Gateway program for 8th graders was implemented and next year, that will be expanded to include 7th graders.

School Administrator Receives NYS Recognition

This past winter Veronica (Roni) Puglisi, Victor Central Schools' Director of Educational and Support Services, was named Administrator of the Year by the New York State School Counselor Association (NYSSCA).

Puglisi was nominated by numerous VCS counselors and administrators for being a "fearless leader" who led the District in the charge to develop a new school counseling plan, and is a tireless advocate for students and school counselors.



Interim Director of Special Programs and Compliance Hails from Fairport

This winter, the Victor Board of Education approved the appointment of Fairport resident, Sheila McLaughlin McCarthy, to an interim position as Director of Special Programs and Compliance. McCarthy, the former Director of Special Education for the Fairport Central School District (1997-2017) stepped in for Melanie McGuire who retired at the end of December, 2018.

Prior to her post as Director of Special Education for Fairport Schools, McCarthy was the Coordinator of Preschool Special Education at the Webster Central School District (1988-1997) and a summer Assistant Principal (administrative intern) at Monroe #1 BOCES. McCarthy will stay on as an interim Director at VCS through December, 2019.



Construction Update

Victor Central Schools' \$25,000,000 capital project is nearing completion. This winter, the second floor addition (home to five new classrooms) at the Early Childhood School, and several Occupational/Physical Therapy rooms at the Junior High School were officially completed. A renovation at the Junior High School library was also completed recently as was the installation of two new tennis courts and complete resurfacing of all eight courts.

This summer, the Early Childhood School's nurse's office and the Intermediate School addition are expected to be completed.

The VIS addition includes a 12,000 square foot gymnasium and a 1,500 square foot music room.



Victor Central School District
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To: Victor Central School District Residents

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services maintains a list of registered sex offenders and offers many resources through its web site, [://criminaljustice.state.ny.us](http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us). People may search the Sex Offender Registry using the criteria of name, county or zip code. Parents and guardians may want to talk with children about interacting with adults and people they do not know.

Family Fun Festival



May 21, 2019, 3:30 - 9:00 p.m.
VCS Campus

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS 124TH ALUMNI BANQUET

Ravenwood Golf Club

929 Lynaugh Road, Victor, NY 14564

Sunday, June 9, 2019

6:30 p.m. Cocktails ~ 7 p.m. Dinner

For information contact Sue Masseth at 585-727-2359

Eighteenth Annual Senior Citizens' Ball

Free and open to ALL

Victor Central School District
Senior Citizens!

**New
Location!**

**Dinner &
Dancing**

Saturday, May 11, 2019 — 5-7 p.m.

@ Victor Early Childhood School Gymnasium

Entertainment provided by "**Western New York Big Band**"

Reservations required, call School & Community Relations at 924-3252,
ext.1407 or e-mail welche@victorschools.org or laskysh@victorschools.org

VCS Class of 2019 Graduation Ceremony

Friday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.

War Memorial Blue Cross Arena Rochester

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE VCS E-NEWS?

SPECIAL EVENTS • IMPORTANT UPDATES! Throughout the school year, our VCS Superintendent and building principals send out electronic newsletters highlighting special school events, unique accomplishments, important updates and other timely information. Are you receiving these vital sources of school information? If not, we strongly urge you to sign up for both the Superintendent's and building principals' e-news by going to our web site: **www.victorschools.org**