



Saugerties

Central School District

BUDGET 2018

District Maintains All Programs; Tax Levy Within Limit for 6th Year

The Saugerties Central School District will once again present voters with a proposed budget that stays within the State-mandated tax levy limit while maintaining all existing academic programs.

The Board of Education adopted the 2018-2019 proposed budget of \$63,977,932 on April 18. The budget reflects an increase of 2.55 percent over the current year, and would result in a tax levy increase of 2.53 percent. The tax levy, which is the amount of local taxes that supports the budget, is within the District's allowable limit under the New York State tax levy calculation, as it has been every year since the State "tax cap" was implemented in 2012.

District Continues to Support Student Learning

The budget allows the District to continue offering its full range of learning opportunities benefiting all students, from Advanced Placement and college-level courses to academic support for students in need of extra help.

Three summer programs launched in recent years will continue this coming year as well. The Kindergarten Jumpstart program, which welcomes the District's newest learners into school for several days before the official start of classes so they can get acclimated to school life, had a successful start in the summer of 2017 and will continue this year. The English Language Learner (ELL) Academy, held at Cahill for the past two years, will return as well to help students in first through sixth grades maintain their English skills during the summer months. A summer school program for Junior High School students and some freshman will also return for its third year.

Superintendent Seth Turner said that, as always, the budget was created with both students' evolving educational needs and the local economy in mind.

"The 2018-2019 budget has been prepared in a fiscally prudent fashion to ensure that the children of the community are being

given the best opportunities possible," Turner said. "We continue to see growth and development for the students in the District. This budget allows us to take the next step toward the growth of opportunities for our students."

New Staff & Services

The budget also includes some changes to staff and services.

To meet increasing needs related to technology, the District will save \$48,000 by hiring two BOCES employees who currently work full-time in the District. A sum of \$45,000 has also been earmarked for an additional technology-related employee. An additional \$45,000 will fund athletic training/sports



Nearly 20 percent of the SHS junior class was inducted into the National Honor Society in April, including Shaloni Patel, pictured at the ceremony.



A student paints as part of the English Language Learners Academy last summer. The program will continue this year.

medicine services for interscholastic athletics. Turner said the District would contract with an agency to provide the services.

New clerical staff for the Office of Special Education will be partially funded in the budget, with the remaining money coming from an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant.

One High School social studies teaching position will be eliminated through attrition. School Business Manager Lissa Jilek said the District has had a number of longtime teachers retire and was able to hire new staff to replace them at lower salaries, creating a savings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Students Ramp Up STEM Skills on Engineer's Day

Athletes competing in the ski jump at the Winter Olympics in South Korea weren't the only ones testing the limits of physics this year. Students at Saugerties elementary schools had a chance to launch their own creativity and critical thinking skills on an engineering challenge during Engineer's Day activities.

Engineer's Day is an annual initiative sponsored by IBM to help generate interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers among students in the upper elementary grades. Real engineers visit the schools to talk to students about the cool things engineers can do, and, while there, they guide students through a basic hands-on engineering project.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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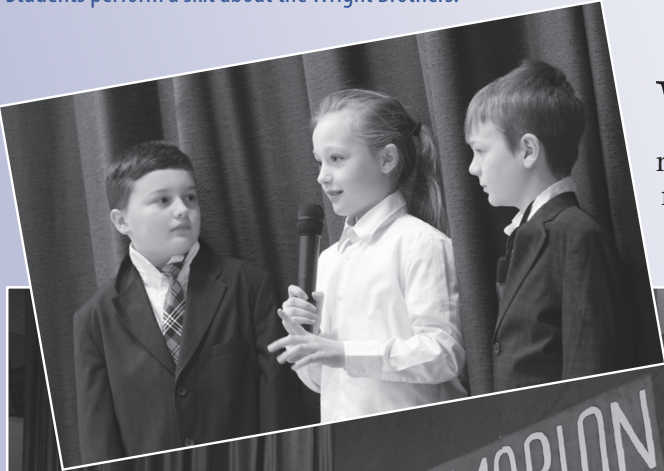
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Saugerties Central School District
Call Box A
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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!
Tuesday, May 15
6 AM-9 PM

Students perform a skit about the Wright Brothers.



Students sing about Teddy Roosevelt and FDR in 'Fav'rite Roosevelt.'

Greatest Americans Come to Life in Mt. Marion Play

What do Albert Einstein, Babe Ruth, and Walt Disney have in common? Not that much, actually, except that they all had a significant influence on American life, and were among the stars of this year's Mt. Marion play.

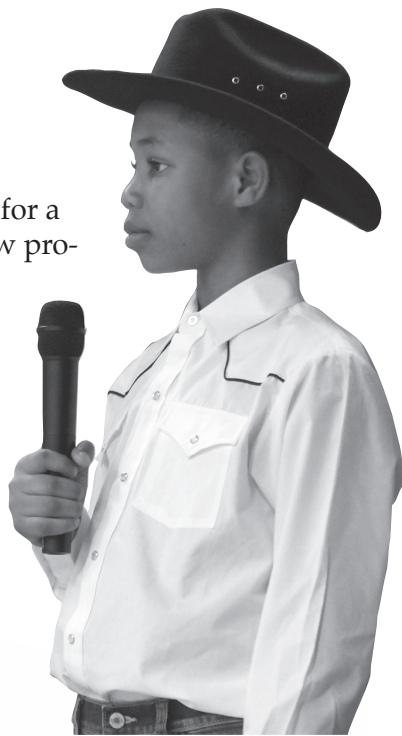
"Greatest Americans of the 20th Century," a fun, wise, and witty romp through American history, features luminaries like FDR, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rachel Carson, Henry Ford, Martha Graham, and the Wright Brothers, all played by the real stars of the show, Mt. Marion third and fourth graders. In the students' words, the play was about "people who made America safer and more fun and made life easier."

Filled with upbeat songs and cultural inside jokes (like Andy Warhol asking fellow artist Georgia

O'Keefe out to lunch for a can of soup), the show provided a cross-curricular learning opportunity that included English Language Arts, history, music, and public speaking. The young thespians rose to the challenge, learning lines, songs, blocking, and other theater skills.

"The students worked really hard," said teacher Valerie Raleigh, who co-directed the show with teaching assistant Christine Kain, with help from Raleigh's daughter Julie, a Saugerties High School student, and Kain's daughter Audrey, a Junior High School student.

Mt. Marion Principal Carole Kelder called the show and the students' efforts "so amazing" and judging by the applause at the final curtain, everyone who saw the performance agreed.



A student plays Cesar Chavez.

Cahill Hosts Career Day

Cahill fifth and sixth graders explored some of the diverse options open to them in the world of work at a fun and informative Career Day in March.

Organized by parent volunteer Sheena Lepez, the day featured 12 presenters who gave the students inside information about careers ranging from massage therapy and sports medicine to editing and architecture.

The day was divided into three periods and students chose which presentations to attend based on their interests. The presenters, who volunteered their time to speak to the students, shared some of the details of what their jobs entail, and offered tips for students on what to study to prepare for work in fields they're interested in.

Students also got a chance to see for themselves what some of the jobs involve. They observed a school staff member receiving a massage, looked through a photographer's portfolio, listened to a bagpiper play, and drew their own dream homes while learning about being a real estate agent. One student even took home a plaster mold of her hand following a demonstration by an orthodontist.

The students enjoyed meeting each of the presenters and asked insightful questions as they began thinking about their own career paths.

Students watch a demonstration by massage therapist Sakinah Irizarry on Career Day.



A student holds her hand in a bucket of plaster while orthodontist Dr. Greg Efros explains how dental molds are created.

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ready, set, launch!

At Morse and Riccardi, IBM engineers Mike MacIsaac and Mike DeAngelis worked with students on an Olympics-inspired ski jump-style marble launcher. Working together in teams of four or five, they were given paper, pipe cleaners, cardstock, paper plates, and two Styrofoam cups and were asked to create a ramp that would attach to the bottom of a piece of three-quarter-inch PVC pipe. When a marble was dropped into the top of the pipe, the ramp would help launch it as far as possible.

There was plenty of excitement as students brainstormed ideas, then designed, built, and tested their ramps. After several test runs, they worked at improving their launch results with suggestions from MacIsaac and DeAngelis. The students were so deeply engrossed in the fun of designing their ramps that they may not have realized that every time they tweaked their design based on their test results, they were getting true engineering experience, adjusting their plans in response to the real-world effects of math and science concepts like angles, gravity, force and motion, and kinetic energy.

Mt. Marion students took part in a slightly different launch-related challenge. With the guidance of retired IBM engineer Steve Wehr, they used pencils, rubber bands, and paper cups to create catapults. They launched Ping-Pong balls with their devices, testing for both distance and accuracy. They, too, learned about angles and how the angle at which a projectile is launched determines how high or far it will travel.

At both schools, the teams put their designs to the ultimate test by engaging in a friendly competition to see whose marble or Ping-Pong ball traveled the farthest.

In addition to the math and science and design thinking that they practiced



Students at Morse and Riccardi work hard on their marble launchers.

in building their ramps and catapults, the young engineers also learned valuable skills that translate to any profession, like collaboration, patience, and perseverance.

Saugerties 2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

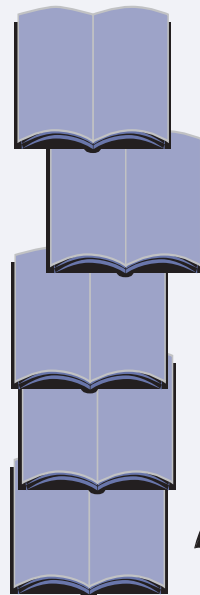
Three Part Budget

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.

	2017-2018	2018-2019	INCREASE / (DECREASE)
	7.97%	8.33%	7.16%
Administration	\$4,972,537	\$5,328,670	\$356,133
	81.48%	81.30%	2.33%
Program	\$50,830,067	\$52,012,005	\$1,181,938
	10.55%	10.37%	0.85%
Capital	\$6,581,428	\$6,637,257	\$55,829
TOTAL	\$62,384,032	\$63,977,932	\$1,593,900
2018-2019 Proposed Budget: \$63,977,932			

Budget Components

81.30 CENTS



10.37 CENTS



8.33 CENTS



Program

Capital

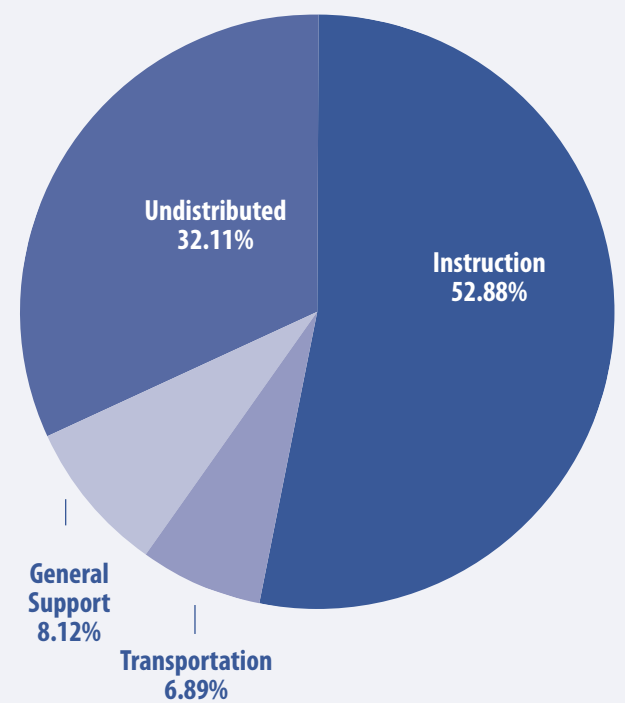
Administration

For each dollar spent on education, the majority goes towards program, with over \$0.81 related to students and the classroom. Just about \$0.11 of every dollar is invested in maintaining our facilities. Administrative costs account for about \$0.08 of each dollar.

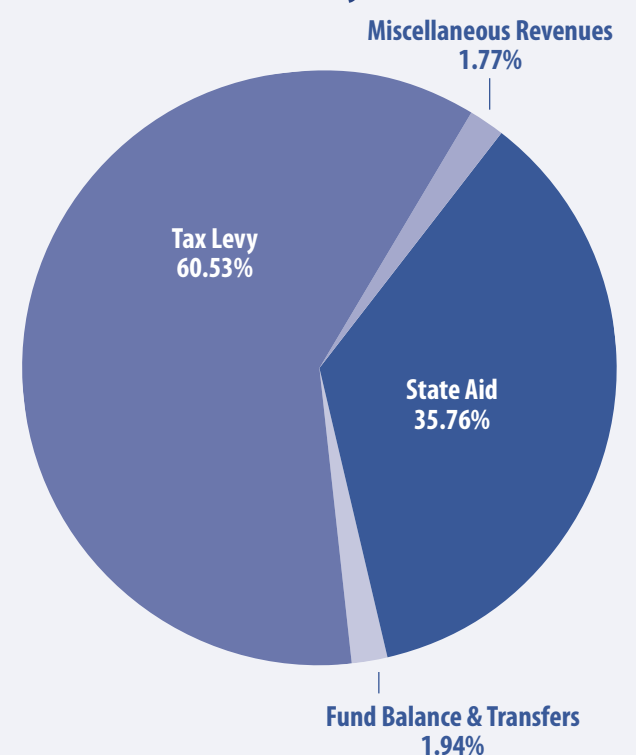
Expenditure Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2017-2018	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
GENERAL SUPPORT			
Board of Education	\$46,528	\$46,528	-
Central Administration	\$259,788	\$264,619	\$4,831
Finance	\$440,512	\$453,004	\$12,492
Staff	\$300,698	\$305,861	\$5,163
Central Services	\$2,972,910	\$3,003,897	\$30,987
Special Items	\$936,795	\$1,121,409	\$184,614
Total General Support	\$4,957,231	\$5,195,318	\$ 238,087
INSTRUCTION			
Administration & Improvement	\$1,686,641	\$1,747,648	\$61,007
Instruction - Teaching	\$28,171,170	\$28,228,251	\$57,081
Instructional Media	\$1,430,442	\$1,394,281	(\$36,161)
Pupil Services	\$2,365,186	\$2,460,517	\$95,331
Total Instruction	\$33,653,439	\$33,830,697	\$177,258
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION			
District-Owned Transportation	\$231,117	\$242,601	\$11,484
Contract Transportation	\$3,806,584	\$4,166,381	\$359,797
Total Transportation	\$4,037,701	\$4,408,982	\$371,281
UNDISTRIBUTED			
Employee Benefits	\$16,993,623	\$17,815,259	\$821,636
Debt Service	\$2,492,038	\$2,477,676	(\$14,362)
Interfund Transfers	\$250,000	\$250,000	-
Total Undistributed	\$19,735,661	\$20,542,935	\$807,274
TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES	\$62,384,032	\$63,977,932	\$1,593,900

How the Money Will Be Spent



Where the Money Comes From



Revenue Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2017-2018	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
Total Miscellaneous	\$825,573	\$825,573	-
Total State Aid w/o STAR	\$22,701,466	\$22,880,109	\$178,643
Total Other Than Property Tax/STAR	\$23,527,039	\$23,705,682	\$178,643
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$785,222	\$1,238,738	\$453,516
Property Tax	\$37,771,856	\$38,728,466	\$956,610
PILOT Reimbursement	\$299,915	\$305,046	\$5,131
Total Property Tax/STAR	\$38,856,993	\$40,272,250	\$1,415,257
TOTAL ALL REVENUES	\$62,384,032	\$63,977,932	\$1,593,900

Saugerties

Central School District

2018-2019 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 15, 2018, 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 4:00 PM on May 14.

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 2018-2019 equalization rates?

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

The estimated tax bills are for a property in Saugerties with an assessed value of \$175,000. (Since the estimated equalization rate for Saugerties is 1.00, the assessed value will equal the true value.)

Town	Equalization Rate
Saugerties	1.00
Ulster	0.811
Woodstock	0.99

Star Exemption Program Updates

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program that was passed by the Legislature in 1997 to provide Basic and Enhanced school tax relief for owner-occupied primary residences is continued under the New York State budget, but has some changes for new homeowners and those who move.

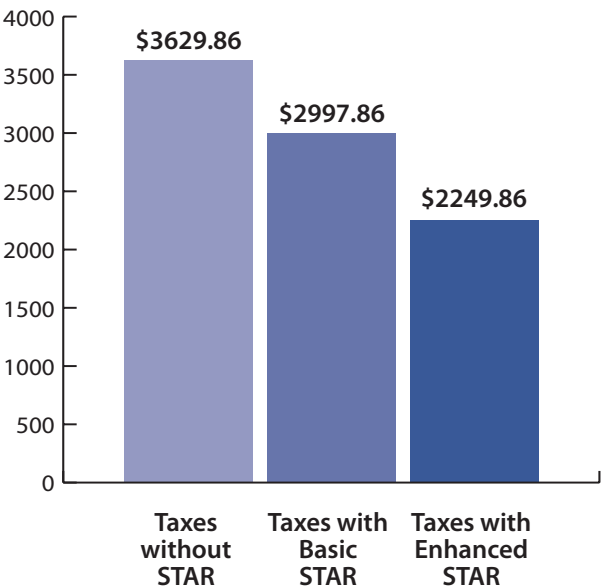
Existing homeowners will continue to see the relief in the form of an actual reduction in their property tax bills. New homeowners, or those who have recently moved, will pay their full tax bill and receive a refund check directly from New York State.

Owner-occupied primary residences where the owners’ total income is less than \$500,000 are eligible for STAR.

The Basic STAR exemption is offered to all property owners on their owner-occupied primary residences. Homeowners who are aged 65 or older who meet income criteria are eligible for even greater tax savings through the Enhanced STAR exemption. Seniors must apply for Enhanced STAR each year.

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

2018–2019 Estimated Taxes (\$175,000 Home: Saugerties)



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 Superintendent Seth Turner at (845) 247-6551, or School Business Manager Lissa Jilek at (845) 247-6520, 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 15, 2018. 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 2.53 percent and still meet the criteria of the tax cap formula for a simple majority vote.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday, May 15
6 AM–9 PM

Cahill Elementary School

Morse Elementary School

Mt. Marion Elementary School

Riccardi Elementary School

Saugerties

Central School District

2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-19 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$62,384,032	\$63,977,932	\$63,021,322
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$1,593,000	\$637,290
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.55%	1.02%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$37,771,856	\$38,728,466	
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)	\$37,771,856	\$38,728,466	\$37,771,856
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$571,668	\$672,754	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$37,200,188	\$38,055,712	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$37,200,188	\$38,055,712	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-0-	-0-	
Administrative component	\$4,972,537	\$5,328,670	\$5,032,507
Program component	\$50,830,067	\$52,012,005	\$51,443,093
Capital component	\$6,581,428	\$6,637,257	\$6,545,722

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2018-2019 school year: Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, a contingency budget for 2018-2019 requires that the tax levy increase by 0.00%. Therefore, a budget gap of \$956,610 would need to be addressed to reach the contingency level. The anticipated changes in order to meet the contingency level would possibly include the following: Potential cuts to Instructional and non-instructional positions; Potential cuts to interscholastic sports programs; Eliminating equipment spending unrelated to safety and security, and Reducing BOCES services.

** 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 2018-2019 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings ¹ —————→ \$632

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 2018-2019 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 15, 2018, 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 2018-2019 school year in the total amount of \$63,977,932.00 (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:

James Mooney, Jr. Robert Thomann Raymond M. Maclary

47 Inducted into National Honor Society

Forty-seven Saugerties High School (SHS) students were recognized for their scholarship, leadership, character, and service when they were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) recently.

In order to be considered for NHS, students must maintain an average of 90 or better, and display leadership, good character, and service both in school and in the community.

The inductees, six seniors and 41 juniors, were welcomed in the traditional candlelight ceremony on April 19 as their families looked on. The group’s current officers spoke about the four pillars of NHS.

“A good attitude and a smile will get you far,” said NHS Vice President Nicholas Hummer, whose speech about character was laced with humor as well as a serious message.

Leadership, according to President Tanesia White, is “about inspiring people to be more than they think they can.”

This year’s guest speaker was Sean McCabe, a 2014 SHS graduate who is currently pursuing a master’s degree in mechanical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He offered tips about how to succeed, both in college and in life, reminding students that, regardless of the task, “what you put into it comes back to you.”

Following the officers’ and guest speaker’s remarks, student musicians wrapped up the ceremony by performing both classic and contemporary songs.

The students expressed their appreciation to the Saugerties Teachers Association for contributing toward the inductees’ membership cards and pins, and also thanked longtime National Honor Society advisor Debra Cacchillo.



Junior Daniel Ball



Junior Jaee Kleinberg

“A good attitude and a smile will get you far.”

—NHS Vice President Nicholas Hummer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

District Maintains All Programs; Tax Levy Within Limit for 6th Year

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, \$956,610 in cuts would need to be made. Areas where cuts could potentially occur include interscholastic sports, instructional and non-instructional positions, equipment, BOCES services, and free use

of school facilities by community groups.

Vote is Tuesday, May 15

All registered voters are encouraged to participate in the budget vote and Board of Education election. Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 15 from 6 AM to 9 PM at Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi schools.

Heritage Day a Hit for Riccardi Second Graders

Riccardi second graders were “superbo,” and “wunderbar” as they presented information about their cultural heritage in April.

One of the highlights of the year in Frances Murphy’s and Sue Rinaldi’s classes, Heritage Day allows students to explore their ancestry, learn more about the cultures their families came from, and celebrate all cultures with their friends and families.

Murphy said she started Heritage Day almost a decade ago after realizing that many of her students had never explored their families’ ethnic background.

The students spent two weeks learning more about the nations their ancestors hail from, including history, traditions, foods, customs, and famous people and places. Among the many nations represented between the two classes were France, Germany, Poland, Greece, England, Canada, Italy, and Lithuania.

The culmination of the study was a festive in-class celebration, during which the students, many dressed in traditional ethnic clothing, eagerly presented their findings and showed off family heirlooms and photos of their ancestors. This year’s event featured everything from a Guatemalan dance and explanations of English high tea to fascinating historical info (such as the fact that hot tubs and dentures were both invented in Italy!).

When the students were through sharing all that they learned, everyone sat down to an international buffet, complete with placemats designed to look like flags. The delicious homemade goodies brought in by parents included German spaetzle, Italian lasagna, English scones, Ukrainian pierogies, Greek Easter bread, and Polish chicken soup.

Heritage Day prepared the students for further Social Studies exploration in third grade, when they will learn about world civilizations. Presenting in front of their parents and peers also helped them improve their public speaking skills.



A student shows his family’s German beer steins during Heritage Day as teacher Sue Rinaldi looks on.



A student is dressed as Pinocchio to celebrate his Italian heritage.

Riccardi Second Graders at Their Zenith in Planet Runway

The laws of gravity might hold the rest of us down to earth, but Riccardi second graders shot like rockets into the stratosphere with their Planet Runway presentation in February.

Learning about the solar system is a key part of elementary school science, and in Frances Murphy’s and Sue Rinaldi’s classes, it takes on a creative side, too. Planet Runway is part science assignment and part fashion show. Students choose a planet, research it, and then create a cosmically inspired costume based on what they’ve learned. Like twinkling stars, they modeled their otherworldly fashions for their parents, and shared some of the fascinating facts discovered in their research.

As always, the celebration featured Superintendent Seth Turner as master of celestial ceremonies, introducing each planet with a meteor shower of jokes and puns that lifted the students into the outer atmosphere on a wave of cosmic confidence. Computer Assistant JoAnn Longendyke kept space spirits soaring by spinning planetary platters like Beyoncé’s “Put a Ring On It” and “Uptown Funk” by Bruno Mars.

The second graders were definitely superior planets in both their studies and their creativity. Space helmets off to everybody! Mission accomplished!

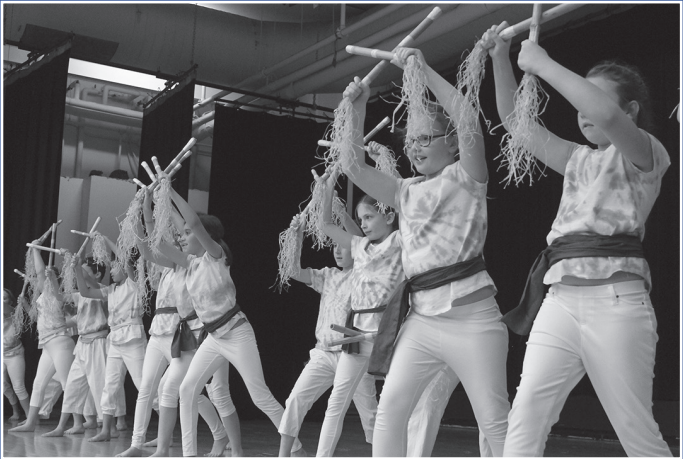


Cahill Students Dance Their Way Around the Globe



Music and dance are an international language that connects all cultures, and second and third grade students at Cahill learned that firsthand in early March, thanks to a residency with Vanaver Caravan.

Members of the 46-year-old New Paltz-based music and dance company spent four days at Cahill, working with students on the steps and stories behind four dances. Wearing traditional costumes, the students performed an Irish step dance, a Nigerian harvest dance, the Greek sirtaki, and the Brazilian maculele.



In addition to their new international moves, the students learned more about the cultures of the four countries whose dances they performed. Vanaver dance teacher Toby Stover reminded the students that the United States, as a nation of immigrants, has been made richer by the music, food, and traditions its citizens have brought from their native lands and shared here.

“Through our dances, we’re celebrating our differences and our similarities,” Stover said.

The Vanaver program integrates Social Studies, music, and language arts and fits well with the third grade curriculum’s focus on other nations and cultures.

The residency also proved the truth of Stover’s reminder that one needn’t travel to another country to learn a dance. The students mastered the new steps in just a few short days and their performance was a hit with fellow students and families alike.

“The children worked very hard this week,” Stover said.



Third Graders at Mt. Marion Get Dental Health Lesson

Mt. Marion third graders were all smiles during a dental health assembly presented by Sunshine Orthodontics. In a lively presentation that included puppets and music, students got important info about protecting their teeth and gums. To help the lessons stick, each student went home with a goodie bag that included a toothbrush, flossers, and dental-themed math and reading games.



A staff member from Sunshine Orthodontics demonstrates good brushing habits to third graders.

Got oobleck?

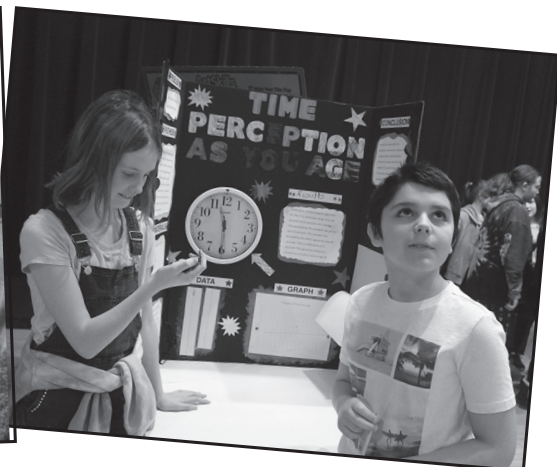
Cahill Students Explore Science at 4th Annual Fair

From parabolic solar reflector grills that roasted hot dogs to lunch boxes with anti-theft alarms, the Cahill Science Fair was bursting with creativity and scientific thought.

The fourth annual event was open to fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, who had a month to work on their projects. Teachers Debbie Ciccone and Amy Hopf served as advisors for the science fair, and both said the projects become more in-depth and creative every year.

This year was no exception. Each of the 13 projects displayed the thought and effort put into them.

Many students opted for practical projects that provide alternatives to electricity or fossil fuels. One young scientist used two lights and a reflector to grill hot dogs. Another student went in the opposite direction and used food as fuel, checking out how many potatoes are needed to power a cell phone. (Hint, in case you're tempted



to go off the grid: it takes about 50 spuds.) Other problem-solving projects included the "Sickable," a bedside device that holds all essentials when you're suffering from a cold.

Of course, there was plenty of fun science, too. Fingerprinting, a "trick your brain" project that tested how people perceive touch, and a project that tested how people perceive time as they age all offered visiting classes a chance to get in on the scientific inquiry.

One of the most popular projects was Helene Kerr's "oobleck." Also known as Non-Newtonian Fluid, oobleck is made of cornstarch and water

and changes from a solid to a liquid based on the pressure exerted on it, making everyone who passes by want to push their hand into it. Helene said she saw oobleck on TV and decided to try it.

"It actually worked," she said, adding that the aspect she enjoyed most about the project was that it's "really messy."

Getting to see the projects was a treat for all Cahill students and everyone was impressed by their quality.

"They're amazing," said Ciccone. "The students surprise us every year."



Young authors and illustrators display the books they created.

Young Authors Shine at Mt. Marion Build-a-Book Night

For Mt. Marion students and their families, the evening of February 27 was all "booked up" for fun. A record number of students (118 in all!) and their parents turned out for the annual Build-a-Book Night, a workshop-like event where they created a final copy of the original story each child has been working on in the class for the past month. Students' books ran the literary gamut, from fiction about kids playing in castles to non-fiction guides about how to bake cupcakes or care for bearded dragons. The books were embellished with hand-drawn illustrations, stickers, and photos. The students had a great time sharing a creative experience with their family and friends and they got to leave with their very own book, as well as the feeling of being real authors and artists.

Writing Assignment Leads to Gift from Famous Designer for Cahill Third Grader

Attention, fashion followers! Keep an eye out for the name Isabella Lepez. Isabella, a Cahill third grader and budding fashionista, was recognized at last month's Spirit Assembly for a response she received to a writing assignment.

Teacher Sally DePaola asked all her students to write to a famous person and Isabella chose renowned designer Diane von Furstenberg. With her letter, she included a stitching project she created with von Furstenberg's initials.

To her surprise and delight, von Furstenberg not only wrote back, she also sent a copy of the book "Diane von Furstenberg and the Emperor's New Clothes," a "fashion fairy tale memoir" by Carrie Morton that tells the story of the designer's life through the well known fable. The book teaches girls to be empowered and creative, and von Furstenberg signed it with a message to Isabella to become the woman she dreams of being.

Isabella said she was "so happy" when she received the book. The future designer loves wearing dresses and hopes to design them someday.

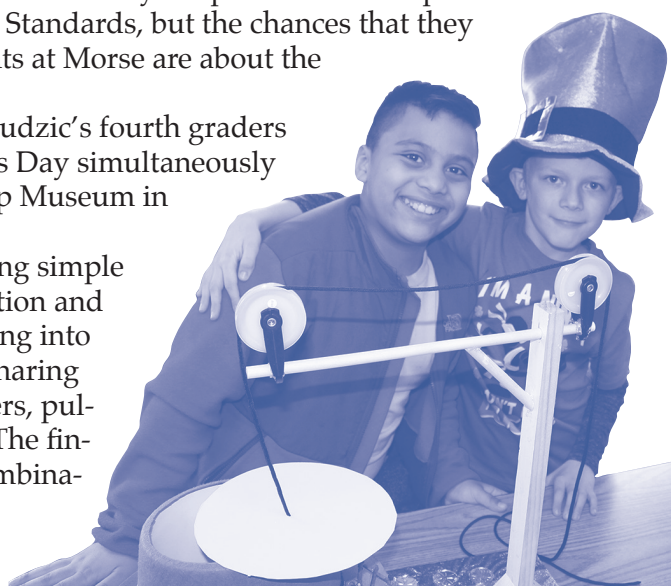
Morse Fourth Graders Use Science to Snare Leprechauns

Fourth graders across New York State study simple machines as part of the Common Core Learning Standards, but the chances that they have more fun with it than students at Morse are about the same as finding a four-leaf clover.

Rebecca Mulford and Denise Dudzic's fourth graders celebrated science and St. Patrick's Day simultaneously with their annual Leprechaun Trap Museum in March.

After spending a month studying simple machines and how they affect motion and force, the students put their learning into practice by building leprechaun-snaring devices that included wheels, levers, pulleys, and other simple machines. The finished products were a magical combination of engineering and creativity!

Fourth graders at the Leprechaun Trap Museum.



Fourth Graders Become Hudson River Stewards

Saugerties fourth graders took their first steps toward becoming Hudson River Stewards this spring with a visit from Hudson River Maritime Museum (HRMM) educators.

The Hudson River Stewards program is a collaboration between the museum and the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. It introduces fourth graders to the history and ecology of the Hudson River through workshops in the schools and at the museum.

In preparation for their upcoming visit to the museum, students were introduced to the history of the river through a 19th century travelogue. "Travels in Canada and the United States of America" was published by John Lambert in 1813 and it recounts a journey along the Hudson, including information on Fulton's steamboat and the sloops that sailed

the river for commercial purposes. Students were given excerpts of the travelogue to read and discuss in small groups, and were urged to think about how life on the river differed between the 1800s and now.

"You're going to be history detectives," said Greg Rafferty, a volunteer with HRMM who visited fourth graders at Morse along with HRMM Education Coordinator Tashae Smith.

In addition to thinking about history, students were also encouraged to explore the language of the travelogue, which included vocabulary words like "defrayed," "habitation," and "cupolas."

In May, fourth graders from all four Saugerties elementary schools will visit the HRMM to enjoy hands-on history and science at stations that include a geography puzzle, music,



Greg Rafferty, a Hudson River Maritime Museum volunteer, speaks to Morse fourth graders about the history and ecology of the river.

museum tours, and fun aboard the Onrust, a replica of New York's oldest Dutch ship.

"It really ties in every piece of New York State history, which is part of the fourth grade curriculum," said Morse teacher Rebecca Mulford of the Hudson River Stewards program.

Morse Fifth Graders Get to the Core of Earth Science

Mrs. Pellegrini’s fifth graders at Morse took a journey to the center of the Earth by making models of our planet’s layers to wrap up a unit on the Earth’s interior. During their study, the students learned what each of the layers is made of, what elements can be found in them, and how they affect each other, as well as fascinating information like what a convection current is. When it came to the hands-on task of making their models, the students got super creative, incorporating what they had learned into orbs made of everything from flower pots and clay to Rice Krispies and the cross-section of an oak tree. One student even added a sweet twist by baking the ultimate “layer” cake! Mrs. Pellegrini expressed her pride in the students, saying that they worked hard and did a great job on their projects.



Students from Mrs. Pellegrini’s class show off their models of the Earth’s layers.

Technology Students Win Awards at Underwater Robotics Regional

Saugerties Junior-Senior High School technology students jumped right into the deep end of underwater robotics this year, and rose to the top by earning awards in their very first regional competition.

Students built their submersible robots – called Remotely Operated Vehicles or ROVs – from scratch during the winter. In constructing and testing their robots, students learned about concepts like mass, volume, and ballast through direct experience, and engaged in design



thinking as they created and then modified their ROVs. Twenty students got their feet wet in competition at the SeaPerch preregional event in New Jersey in mid-March, and followed up in April, with a trip to Flushing, Queens, for the New York Navy City Regional competition. At the regional, two Saugerties teams earned awards. The Junior High team of Ryleigh McArdle, Marlo Rothe, Ashlynn DeRonda, Mehal Mitra, and Renee Baldwin won Best ROV Design for their robot, Aqua RRAMM. The senior high team of Mark Danza, Ethan Christiansen, Carter Vail, Aidan Gruen, and Aidan Jurofcik won the Best Engineering Notebook award. An engineering notebook is a record of the design and construction process for the robot, as well as documentation of the engineering used to modify the robot to help it meet the challenges of competition. Congratulations to all 20 students who took part in the underwater robotics program this year!



25 Saugerties Music Students Selected for All-County

Twenty-five Saugerties Junior-Senior High School music students participated in All-County music ensembles this school year. The All-County festivals bring together the best musicians from schools across Ulster County to showcase the talent being nurtured in our school music programs. Saugerties band and chorus members from both the Junior and Senior High Schools were selected for All-County. Participating students were: Senior High Chorus: Alexis Metcalf, Becky O’Dell, Libby Scott, Sammy Salinas, Xea Kirkland, Sasha-Kay Bernard, John Skiff, Riley Cornelison, Max Martinez, Eddie Cullenen, and Dawson Wood. Junior High Chorus: Gabriella DeSantis, Amy Hoyt, Gillian Lopez, Maya Mazzuca, Abigail O’Dell, Meylie Reyes, Thane Simera, Sophie Turner, and Sofia Williams. Junior and Senior High Band: Abigail Drayer, Sumar Hart, Neve O’Neal, Collin Biegel, and Sebastian Silipo. Congratulations to the students and their teachers, Rebecca MacDougall and Marisa Trees.



Saugerties Junior and Senior High School chorus members who took part in All-County recently.

Junior High Enrichment Workshops Offer Fun and Learning

Saugerties Junior High School students had fun learning new skills in March and April with a lineup of diverse enrichment workshops. Held after school, the workshops were presented by the Mid-Level Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team. PBIS teaches appropriate social skills and encourages students to behave respectfully and responsibly both in and out of the classroom. A total of 15 workshops were offered, ranging from yoga, cooking, and board games to crafting, volleyball, typing, and video production. Classes were held once a week and were taught by school staff. Students participating in the video production workshop were also mentored by Saugerties High School students who are enrolled in Computer Video Production courses. Teaching Assistant Lori Ann Frey helped a group of about 15 students build confidence in the kitchen during the Wednesday afternoon Cooking, Baking and Candy workshop. Among the goodies they whipped up were macaroni and cheese, scrambled eggs, pancakes, chocolate ganache, and chocolate bark with pretzels, marshmallows, and crushed Oreo cookies. Frey said the students learned not only fundamental cooking skills, but also kitchen safety, communication, and the very important job of cleaning up! The students also clearly learned about sharing and kindness, because they offered whatever was left of the day’s culinary delights to the school custodial staff. Junior High School Assistant Principal Ginger Vail said that more than 160 students participated in the workshops, and both students and teachers had a great time. “I heard nothing but good news from the students,” Vail said, adding that the enrichment workshops will definitely be offered again next year.



Students Collin Burley and Skyler Catalano make chocolate bark with the help of teaching assistant Lori Ann Frey during an enrichment workshop focusing on cooking and baking.