

Saugerties Central School District  
Appoints New Superintendent



Kirk P. Reinhardt

The Saugerties Central School District Board of Education has appointed local educator Kirk P. Reinhardt as the District's new Superintendent of Schools.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Saugerties Jr./Sr. High School Drama Club  
Performs Spring Musical:



STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 8



# Saugerties

Central School District

BUDGET 2019

## Resources Realigned to Maintain Student Opportunities; Tax Levy Within Limit for 7th Year

The Saugerties Central School District Board of Education has adopted a \$65,299,422 proposed budget that fulfills the dual obligation of maintaining its quality educational programs while making enrollment-related reductions to be cost conscious on behalf of the taxpayers.

The plan, which carries a tax levy increase of 2.67 percent, meets the requirements of the Tax Levy Limit legislation (tax cap) and requires a simple majority voter approval. This budget marks the seventh consecutive year the proposed budget is at or below the tax cap since its inception in 2012.

The District received an insignificant increase in State Aid this year, which created a gap between expenses and available revenues. To close this gap, spending was carefully examined and adjustments were made where possible, including a reduction in staff to coincide with a reduction in student population. A variety of savings strategies were also continued.

### Realignment of Resources to Enhance Student Offerings

The proposed budget reflects a realignment of resources to more accurately reflect student interest and enrollment across the District. Enrollment levels were carefully reviewed and class sections reduced where possible. This analysis resulted in the elimination of one guidance position and two elementary teaching positions, and the reduction of work schedules for some other instructional staff where a full-time schedule is no longer needed for the current student population.

Although positions are being reduced, student opportunities have been maintained. The High School will continue to offer its AP and other college-level courses, athletic teams, extra curricular activities, and clubs that help our students graduate and become career ready.

Three new courses at the High School are also being added, along with adding another full-time school psychologist to help address increasing mental health needs. The new courses were developed based on student interest and will include

Computer Science, Coding/Robotics, and Horticulture.

"Our goal was to shift resources to better meet student interest and need, while also being fiscally responsible," said Interim Business Official Donald Gottlieb. "Reducing positions is never easy, but we are responding to a drop in population, so it was a necessary step to ensure we are able to maintain quality programming for students."

Our elementary programs will continue to focus on literacy, the foundation of a high-quality education. In September, a Pre-Kindergarten program will also be offered at Morse Elementary School. All four elementary buildings will now serve Pre-K students.

### Challenges in Addressing the Budget Cap

Unfortunately, this year's State Aid was disappointing. The District only received an additional \$168,000 in support, which was not enough to offset increases in budgeted expenses.

Transportation costs are also rising as the number of bus runs for Special Education placements and transient students increase. The District continues to work with other districts to identify possible shared runs where there are similar out-of-district transportation needs.

"As always, when crafting the school budget, we constantly are looking at ways to protect, consolidate, and reduce, while staying committed to providing our students with an exceptional education," said Interim Superintendent Larry Mautone. "We do this by understanding all revenue options and by making sure every dollar counts," he added.

### Transfer of Capital Funding

The District proposes transferring \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund to cover the cost of roof-related repairs at Cahill Elementary School. By transferring the resources to the Capital Fund, the expenses will qualify for State Aid reimbursement, which will reduce the local share of the cost.

### What if the Budget is Defeated?

If the budget is defeated, the Board of Education can opt to either adopt a contingency budget or hold a second vote on the same budget or a modified one. If a second vote is held and that budget is defeated as well, the Board must, by law, adopt a contingency budget. Tax levy limit legislation does not allow a tax levy increase under a contingency budget and restricts expenditures to those that are legally mandated or necessary to maintaining the educational program and ensuring health and safety. If the Board were to implement a contingency budget, \$1,034,852 in cuts would need to be made. Areas where cuts could potentially occur include interscholastic sports, non-mandated instructional and non-instructional positions, equipment, BOCES services, and free use of school facilities by community groups.

### 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

### Interim Superintendent of Schools

Lawrence R. Mautone

Assistant Superintendent  
of Curriculum & Instruction, Assessments & Student Data  
Dr. Darlene Westinghouse

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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday, May 21

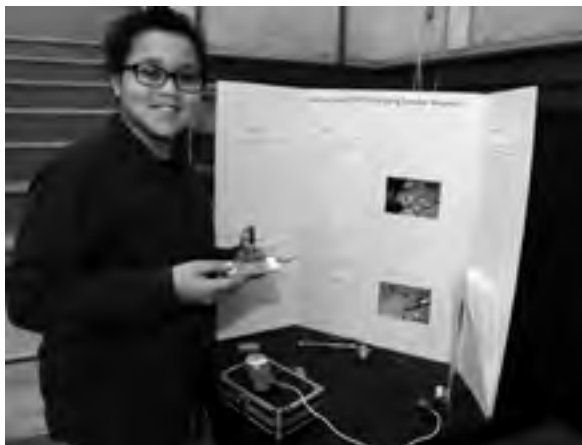
6 AM-9 PM





## Cahill Students Share Formula for Science Fair Success

Students in Grades 5 and 6 at Cahill Elementary School took part in a comprehensive science investigation, just like real scientists. Students showcased their scientific experiments and/or inventions during the school's Science Fair on February 28. Those who tested a theory had to make an observation, plan and carry out their own unique experiments, collect and graph results, and write and present their conclusions. Those who created a new invention had to create a prototype and explain the benefits of their invention. Each scientist then created a trifold presentation and shared their findings with their fellow students, as well as with judges and family members.



## GDM Students Strike Gold Building Leprechaun Traps

Grant D. Morse Grade 4 students enjoyed some St. Patrick's Day shenanigans when they designed and created leprechaun traps. Students, who used recently acquired engineering knowledge to create the traps, demonstrated their contraptions during a show-and-tell event. Many of the traps included ladders, pulleys, levers, inclined planes, and wedges—all examples of simple machinery. Besides engineering skills, students also honed their critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, creativity, and public speaking skills. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, the students have yet to catch a leprechaun!



## Riccardi Students Improve Area and Perimeter Prowess



Grade 3 students in Jill Brandt's class at Riccardi Elementary School recently learned how to recognize the difference between area and perimeter. Students counted units of squares to find the area of a rectangle. They soon discovered that rectangles can have the same perimeters but different areas and vice versa.



## Engineers Day Inspires Students' Interest in STEM

As part of Engineers Day, students in

Grades 4, 5, and 6 at all four Elementary schools enjoyed building "lunar landers" capable of protecting a chicken egg—even from the effects of being dropped from great heights.

In this project, the students were required to build their lunar landers within fictional restricted budgets (a maximum of \$250 per lander). Each building material came with a set price—Styrofoam cups were \$75, Scotch tape was \$25, straws were \$10, and paper plates were \$50. The team from each school that built the least expensive lunar lander and successfully protected the egg was deemed the winner.

Engineers Day is part of national campaign to bring attention to the contributions of engineers. It is also a time for engineers to emphasize the importance of learning STEM skills, which encompass science, technology, engineering, and math.

# Saugerties 2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

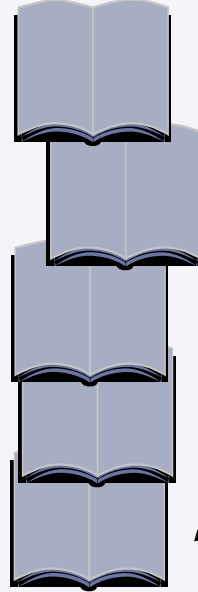
## Three Part Budget

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.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	INCREASE / (DECREASE)
<b>Administration</b>	8.33% \$5,328,670	8.30% \$5,419,425	1.70% \$90,755
<b>Program</b>	81.30% \$52,012,005	81.58% \$53,273,522	2.43% \$1,261,517
<b>Capital</b>	10.37% \$6,637,257	10.12% \$6,606,475	-0.46% (\$30,782)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$63,977,932</b>	<b>\$65,299,422</b>	<b>\$1,321,490</b>
2019-2020 Proposed Budget: \$65,299,422			

### Budget Components

81.58 CENTS



10.12 CENTS



8.30 CENTS

Program

Capital

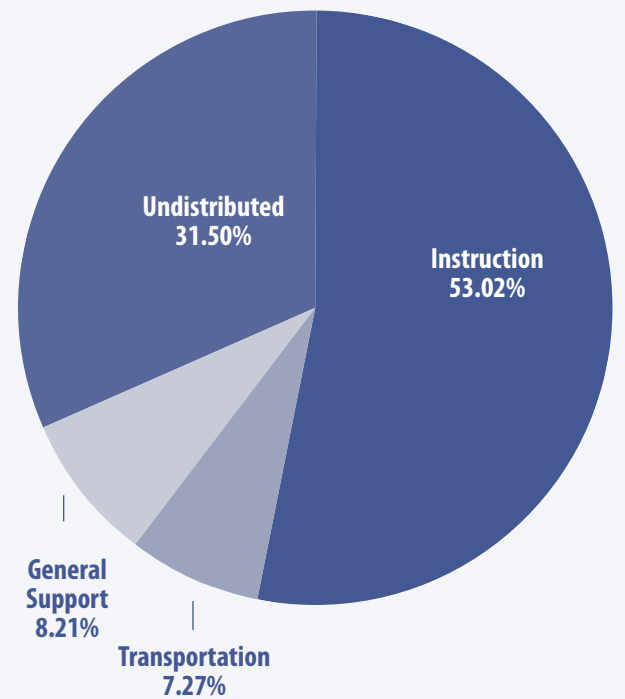
Administration

For each dollar spent on education, the majority goes towards program, with about \$0.82 related to students and the classroom. Just over \$0.10 of every dollar is invested in maintaining our facilities. Administrative costs account for about \$0.08 of each dollar.

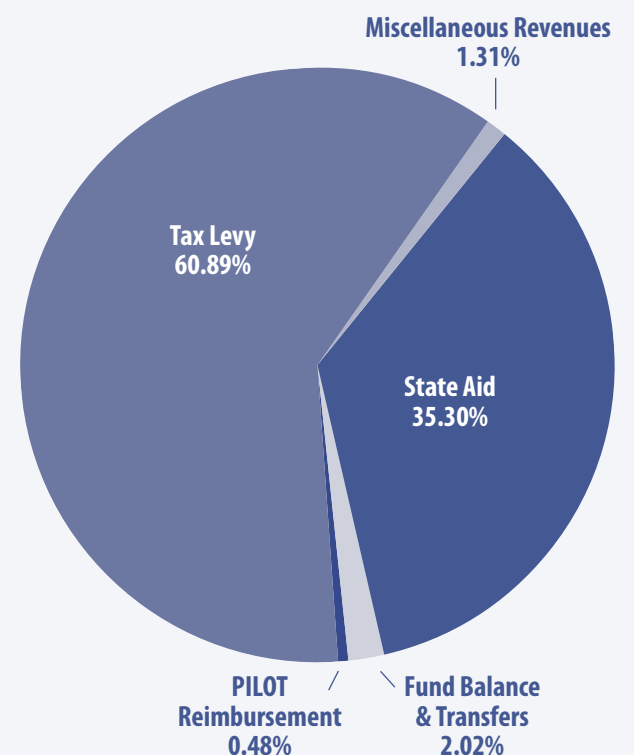
## Expenditure Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2018-2019	PROPOSED BUDGET 2019-2020	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>			
Board of Education	\$46,528	\$45,363	(\$1,165)
Central Administration	\$264,619	\$254,438	(\$10,181)
Finance	\$453,004	\$467,109	\$14,105
Staff	\$305,861	\$334,945	\$29,084
Central Services	\$3,003,897	\$3,065,929	\$62,032
Special Items	\$1,121,409	\$1,191,334	\$69,925
<b>Total General Support</b>	<b>\$5,195,318</b>	<b>\$5,359,118</b>	<b>\$163,800</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			
Administration & Improvement	\$1,747,648	\$1,727,513	(\$20,135)
Instruction - Teaching	\$28,228,251	\$28,834,318	\$606,067
Instructional Media	\$1,394,281	\$1,498,915	\$104,634
Pupil Services	\$2,460,517	\$2,562,674	\$102,157
<b>Total Instruction</b>	<b>\$33,830,697</b>	<b>\$34,623,420</b>	<b>\$792,723</b>
<b>PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>			
District-Owned Transportation	\$242,601	\$246,527	\$3,926
Contract Transportation	\$4,166,381	\$4,502,940	\$336,559
<b>Total Transportation</b>	<b>\$4,408,982</b>	<b>\$4,749,467</b>	<b>\$340,485</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED</b>			
Employee Benefits	\$17,815,259	\$17,940,642	\$125,383
Debt Service	\$2,477,676	\$2,376,775	(\$100,901)
Interfund Transfers	\$250,000	\$250,000	-
<b>Total Undistributed</b>	<b>\$20,542,935</b>	<b>\$20,567,417</b>	<b>\$24,482</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$63,977,932</b>	<b>\$65,299,422</b>	<b>\$1,321,490</b>

### How the Money Will Be Spent



### Where the Money Comes From



## Revenue Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2018-2019	PROPOSED BUDGET 2019-2020	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
Total Miscellaneous	\$825,573	\$855,573	\$30,000
Total State Aid w/o STAR	\$22,880,109	\$23,048,111	\$168,002
<b>Total Other Than Property Tax/STAR</b>	<b>\$23,705,682</b>	<b>\$23,903,684</b>	<b>\$198,002</b>
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,238,738	\$1,321,738	\$83,000
Property Tax	\$38,728,466	\$39,763,318	\$1,034,852
PILOT Reimbursement	\$305,046	\$310,682	\$5,636
<b>Total Property Tax/STAR</b>	<b>\$40,272,250</b>	<b>\$41,395,738</b>	<b>\$1,123,488</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$63,977,932</b>	<b>\$65,299,422</b>	<b>\$1,321,490</b>



Saugerties

Central School District

2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

Voting Information

Who May Vote?

In order to vote you must be:

- ★ Registered to vote
- ★ A citizen of the United States
- ★ 18 years of age or older
- ★ A resident of Saugerties Central School District for at least 30 days, immediately before the election

When and Where is the Vote?

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, from 6 AM to 9 PM. Polls are open in each of the Saugerties Central School District’s Elementary Schools (Grant D. Morse, Mt. Marion, Cahill, and Riccardi) by School District voting areas.

Where Can I Get An Absentee Ballot?

Absentee ballot applications are available for pick-up at the Hildebrandt Building on weekdays from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. The completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Hildebrandt Building in a sealed envelope no later than 5:00 PM on May 21.

How Do I Register?

If you are already registered to vote in the general governmental elections in November, then you are registered to vote in the School District vote. If you are not registered, you may do so by obtaining a registration form available at the following locations:

- ★ Ulster County Board of Elections, 284 Wall Street, Kingston (phone: 334-5470)
- ★ Ulster County Department of Motor Vehicles, 244 Fair Street, Kingston (phone: 340-3700)
- ★ any United States Post Office

Where Do I Vote?

District A: Grant D. Morse Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 6, 9, 15, and 16, and contains that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the New York State Thruway, north of Route 212 and east of the west boundary of the town of Saugerties located between Palenville and Zena.

District B: Mt. Marion Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 5 and 10 of the town of Saugerties and those parts of 3, 6, and 7 of the town of Woodstock. It is within that geographical area south of Route 212, west of the NYS Thruway (north of Glasco Turnpike), west of Snyder Road and Schoolhouse Road, north of the southern boundary of the town of Saugerties, with the exception of that area of the town of Saugerties located in the Kingston Consolidated School District and east of the School District boundary near the area of Plochmann Lane in the town of Woodstock.

District C: Cahill Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 14 of the town of Saugerties and is within that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the Hudson River, east of the New York State Thruway and north of the area commonly referred to as Barclay Heights.

District D: Riccardi Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 8, 11, 12 (including Mt. Marion Park), and 13 located in the Town of Saugerties and parts of 7, 9, and 12 located in the town of Ulster. Geographically, it is bounded north by the south boundary of Election District 3, on the east by the Hudson River, on the west by the New York State Thruway (north of Glasco Turnpike), then south of Glasco Turnpike to the east of Snyder Road and School House Road and on the south by the town of Ulster.

Facts & Figures About the Proposed Budget

What are the estimated 2019-2020 equalization rates?

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

The following estimated tax bills are based on a property in Saugerties with a \$100K assessed value. (Since the estimated equalization rate for Saugerties is 1.00, the assessed value will equal the true value.)

Town	Equalization Rate
Saugerties	1.000
Ulster	0.785
Woodstock	0.945

Estimated Tax Implications

2019-2020	Per \$100K Assessed Value
Taxes without STAR	\$2,043.94
Taxes with Basic STAR	\$1,430.76
Taxes with Enhanced STAR	\$639.76

Star Exemption Program Updates

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program that was passed by the Legislature in 1997 to provide school tax relief for owner-occupied primary residences is continued under the New York State budget, but some changes have gone into effect this year.

STAR recipients receive the benefit in one of two ways. Recipients of the STAR credit, which is open to any eligible homeowner whose household income is \$500,000 or less, receive a check in the mail from the Tax Department to apply to their school taxes. The STAR exemption, which is closed to new applicants, involves a direct reduction on your school tax bill in the form of a property tax exemption.

Due to changes in the law, beginning this year, 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 credit to continue receiving a STAR benefit. As an added incentive, the State is providing up to a two percent increase in STAR savings this year to homeowners who switch to the check program. If your income is \$250,000 or less, you have the option to switch to the check program.

To switch to the STAR credit:

- ★ 1. Notify your assessor to withdraw from the STAR exemption.
- ★ 2. Register for the STAR credit.

Enhanced STAR, which provides increased savings, is still available to qualifying senior citizens ages 65 and older in both the credit and exemption programs.

For more information, contact your local assessor or visit [www.tax.ny.gov/star/default.htm](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star/default.htm)

How do I get more detailed information about the budget?

You can stop by the District Offices in the Hildebrandt Building or any of the six schools for a copy of the complete Budget document. Please contact Interim Superintendent Lawrence Mautone at (845) 247-6551 if you have specific questions.

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 May 21, 2019. 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 2.67 percent and still meet the criteria of the tax cap formula for a simple majority vote.

2019-2020 Estimated Tax Levy Increase

Homeowner’s Property Assessment	Estimated Annual Increase	Estimated Monthly Increase
100K	\$54	\$4.49
200K	\$107	\$8.98
300K	\$162	\$13.46

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday, May 21

★ 6 AM–9 PM

Cahill Elementary School

Morse Elementary School

★ Mt. Marion Elementary School

★ Riccardi Elementary School



Saugerties

Central School District

2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Saugerties Central School District

Appoints New Superintendent

Reinhardt, a Port Ewen resident, is currently the principal at Kingston High School (KHS), a campus with 1,900 students.

A 1982 graduate of KHS, Reinhart served three years in the United States Army. He was subsequently a member of the New York Army National Guard, where he served as a non-commissioned officer for 17 years. He served in Iraq and was the recipient of the Bronze Star, the third highest award for leadership while in combat.

Reinhardt graduated from SUNY Ulster in 1987 and then attended SUNY New Paltz, where he received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Mathematics Secondary Education. He went on to earn a School District and Building Leader Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY New Paltz.

Reinhardt began his career in education as a math teacher at New Paltz High School in 1991. He also served as the New Paltz Varsity Football coach from 1996-2000, during which time the team was the Section IX runner-up twice.

In 2001 he became the physics teacher at KHS, advancing to become the department’s director of Math, Science, and Technology in 2012. He was appointed principal in 2014. Since taking over the leadership of KHS, he has played an instrumental role in executing a \$137 million capital project on the campus and also helped raise the academic achievement levels to bring the school into “good standing” with the New York State Department of Education.

Among Reinhardt’s immediate goals are increasing graduation rates and offering more opportunities for early college access.

“I want to drill down and see what’s going on behind the curtain – find out what the stop gaps are, speak with staff, look at AP [advanced placement] courses, and showcase the multiple pathways for graduation,” he explained. “My approach to education is to be transparent and advocate for student success.” His official start date is July 1, 2019.

District Welcomes

Jane St. Amour

as New Business Manager



The Saugerties Central School District Board of Education appointed Jane St. Amour as the District’s new school business manager on April 24.

St. Amour has 8.5 years of experience as a school business executive in public education. Before entering public education, she worked as a deputy treasurer for Tioga County and as an auditor and accountant for Broome County. The business manager is responsible for leading and managing the Business Office team, and ensuring the effective operation of the school’s finances. St. Amour joins the District July 1.



School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$63,977,932	\$65,299,422	\$64,164,570
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$1,321,490	\$186,638
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.07%	0.29%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$38,728,466	\$39,763,318	
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)	\$38,728,466	\$39,763,318	\$38,728,466
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$672,754	\$708,288	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$38,055,712	\$39,055,030	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$38,055,712	\$39,055,030	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-0-	-0-	
Administrative component	\$5,328,670	\$5,419,425	\$5,358,195
Program component	\$52,012,005	\$53,273,522	\$52,361,435
Capital component	\$6,637,257	\$6,606,475	\$6,444,940

\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.  
ELIMINATE:

- All Equipment Except for Students with Disabilities ..... \$158,303
- Transfer to the Capital Fund ..... \$100,000
- Eliminate One Administrative Non-Instructional Employee .... \$61,230
- Eliminate Eight Teaching Positions ..... \$715,319

\*\* 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 2019-2020 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings <sup>1</sup> → \$613

<sup>1</sup>The 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 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at the Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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 2019-2020 school year in the total amount of \$65,299,422.00 (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:

Paul VanSchaack	Katie Emerson-Hoss	Elena Maskell
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Hats Off for Putting Hats On at Cahill Elementary

Hats off to the Cahill Elementary School Student Council! After coming off the excitement of residents volunteering to have their hair buzzed off as part of a fundraiser for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation (an organization that supports children with cancer), members of the Student Council decided to collect hats for children undergoing chemotherapy. Members said they organized the hat drive because they were concerned with how chilly bare noggins can get in the winter. It was part of a regional project called Hatsgiving, which collects hats and distributes them to cancer patients. Rina Liepshutz, the advisor for Student Council, says the group collected approximately 100 hats.



American Revolution Makes an Impact on Mt. Marion Students

Mt. Marion Elementary School students and parents were treated to a unique recap of the American Revolution when students in the Drama Club performed a musical history lesson on the big stage on March 20. Students in Grades 3 and 4, who had been practicing for weeks, did an amazing job singing their way through the most exciting period in the nation’s formation.

Drama Club advisors Valerie Raleigh and Christine Kain explained that young students sometimes have a hard time grasping events that happened hundreds of years ago, so an



interactive learning experience like the play was a great way to make history come to life. The American Revolution reinforced students’ familiarity with events and concepts like the French and Indian War, taxation without representation, Paul Revere, the Declaration of Independence, the Electoral College, and George Washington, the first president of the United States of America.



Mt. Marion Students Step Back in Time to Focus on Colonial Crafting

*Leave No Child Indoors* is a motto every school can embrace, because field trips help to enrich every child. Studies show that field trips broaden the educational experience and help make a subject more relevant. On March 11, Mt. Marion students in Grades 5 and 6 went on a field trip to the Ashokan Center, where they participated in hands-on lessons in history and colonial crafting. Students watched instructors demonstrate their craft and then tried their own hands at blacksmithing, broom making, or tinsmithing. Students were also taught different team-building skills. All of the activities encouraged creativity, as well as spontaneity and good communication. Students were also able to take home their home-made crafts to share with family members.



Past Presidents Come To Life at Morse

Grade 3 students at Grant D. Morse Elementary School had a little fun prior to Presidents’ Day.

On February 15, students dressed up as a president or first lady of their choice and talked with Grade 2 students about what they had learned about him or her. In addition to facts like what “number” a particular president was, or what a particular president or his wife accomplished,



the students shared random factoids like: how Ronald Reagan saved 77 people from drowning when he was a lifeguard prior to becoming president and how both Abraham Lincoln and Lyndon B. Johnson were six feet four inches tall, the tallest two presidents to date.



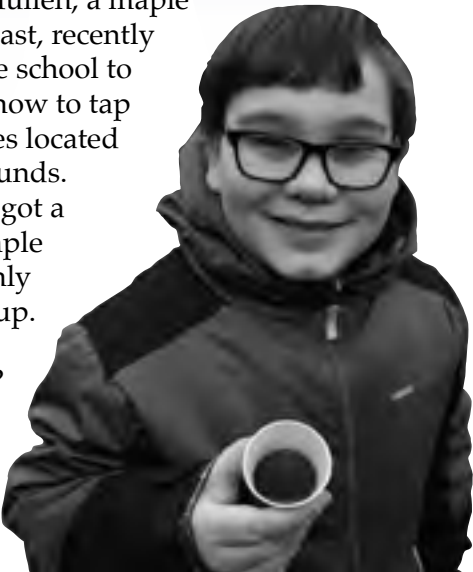
The Sweet Science of Maple Syrup Making at Riccardi

Riccardi Elementary Grade 1 students recently embarked on a scientific and culinary adventure when they took a field trip to the pseudo-sugar shack on the Saugerties High School campus. Bundled up in coats and hats, the kids learned how to tap maple trees, decorate maple leaves, and taste different types of syrup. Students from the High School’s Environmental Science classes were on hand to explain the syrup-making process. Although most of the elementary students claimed that their favorite syrup was Aunt Jemima, the Environmental Science teacher Mike Cooper said that he expected their opinions to evolve. “Only with time, will they appreciate the hard work that goes into making real maple syrup and enjoy the natural taste without any artificial flavors and high fructose corn syrup,” he said.



A Mt. Marion Sign of Spring: Sap to Syrup

This winter, Mt. Marion Elementary School Grade 3 students have been learning about the science behind one of their favorite foods: maple syrup. John Mullen, a maple syrup enthusiast, recently traveled to the school to demonstrate how to tap the maple trees located on school grounds. Students also got a chance to sample Mullen’s freshly produced syrup. Did someone say pancakes?







## GDM Kicks Off PARP with a Tale

Members of the Grant D. Morse Student Council helped kick off the annual People As Reading Partners (PARP) program with a book-based performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. The purpose of the event was to get kids excited about reading and going to the school library. This year, the great and almighty Oz (AKA Principal Don Dieckmann) said that if the entire student body collectively committed to reading 50,000 minutes throughout the month of February, they would help melt the wicked witch. We are happy to report that the students surpassed the minimum requirement, and the wicked witch is gone forever, at least until there is a prequel to this story line.



Above: Grant D. Morse Student Council members dress the part for PARP. Right: "Oz" (Principal Don Dieckmann) rallies students.



## Saugerties Announces Class of 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Saugerties Central School District is proud to announce that **Emily Christiansen** has been named valedictorian for the Class of 2019 and **Hilary Mulford** is this year's salutatorian.

Christiansen earned top honors with a GPA of 101.23. Her academic successes include maintaining a rigorous schedule, which will include completing eight Advanced Placement (AP) courses and two college courses during her high school career. She is a member of the French Club and the National Honor Society and is the current Social Director for the Student Council as well as the President of the Eco Club.

The 18-year-old has played soccer throughout her high school career, and this year served as varsity team captain. A member of the varsity track team, she helped her team take first place in the sprint medley relay at the MHAL championships during her sophomore year.

In addition to her studies, Christiansen works part-time as a receptionist at Golden Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Kingston.

When she's not working or doing homework, Christiansen can often be found volunteering her time with one of the school's clubs, including Key Club. "Key Club is more than just attending a meeting after school, she said. "It's about getting out in the community and giving back in different ways."

Christiansen will be attending Cornell University this fall, and plans to major in environmental science.

"Saugerties High School taught me the meaning of community, and I'm grateful to be able to bring this to college with me. I learned my passion for community service and my ability to take action in a small town, and now I plan to go and make a difference in a city," Christiansen said.

Christiansen is the daughter of Sarah and Samuel Christiansen of Saugerties.

Salutatorian Hilary Mulford, whose GPA is 100.99, has been a member of the French Club, Key Club, Student Government, and Student Council. She also serves as president of the National Honor Society and secretary of the Eco Club.

Mulford, the daughter of Becky and Steve Mulford of Saugerties, will have completed eight AP and two college courses over her high school career.

When she is not studying, Mulford can be found participating in track, basketball, or volleyball for Saugerties. She played volleyball and basketball for the past four years, serving as team captain of the varsity volleyball team in her senior year.

The 18-year-old says a highlight of her high school years was being chosen to be a delegate for Girls State in 2018.

In addition to her participation in school activities, Mulford has worked part-time at the Saugerties/Woodstock Journey KOA campground since she was in eighth grade.

Mulford will also attend Cornell University. She plans to study landscape architecture.

Looking back on the last four years, Mulford said, "I'm so thankful to have grown up in Saugerties surrounded by an immensely supportive family, friends, teachers, and mentors. I am incredibly excited to begin this next chapter of my life, as I'm confident that Saugerties has provided me with a strong foundation which will allow me to achieve my goals of helping to create a more sustainable future for society."

Valedictorian  
Emily Christiansen  
and  
Salutatorian  
Hilary Mulford



## Rubber Band Cars Get in Gear

Students in Saugerties Junior High School Grade 8 Technology classes recently learned how to create a rubber band-powered car using old CDs, wood, tape, cardboard, washers, wooden dowels, and rubber bands. During this lesson, students were learning about simple machines, physics, potential energy, and kinetic energy. The goal was to see whose car could go the farthest and to understand why.

## Senior Affects the Lives of Children Through Foster Grandparent Program



Every Monday through Friday that school is in session, Evelyn Raushendorfer of Saugerties gets up early, stocks her pockets with mints, and slowly and carefully walks down the street and into the office at Cahill Elementary School, where she puts on her "patience and caring" hat. Raushendorfer is an 83-year-old retiree who

spends her mornings working with school children in Lindsay Crowley's Grade 1 class. Raushendorfer is a foster grandparent who receives a small stipend for her hours in the classroom from the Foster Grandparent Program of Westchester County.

Raushendorfer sharpens pencils, sets up worksheets, and helps keep students focused. Throughout the morning, she can be found giving out free hugs and those mints she so thoughtfully put into her pockets before arriving at the school. Students view her as a special grandparent and appreciate the extra attention. Raushendorfer says the rewards are reciprocated. "I think a lot of seniors would benefit from this type of work," she said as one student tugged on her sleeve asking for help tying his shoe. "Everyone could use a friend," she exclaimed.



# Mock Accident Drives Home the Dangers of Drunk Driving

Witnessing the aftermath of a simulated head-on crash was a sobering experience for many SHS students. The goal of the exercise was to illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving.



The incident wasn't real, but everyone involved in staging the crash hoped it was real enough to convince juniors and seniors not to drink and drive, especially during prom season.



**COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**MAY 30 @ 7PM**  
**SAUGERTIES HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

## John Halligan Speaks on Cyberbullying

Bullying, a problem in schools across the nation, was the focus of a recent community presentation hosted by the Saugerties Central School District. The District invited John Halligan, an author and anti-cyberbullying activist, to share the tragic story of his 13-year-old son, who took his own life after incessant bullying by peers both in school and online.

Halligan talked about his son's underlying mental health issues and depression, which contributed to his vulnerability. After discussing bullying, cyberbullying, and current social media issues, he offered recommendations and prevention tips.

Members of the public said the forum was very informative and helpful.

It is the District's hope that by shedding some light on this important issue, we can help serve as a catalyst for change.



## Ending The Silence: Mental Health Awareness



Spokespeople from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Mid-Hudson discussed the topic of mental health with Saugerties High School students in Grades 10-12 during their health classes.

Often, adolescence is a risky

time for mental health problems, and NAMI speakers described some of the warning signs, treatments, and various positive coping skills.

Allie Quinn, a graduate of Saugerties High School and a young adult presenter for NAMI, spoke about the challenges she faced with depression during her third year of college. Quinn said, "After getting help, I felt like I was a different person, a better person, a more confident person." She encouraged students to not feel alone and to get help early. For more information on mental illness, please go to [www.namimidhudson.org](http://www.namimidhudson.org).

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## PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

After weeks of rehearsals, Saugerties High School students gave a rousing rendition of *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

The musical is about a young orphan and his mates who are shipped off from Victorian England to a distant island ruled by an evil king. At first, they know nothing of the mysterious trunk in the captain's cabin. But they soon discover that the trunk contains a celestial substance so powerful that it must never fall into the wrong hands. Audience members gave the show a standing ovation.



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