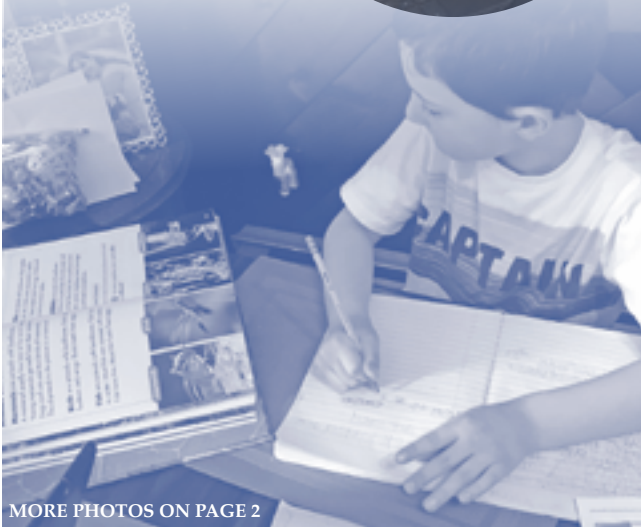




District Teachers and Students Embrace Remote Learning

Our transition from face-to-face learning to remote learning has had a successful kickoff. Thanks to all of our teachers, parents, and students for being so flexible, determined, and resilient. Although the process wasn't perfect, learning did prevail!



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2

Saugerties

Central School District

BUDGET 2020

Adopted Budget Meets Allowable "Tax Cap" Calculation; Despite Challenges, Preserves Student Opportunities

On May 26, the Saugerties Board of Education adopted a \$66,471, 574 proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year. This budget represents a 1.8% increase over last year and meets the District's allowable tax levy "cap," which is set by a formula prescribed by the State.

Building this year's budget was exceptionally challenging because there are so many unknowns. Schools already received a State Aid cut related to COVID-19, and Governor Andrew Cuomo has advised schools that there may be further cuts as the year progresses, which will impact available revenues to support the budget. In addition, no one is certain what opening school in September will look like. It is expected that there will be many adjustments and accommodations needed related to COVID-19, which will likely increase operational costs.

Knowing that the economic situation is uncertain – both in terms of State support and costs for next year, the Board and administration were challenged with building a spending plan that preserved student programming and was mindful of the economic implications to taxpayers. This is never an easy task, but this year it was an excruciating process. To help guide decisions, the Board and administrative team remained focused on protecting student opportunities while limiting cost.

Highlights of the programming that is supported include:

- Pre-kindergarten
- Seal of Bilingual Program
- Band and chorus
- Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified athletic teams
- Advanced Placement and college courses
- All current Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center pathways
- Professional development for staff

This budget also includes some technology infrastructure upgrades and supports a re-imagined High School schedule designed to provide additional opportunities for our juniors and seniors. Next year's schedule will include eight periods plus a lunch period. Instead of classes running 45 minute long, they will run 41 minutes long and 10 minutes will be added to the entire school day.

High School Principal Tom Averill said, "This will offer students an opportunity to take more elective classes or to add a study hall. Students enrolled in the Ulster BOCES program will also be able to register for an additional class before or after their program." Averill added that this also guarantees students will have time for a scheduled lunch, a period that high-achieving students often forgo in order to take other critical classes.

Finally, the budget also includes a transfer to capital funds to replace and relocate aging doors at Riccardi Elementary School in order to improve safety and security.

"Governor Cuomo has warned that unless there is a Federal Aid package to help, the effects of the current economic shutdown could mean much less State Aid for schools, and says the State will be assessing and adjusting its budget several times in the course of 2020," explains Business Manager Jane St. Amour. Cuomo stated that State Aid would be reduced by 20 percent from what was originally budgeted. For Saugerties, that could result in a loss of more than \$3 million. "We are doing the best we can to maintain our student programming with the money that we have," she added.

The District did achieve some cost savings through employee retirements, but it was necessary to eliminate some part-time positions in order to reduce expenses. Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt says, "We will continue to look for efficiencies and monitor State Aid for additional funds."

St. Amour explains that if the Budget is defeated, there won't be any time to have a second vote before the fiscal year begins on July 1, so the Board will likely be required to adopt a contingency budget, which will require a reduction of almost \$900,000. Areas where cuts could potentially occur include mandated reductions in equipment, capital funding, non-mandated instructional and non-instructional positions, and free use of school facilities by community groups.

Despite the challenges, Reinhardt remains optimistic and added, "I am confident in the Board, my staff, and the community that regardless of the how things shake out, we will always work hard to put our students first."

Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, this year's school budget vote and Board of Education elections will take place exclusively by absentee ballot, as directed by Governor Cuomo. Absentee ballots will be mailed to all registered voters and other qualified voters upon request. Ballots must be received back by 5 PM on June 9.

In addition to the budget, District residents will also elect members to the Board of Education to fill three open seats, each for three-year terms.

Board of Education

Robert Thomann, *President*
James Mooney, *Vice President*

Krista Barringer
Katie Emerson-Hoss
Damion Ferraro
Susan Gage
Raymond (Mike) Maclary
Elena Maskell
Paul Van Schaack

Superintendent of Schools

Kirk Reinhardt

Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum & Instruction, Assessments & Student Data

Dr. Darlene Westinghouse

Newsletter produced/designed by Ulster BOCES

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

The School Board Election and
Budget Vote will take place on
June 9, with all voting by
Absentee Ballot!



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www.saugerties.k12.ny.us

TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

District Teachers and
Students Embrace
Remote Learning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Congratulations
to Our Graduating Seniors!

We would like to congratulate the Class of 2020! You have proven to be one of the most adaptable, talented, and resilient classes in the history of graduations. COVID-19 may have changed the way we had to do things, but it didn't change all of your accomplishments. As of print time, these are the candidates set to graduate. Please know the District is incredibly proud of you.

Comfort	Akpan	Graeme	Knisell
Joshua	Alexander-Viera	Madeline	Kott
Kendall	Andola	Samantha	Larsen
Justin Ty	Arastiqueti	Craig	Laurey
Isabel	Arter	Django	Lioce
Gary	Auchmoedy	Gavin	Lyons
Charlize	Avena	Aasis	Magar
Charles	Baldwin	Santosh	Magar
Cameron	Bark	Eugene	Marshall
Aiden	Becnel	Amanda	Martin
Corey	Beitl	Alfredo	Martinez
Gage	Belnap	Christopher	Martinez
Abigail	Below	Mariana	Martinez Castaneda
Brendon	Bergen	Madison	Martino
Skyler	Berry	Joseph	Masula
Madelynn	Bigler	Julie	Mazariago
Michael	Bigler Jr	Chad	McPeek
Keira	Blanchard	Grace	Meehan
Gabriella	Bonelli	Isaiha	Merrihew
Abigail	Bravo	Maghan	Micari
Ashley	Brennan	Fawn	Miller
Makenna	Brewer	Gabriela	Mills
Jeremiah	Brown Jr	Waseem	Mirza
Jessica	Bucci	Kyla	Misasi
Garon	Butcher	Matthew	Morgan
Joseph	Cantwell III	Mary	Mullen
Marissa	Castaneda	Lion	Murray
Anais	Catala	Dominic	Nace
Christopher	Cavallaro	Jody	Nameth
Ethan	Christiansen	Ilana	Numssen
Elizabeth	Cirafice	Jazmyn	Oakley
Meghan	Colligan	Anthony	Obermeyer
Hannah	Cooper	Jack	OBrien Bruno
Gabriel	Copeman	Tatum	Padilla
Jeremy	Cornelison	Anthony	Paff
Anthony	Costello	Micaela	Pelham
Cameron	Costello	Justin	Perez
Bernardo	Cruz	Nicole	Peters
Cora	Currey	Jared	Podmayersky
Meleah	Danner	Derek	Prinz
Mark	Danza	Julia	Quinlan
Sophia	Davalos-Pacheco	Ethan	Quinto
Brayden	DeGroat	Madden	Reilly
Amanda	DelGreco	Alyssa	Rose
Rabecca	Denise	Caleb	Rose-Mackey
George	Dienos	Ryan	Rosner
Randy	Dodig	Kaylee	Rutledge
Erin	Dudzic	Steven	Saavedra
Michael	Dysard II	Alicia	Sanchez
Caleb	Edwards	Amanda	Sansone
Katelyn	Eighmey	Alexis	Sasso
Sophia	Elliot	Dominic	Sasso
Juan	Erazo Melgar	Ramero	Scarpa-Meade
Elizabeth	Falcon	Guillermo	Sebal Dobon
Aliyah	Feeney	Sharan	Sekhon
Mackenzie	Feeney	Daniel	Severin
Annika	Fisher	Amy	Shultis
Melody	Fisher	Joseph	Sinisi
Anthony	Fitzgerald	Savannah	Sirico
Eric	Frank	Michaela	Smith
Augustus	Franklin	Aamir	Snyder
Gabriel	Freeman	Morgan	Sperl
Blake	Friedman	Skyler	Sprague
Ty	Gallagher	Jeremy	Squires
Mike	Garcia-Umana	Sarah	Stephens
Kyiah	Giannelli	Kaylie	Sullivan
Frederick	Golnek	Christopher	Swanson
Alexandra	Goodwin	John	Syvertsen
Jorge	Granda	Samantha	Syvertsen
Jody	Greer	Caedan	Torgersen
Aidan	Gruen	Lauryn	Turk
Sharmar	Hamilton	Carter	Vail
Makayla	Hanley	Lela	Valles
Anna	Harp	Ethan	Via Pietrzak
Shane	Hart	Caleb	Vickery
Rebekah	Hendricks	Jessica	Vickery
Wyatt	Hennigan	Julianna	Wagor
Noah	Hilton	Joseph	Warcholak
Sierra	Hogan	Aidan	Warren
Russell	Hughes	Johanna	Weeks
Carter	Jackson	Devon	Weishaupt
Donte	Jackson	Billie	Wells
Christian	Jensen	Aidan	Wellstood
Imani	Johnson	Sabrina	Whitaker
Madison	Johnson	Liam	White
Aidan	Jurofcik	Scott	Wickham
Tyler	Keener	Elena	Williams
Halle	Kiernan	Valerie	Williams
Corey	Kirchner	Roan	Wilson
Xea	Kirkland	Dawson	Wood
Victoria	Klein	Christopher	Zehnick
Ethan	Klinke		



Saugerties 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

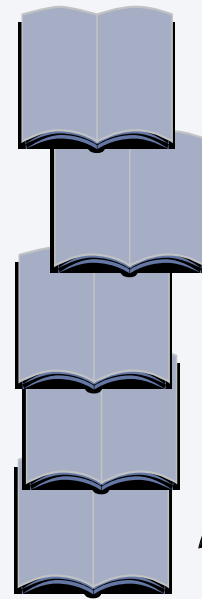
Three Part Budget

The legislation that requires New York State school districts to have a public budget vote includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three sections: Administration, Program, and Capital.

	2020-2021	2019-2020	INCREASE / (DECREASE)
	9%	8%	11%
Administration	\$6,032,287	\$5,419,425	\$612,862
	81%	82%	2%
Program	\$54,080,587	\$53,273,522	\$807,065
	10%	10%	-4%
Capital	\$6,358,700	\$6,606,475	(\$247,775)
TOTAL	\$66,471,574	\$65,299,422	\$1,172,152
2020-2021 Proposed Budget: \$66,471,574			

Budget Components

81 CENTS



10 CENTS



9 CENTS



Program

Capital

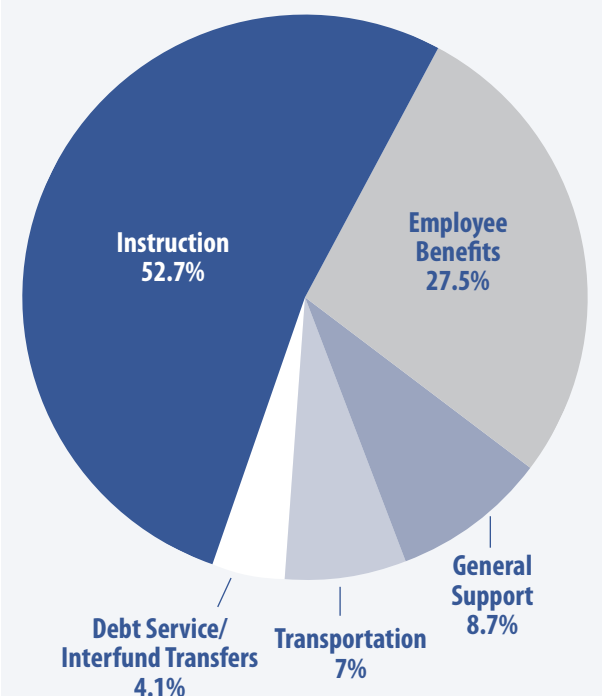
Administration

For each dollar spent on education, the majority goes towards program, with about \$0.81 related to students and the classroom. Just over \$0.10 of every dollar is invested in maintaining our facilities. Administrative costs account for about \$0.09 of each dollar.

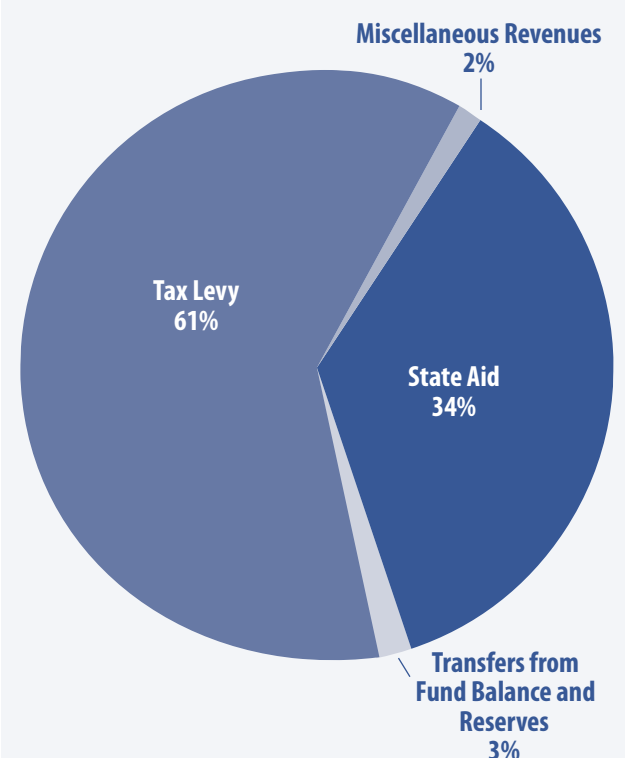
Expenditure Summary

	PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021	ADOPTED BUDGET 2019-2020	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
GENERAL SUPPORT			
Board of Education	\$53,148	\$45,363	\$7,785
Central Administration	\$254,341	\$254,438	(\$97)
Finance	\$521,918	\$467,109	\$54,809
Legal, Personnel, and Public Information	\$497,974	\$334,945	\$163,029
Facilities, Security, and Central Services	\$3,235,824	\$3,065,929	\$169,895
Special Items	\$1,212,431	\$1,191,334	\$21,097
Total General Support	\$5,775,636	\$5,359,118	\$416,518
INSTRUCTION			
Administration & Improvement	\$1,677,682	\$1,727,513	(\$49,831)
Instruction - Teaching	\$17,872,922	\$17,643,188	\$229,734
Instruction - Special Programs	\$11,292,915	\$11,124,031	\$168,884
Instruction - Special Schools	\$178,687	\$67,099	\$111,588
Instructional Media	\$1,630,444	\$1,498,915	\$131,529
Pupil Services	\$2,381,673	\$2,562,674	(\$181,001)
Total Instruction	\$35,034,323	\$34,623,420	\$410,903
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$4,630,721	\$4,749,467	(\$118,746)
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$18,279,951	\$17,940,642	\$339,309
UNDISTRIBUTED			
Debt Service	\$2,384,475	\$2,376,775	\$7,700
Interfund Transfers	\$366,468	\$250,000	\$116,468
Total Undistributed	\$2,750,943	\$2,626,775	\$124,168
TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES	\$66,471,574	\$65,299,422	\$1,172,152

How the Money Will Be Spent



Where the Money Comes From



Revenue Summary

	PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021	ADOPTED BUDGET 2019-2020	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
Total State Aid w/o STAR	\$22,639,218	\$23,048,111	(\$408,893)
Total Miscellaneous	\$1,415,993	\$1,166,255	\$249,738
Property Tax	\$40,631,060	\$39,763,318	\$867,742
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,440,303	\$1,263,738	\$176,565
Appropriated Reserves	\$345,000	\$58,000	\$287,000
TOTAL ALL REVENUES FOR PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021	\$66,471,574	\$65,299,422	\$1,172,152

Saugerties 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District



Saugerties Central School District will have two new principals when the 2020-2021 school year begins. On May 12, the Board of Education appointed Tim Reid as the High School principal and Ginger Vail as the principal of the Junior High. Both will start their positions on July 1. We hope everyone will give them a big Sawyer welcome!



Mrs. Tyler-Zicot – Junior High School Librarian



Mrs. Biscoglio – junior high school special education teacher

Poetry Unites Students and Teachers During School Closure

To help commemorate National Poetry Month in April, High School Librarian Sari Grandstaff held a quarantine-inspired Book Spine Poem Challenge. She encouraged students and teachers to use books from around their homes and arrange them so that the titles on the spines formed a poem.

Facts & Figures About the Proposed Budget

What are the estimated 2020-2021 equalization rates?

Estimated rates are based on the tentative assessment rolls for the three towns comprising the Saugerties Central School District.

The following estimated tax bills are based on a property in each Town with a \$100K assessed value. (Please note the equalization rates for each town are below 100%)

Town	Equalization Rate
Saugerties	95%
Ulster	68%
Woodstock	86%

Estimated Tax Implications

Town	\$100K	w/Basic STAR	w/Enhanced STAR
Saugerties	\$2,001.43	\$1,409.43	\$672.43
Ulster	\$2,796.16	\$2,179.16	\$1,503.16
Woodstock	\$2,210.87	\$1,603.87	\$938.87

Star Program Information

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program offers property tax relief to eligible New York State homeowners.

If you are eligible and enrolled in the STAR program, you'll receive your benefit each year in one of two ways:

- STAR credit check.** If you are registered for the STAR credit, the Tax Department will send you a STAR check in the mail each year. You can use the check to pay your school taxes. You can receive the STAR credit if you own your home and it's your primary residence and the combined income of the owners and the owners' spouses is \$500,000 or less.
- STAR exemption:** a reduction on your school tax bill. If you've been receiving the STAR exemption since 2015, you can continue to receive it for the same primary residence. As long as you remain eligible, you'll see a reduction on your school tax bill for the amount of your STAR exemption. Note: The STAR exemption is no longer available to new homeowners.

The value of the STAR credit savings may grow by as much as 2% from year to year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings cannot increase.

For more information, contact your local assessor or visit www.tax.ny.gov/star/default.htm

How do I get more detailed information about the budget?

The Budget document is available on the District website. Please contact Business Official, Jane St. Amour at 845-247-6520 if you have specific questions.

Voting Information

Pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.26, only qualified voters are permitted to vote via absentee ballot for the Annual Meeting, Election and Budget Vote to be held on June 9, 2020.

Absentee Ballots will be mailed automatically to all registered voters on May 26, 2020. The ballot must be returned on or before June 9th at 5:00pm. If you do not receive a ballot in the mail or you are a qualified, not registered voter, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 845-247-6550 ext. 9005 for an absentee ballot application.

Questions and Answers About the Tax Levy

Here are answers to some common questions people ask about school taxes. The community is encouraged to vote on the budget on June 9, 2020. Board of Education members will also be elected.

What is the "tax cap"?

New York State has implemented a law that changes the way budgets are approved. The changes went into effect beginning with the 2012 vote. Under the law, a school district must now plan its budget around a complex State formula that calculates a baseline tax levy increase. Budgets that carry a tax levy increase at or below this calculation will need the approval of a simple majority (50 percent plus one) of voters. Any proposal higher than this calculation will require a supermajority approval (60 percent).

The Board of Education has adopted a budget that is at the allowable levy limit under the State's formula and therefore will need a simple majority voter approval of 50 percent plus one.

How is the tax levy increase calculated?

Although this law has been commonly referred to as the two percent tax cap, it is important to understand that it is not a cap, nor does it limit the levy increase to just two percent. That number may be above or below two percent, and it will vary each year. While the formula is influenced by the lesser of CPI (consumer price index) or two percent, it then allows for specific exemptions and the application of other factors in the formula. After applying the allowable exemptions, the Saugerties Central School District is permitted to increase the tax levy a maximum of 2.18 percent and still meet the criteria of the tax cap formula for a simple majority vote.

2020-2021 Estimated Tax Bill Increase

These figures are specific to the Town of Saugerties.

Homeowner's Property Assessment	Estimated Annual Increase	Estimated Monthly Increase
100K	\$26.46	\$2.21
200K	\$52.93	\$4.41
300K	\$79.39	\$6.62

Saugerties 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

School District Budget Notice			
OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$65,299,422	\$66,471,574	\$65,594,676
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$1,172,152	\$295,254
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.80%	0.45%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$39,763,318	\$40,631,060	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-0-	-0-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	-0-	-0-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-0-	-0-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$39,763,318	\$40,631,060	\$39,763,318
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$708,288	\$836,820	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$39,055,030	\$39,794,240	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$39,055,030	\$39,794,240	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-0-	-0-	
Administrative component	\$5,419,425	\$6,032,287	\$5,475,000
Program component	\$53,273,522	\$54,080,587	\$53,909,944
Capital component	\$6,606,475	\$6,358,700	\$6,209,732

In the event that the budget is defeated, the Board of Education would be required to adopt a contingent budget in which the tax levy may not exceed the prior year tax levy and is subject to an administrative cap. Certain items required by law to be excluded from the contingent budget include expenses related to equipment purchases, certain student supplies, capital appropriations, select Instructional and Non-Instructional positions and costs associated with community use of school facilities. These items are equal to \$876,898.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
No Separate Propositions	



Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings ¹  \$592

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-2021 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held by Absentee Ballot only on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Absentee ballots will be mailed automatically to all registered voters by May 26, 2020. The ballot must be returned on or before June 9th at 5:00 p.m.

Sample Ballot

The wording on the proposition will appear as shown in this example and you will have a choice of either YES or NO:

PROPOSITION 1: Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to expend the sums of money which will be required for School District purposes for the 2020-2021 school year in the total amount of \$66,471,574 (the budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the District?

Election of Board of Education Members

Three (3) 3-year term vacancies are available at this time. Voters may select no more than THREE candidates. The following three candidates filed petitions to run for the Board of Education:

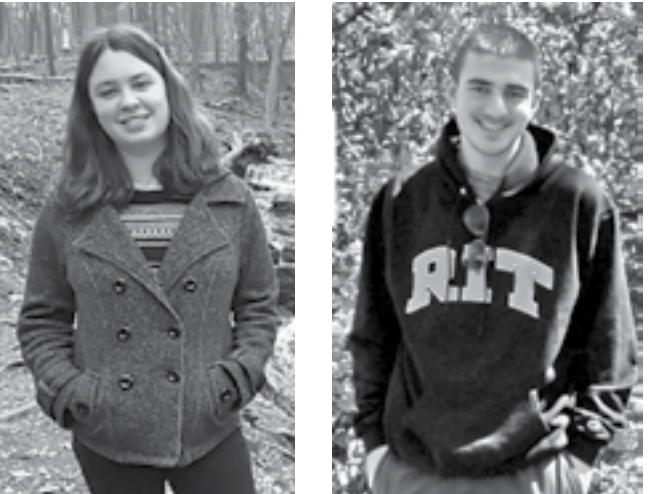
Krista Barringer	Susan Gage	Timothy Wells
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Earth Day 2020 Moves Closer to Home

Group rallies and trash clean-up gatherings are usually high on the list of things to do to commemorate Earth Day, but this year, things have had to change a little due to stay-at-home and social distancing requirements. To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Riccardi Grade 2 teacher Frances Murphy sent her students on an at-home scavenger hunt. Murphy challenged her students to locate items on a list and to pick up any litter they might find around their own homes.

Saugerties Announces Valedictorian and Salutatorian



The Saugerties Central School District is proud to announce that Nicole Peters has been named valedictorian of the class of 2020, and Mark Danza is this year’s salutatorian.

Peters, the daughter of Patti and Phil Peters of Saugerties, earned top honors with a GPA of 101.96. During her high school career she maintained a rigorous academic schedule, including seven Advanced Placement (AP) courses and two college courses. A member of the National Honor Society, Art Club, and the Math Team, Peters was elected class treasurer during her junior and senior years. She also served as a homeroom representative for student government every year since her sophomore year.

Her academic awards include: the National Merit Scholarship, the IBM Watson Scholarship award, and the Scholar Athlete award.

The 17-year-old participated in Track & Field throughout high school, competing in shotput and discus. She also ran Cross Country as a freshman and played on the Tennis team since her sophomore year.

Peters also volunteers at the Saugerties Food Pantry and tutors geometry students.

This fall, Peters is planning on majoring in Computer Science at Northeastern University.

Peters has mixed emotions regarding her senior year. “I’m definitely not complaining that we’re shut down. This is a difficult time for all of us, but we can get through it together by being responsible,” she said.

Salutatorian Mark Danza, whose GPA is 101.48, has taken seven AP courses and five college courses over the course of his high school career. He is the son of Sherri and Mark Danza of Saugerties.

Danza’s achievements include earning the Engineering Notebook award at the SeaPerch Underwater Robotics Competition in Grade 10 and receiving the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medalist award in Grade 11. He is also a member of the National Honor Society.

When he is not studying, Danza enjoys playing soccer and making music. He played soccer on the Saugerties junior varsity team in Grades 10 and 11 and on the varsity team in his senior year. In addition, he played percussion in the High School Band and in an ensemble at SUNY Ulster.

Much of his volunteer work revolves around sharing his enthusiasm for technology. He has helped organize STEM-related events at the Saugerties Public Library, Saugerties Elementary Schools, and for field trips. Currently, Danza is one of three students who are 3D printing plastic face shields for frontline workers, using a District-issued printer while at home.

Danza will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in Computer Engineering.

Looking back on the last few months of his last year at Saugerties, Danza said, “I see no other alternative than to accept the situation and remain as strong and diligent as manageable until it passes.”



Designers Turn to Mask Making Amid Mask Shortage

The District would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the local volunteers who have been busy sewing fabric face masks for essential workers, friends, and family members. The mask makers represented every community in the school district, including Board members, students, teachers, administrative staff, and retirees. These volunteers are a part of a true grassroots effort that has exploded across the country, and we are so proud of them!

Cafeteria Staff on the Front Lines

Since the start of the extended school closure, Saugerties cafeteria staff members have been making approximately 2,350 meals each week. These grab-and-go meal bags, which are handed out two times a week, provide enough breakfasts and lunches for the entire week. Our food service workers are not only filling the stomachs of our students, but are also warming their hearts.



Saugerties Teachers and Staff Pitch In to Hand Out Free Meals

Shortly after NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo first announced schools would be closing for an extended period of time due to the coronavirus, volunteers from throughout the District came together to help deliver bagged meals to students in need. Since then, our food service staff and delivery drivers have handed out hundreds of meals.



Saugerties Students Print Face Shields to Protect Frontline Workers

In a time when it is difficult to do so, volunteering and serving one's community are more important than ever. Three Saugerties High School students, Mark Danza, Tristan Villarreal, and Aidan Jurofcik, decided that social distancing didn't have to mean social isolation. Together with Technology teacher Bryan Van Vliet, they decided to turn remote communication and learning into an opportunity to become helpers for the community at large. Working with Dr. Lisajane Kappler, the District's Director of Pupil Personnel Services, the group partnered with Daniel Freedman, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering at SUNY New Paltz and Director of the Hudson Valley Additive Manufacturing Center, to use the knowledge they had learned in technology classes to produce face shields for local health professionals using the District's 3D printers. Using Google meetings to communicate and problem solve, and completing their other subjects remotely as well, the students worked together to create these much-needed supplies. These students are doing their part to contribute to the common good of their community.



GDM Students Stay Connected with e-Newsletter

For nearly 29 years, students at Mt. Marion and now at Grant D. Morse Elementary School have published a school newspaper to highlight what's been going on at the school.

The latest edition of Just Print It, which came out while schools were closed, has proved especially beneficial in keeping families updated and connected. Students were learning and reporting on the effects of the coronavirus on businesses, as well as well as sharing their personal feelings on the new "norm." Grade 5 teacher and Just Print It publisher Joe Defino said, "The students get to know each other in a different way and stay connected during this difficult time."





Staff Parade Spreads Joy

There is no doubt that our Saugerties staff members have some of the biggest hearts around! Principals, teachers, and teaching assistants from all four elementary schools banded together and organized a "Staff Parade" one Sunday afternoon. The staffers drove through their students' neighborhoods, waving hello while practicing proper social distancing. Many of the educators decorated their cars and held signs saying how much they missed their students—all in an effort to help spread a little joy during these challenging times.



Outstanding Educator Award by SAANYS

Ginger Vail, assistant principal at Saugerties Junior High School, has been selected for the 2020 Outstanding Educator Award by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS). This award is given annually to a SAANYS member who has made outstanding contributions in New York State schools. Vail spearheaded the implementation of the school's Positive Intervention Behavior Systems (PBIS) initiative and serves as the softball league coordinator and sits on the board of the Saugerties Little League.



Scott Wickham's Studio Production Students Win Big

Two student-produced videos from our Computer Video Production 2 and Broadcast Journalism classes have been awarded first and second place in a video contest created by the national fraternal order of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. This year's theme was "You Can't Rewind Life, Choose Life Over Drugs." Members of the Saugerties Elks Club were charged with selecting the top videos based on criteria such as originality, positive message, and video quality. The first-place winners will now have their video compete in the Elks National Drug Awareness Program.

1st Place (\$150 prize) – "The Other Side" - Produced by Mackenzie Feeney, Matt Morgan, and Ethan Quinto.

2nd Place (\$100 prize) – "DPN - The Drug Prevention Network" - Produced by Aiden North, Jeremy Cornelison, and Shea Wickham.



Cahill Teacher Keeps Students Engaged with Butterflies

Just as our students had to undergo a metamorphosis to move from face-to-face learning to remote learning, students in Grade 1 at Cahill Elementary School also had the opportunity to watch a caterpillar transform into a butterfly. Teacher Lindsay Crowley held remote lessons discussing the process while helping a live caterpillar hatch into a butterfly at home. She linked reading and science to the project, and some students were inspired to create their own butterfly artwork too.





Wellness Wednesday

Saugerties mental health workers knew that even if families hadn't been infected with the coronavirus, so many of them would have their lives upended, which could have an effect on their social and emotional well-being. The team of social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists quickly mobilized to create a mental health awareness campaign to help students, teachers, parents, and the community learn different coping skills. Every Wednesday, a different person has been offering a video tip on reducing stress. These tips included breathing techniques, yoga poses, doodling, journaling, and the importance of taking breaks.



“Owl” of the Box Thinking

Just as students were adapting to remote learning, so were our teachers, who were rising to the challenge and thinking outside of the box. Some teachers were sending home what they call “learning opportunities” to help keep their students engaged. Mt. Marion Grade 3 teacher Margaret Mullen sent owl pellets to each of her students, asking them to perform dissections. This hands-on experience offered the young learners an opportunity to learn more about the food chain.



PTA Members Assisting Families During COVID-19 Pandemic



The spirit and generosity of our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) members has remained strong throughout this pandemic. In just one of many inspiring examples, all four elementary school PTAs united to hold a food drive. The food drive, which filled 150 bags with grocery items, helped bridge the gap until Ulster County services could kick in. The District would like to thank everyone involved, from the PTA members to community volunteers, for generously donating, packing, and delivering this much-needed food.

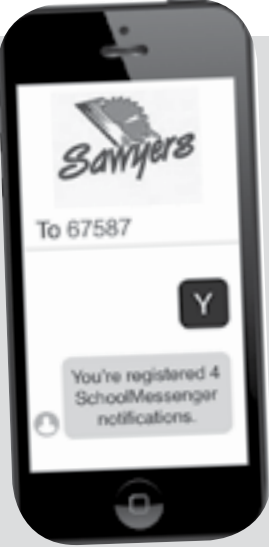
School-Issued Chromebooks Connect Students to Learning

As the reality of remote learning began to take hold, the District had to move into high gear and get Chromebooks into the hands of students. The District’s Chromebook distribution team handed out nearly 700 Chromebooks in those initial weeks.



Stay Connected with Text Messaging

The District recently added SMS text messaging to our parent notification system. This did not replace our current means of communication (email and automated calls), but rather enhanced them. The District sent out an opt-in invite to participate in the free service. Many families opted in. Our concern is that with the deluge of information coming in at that time, the invite might have gotten lost. Please e-mail your school building office staff to find out if your cell phone number is on file with the District and for directions on how to take part in the SMS text messaging service.



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