



Saugerties Graduate is National Teacher of the Year

A teacher who discovered her life's work in the classrooms of the Saugerties Central School District has been named Teacher of the Year. Sydney Chaffee, a 2001 graduate of Saugerties High School, has been named the 2017 National Teacher of the Year by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Saugerties Students Conquer Mountains

Some people might not have been thrilled with this winter's snowfall, but Saugerties Central School District physical therapist Matt Ulrich and the students he works with absolutely loved it.

For the fourth year in a row, Ulrich took 10 Saugerties students with disabilities on an empowering, fun-filled ski trip to Windham Mountain in the Catskills. Ulrich volunteers at the Windham-based Adaptive Sports Foundation (ASF), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing outdoor physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Saugerties

Central School District

BUDGET 2017

Proposed Budget Increases Learning Opportunities; Holds Tax Levy Increase to State Tax Cap

Once again, the Saugerties Central School District's proposed budget for 2017-2018 stays within State-mandated tax levy limit, while maintaining all existing programs and adding new courses in the arts and extra support for the District's youngest learners.

In April, the Board of Education unanimously adopted a \$62,384,032 budget, an increase of 2.19 percent from the current year and resulting in a tax levy increase of 1.56 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. Since the "Tax Cap" was implemented in 2012, Saugerties has never presented voters with a budget that exceeded the limit.

Superintendent Seth Turner said the process of building the budget began in September and involved an exhaustive evaluation of all aspects of the District, resulting in a shift in the allocation of resources to provide greater support to meet the dynamic needs of children in the Saugerties community.

"We're thankful of the support the community has shown our schools,"

Turner said. "We focus on developing fiscally prudent budgets that still provide our students with the best programs possible to meet their needs."

On Tuesday, May 16, the community will vote on the budget, along with two additional propositions (building a greenhouse and establishing a Capital Reserve). Three members to the Board of Education will also be elected. Polls will be open from 6 AM to 9 PM at the District's four elementary schools.

High School Offerings Expand with New Courses

All existing programs are supported by the proposed budget, including STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) activities, which Turner said are "really just blossoming" across the District.

The budget also includes funding for new courses and enhancements to existing programs.

A donation of \$100,000 from late-night television host Jimmy Fallon, a 1992 Saugerties graduate, has made it possible for the High School to launch two brand new Music classes, offer a new Digital Art course, and make improvements to the Computer Video Production business courses.

High School Principal Tom Averill said that the Music classes, piano/beginning composition



Students get creative with cameras purchased with money donated by Jimmy Fallon.

and electronic music, will be offered in alternate years and will both make use of four new electric pianos.

The Digital Art class will combine elements of digital photography and art. In addition to other supplies, the donation helped purchase two digital SLR cameras, laptops, composition software, and art tablets that can be connected to a computer and will allow students to draw or paint digitally on the device's surface.

A portion of the donation from Fallon will also benefit existing courses called Computer Video Production I and II, which focus on broadcast media. New video and audio equipment will enhance students' ability to broadcast the school's morning announcements, a daily ritual that Fallon has often mentioned on television.

Averill called the donation from Fallon and the creative learning opportunities it will provide "very exciting" for both students and staff.

New Kindergarten Program Starts Students Off on the Right Foot

Saugerties High School students won't be the only ones whose education is enriched through this year's budget. Kindergarten students will also have an opportunity to start their school journey on a strong footing, thanks to a new initiative.

For four days before the start of school in September, Kindergarten students from each of the four elementary schools will have the opportunity to get acclimated to the many things they need to know about school, from learning the layout of the building to lining up in the cafeteria.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Board of Education

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Damion Ferraro
Raymond (Mike) Maclary
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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday, May 16

6 AM-9 PM

Saugerties Students Conquer Mountains



With instruction and equipment from ASF, the students enjoyed the fresh snow that had fallen the day before, cruising the slopes using adaptive devices like four-tracks (skis with outrigger-type poles), and seated ski karts.

"It's super fun," said Ulrich, a 20-year veteran physical therapist.

The students, who range from elementary to secondary school age, face a variety of challenges, from motor coordination issues to cerebral palsy. Some had been skiing before, while others were new to the sport, but everyone shared in the fun and sense of

accomplishment.

"It's a huge self-esteem boost for the students," Ulrich said, noting that many students with disabilities have difficulty finding physical activities they can participate in. "This levels the playing field."

The annual trip is made possible through multi-year funding from Sawyer Motors, with transportation support from Lezette Express bus company.

Ulrich said that seeing the kids succeed on the slopes and watching them shine is really nice.

"It's an empowering experience for them," he said.



Technology Students Transform Scrap Lumber into Planters

Beautiful handmade decorative planters are gracing homes and offices all over Saugerties, thanks to a combined recycling effort and learning experience for Saugerties Junior-Senior High School technology students.

"We started with the scraps from the garden posts," said technology teacher Shawn Christensen, referring to the lumber used to fence in the school garden last fall. "Instead of throwing them away, we turned them into a useful product."

Students measured and cut the scraps and drilled holes in the center of each before preserving them with fire using an ancient Japanese technique called Sho Sugi Ban. Finally, they oiled the planters and filled each with small succulent plants similar to cacti.

Christensen said the project gave students practice working with materials and techniques. "They love it," he said.

The student-crafted planters are available for purchase at <https://sites.google.com/saugerties.k12.ny.us/sawyerfarmstand/student-built/succulent-planters>.

Luca Mazzella and Jackson Baker work together on finishing a planter. Dominic Clark preserves a planter with fire while students Michaela Smith and Tom Man and teacher Shawn Christensen look on.



The student-crafted planters are available for purchase at <https://sites.google.com/saugerties.k12.ny.us/sawyerfarmstand/student-built/succulent-planters>.

SNAG Golf Donation Honors Memory of SHS Grad

Saugerties students are learning the fun and fundamentals of the game of golf, thanks to the generous donation of training equipment by the family of a Saugerties High School graduate who loved the sport.

Saugerties High School math teacher Jessica Armstrong, her husband Michael, and her aunt and uncle, Toni and Garry Persico, donated a set of SNAG Golf equipment with funds raised by the annual Joshua Persico Memorial Golf Outing. The tournament honors the memory of Toni and Garry's son and Jessica's cousin, who died in an automobile accident in 2011. Josh, an avid golfer, was a 1995 graduate of Mt. Marion Elementary School and a 2001 graduate of SHS.

SNAG (Starting New At Golf) is an accredited, modified form of golf designed to teach the basic skills of the game to students of all ages. With easy-to-handle, brightly colored, kid-sized clubs, balls, targets, tees, and other equipment, SNAG blends fun with learning. Every aspect of the game, from the proper way to hold the club to the perfect swing, is simplified and easy for children to follow. For example, students learn to hold the club by aligning their fingers with different-colored dots on the grip.

"It's so kid-friendly," said Garry Persico, whose son didn't begin to play golf until he

reached high school. The family's hope is that the SNAG equipment will pique students' interest in the sport while they're still in elementary school.

The SNAG system is being piloted for students in grades 4-6 at Mt. Marion and Cahill this year, and physical education teacher Sean Collins said students have been "pretty receptive." Plans are to expand the program to start in first grade next year. Collins has conducted an in-service training with all his Saugerties physical education colleagues to help them become familiar with the SNAG system.

Armstrong, who enjoyed golfing with her late cousin, said that learning golf not only teaches

the students a new sport, but also the values that go along with it, like integrity, patience, teamwork, and honesty, which transfer to all other sports. She and her aunt and uncle recently visited a physical education class at Mt. Marion and watched students excitedly using the SNAG equipment.

"It was really wonderful to see the kids having such a great time," she said. "I think Josh would be proud to see this."



SNAG golf equipment donor Jessica Armstrong, center, speaks to Mt. Marion students about the benefits of golf. At right are her aunt and uncle, Toni and Garry Persico.

Mt. Marion student Lucian Friedman-Picayo uses the SNAG golf equipment.



Saugerties 2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

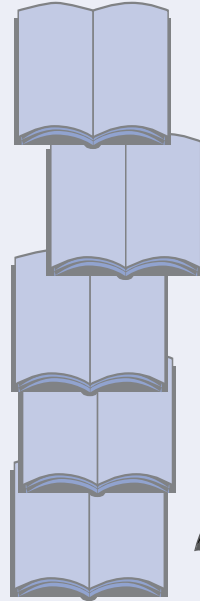
Three Part Budget

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.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	INCREASE / (DECREASE)
Administration	7.69% \$4,695,515	7.97% \$4,972,537	5.90% \$277,022
Program	81.60% \$49,816,842	81.48% \$50,830,067	2.03% \$1,013,225
Capital	10.70% \$6,534,516	10.55% \$6,581,428	0.72% \$46,912
TOTAL	\$61,046,873	\$62,384,032	\$1,337,159
2017-2018 Proposed Budget: \$62,384,032			

Budget Components

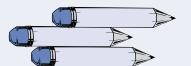
81.48 CENTS



10.55 CENTS



7.97 CENTS



Program

Capital

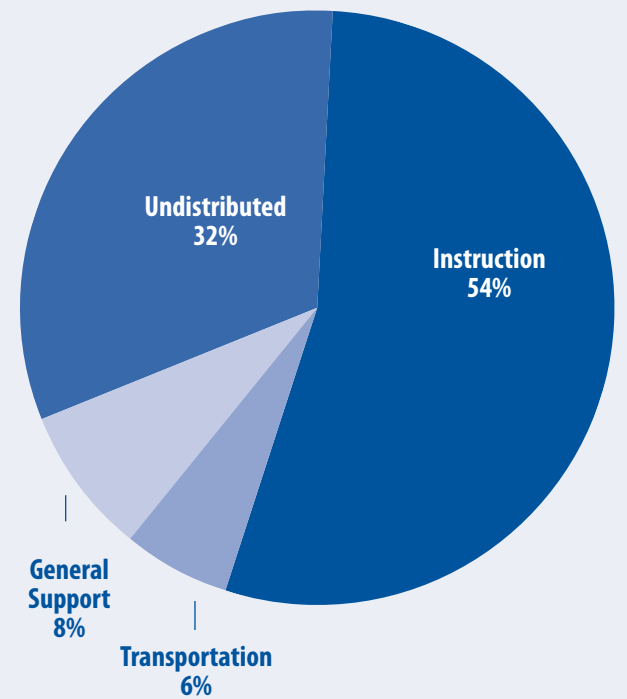
Administration

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.

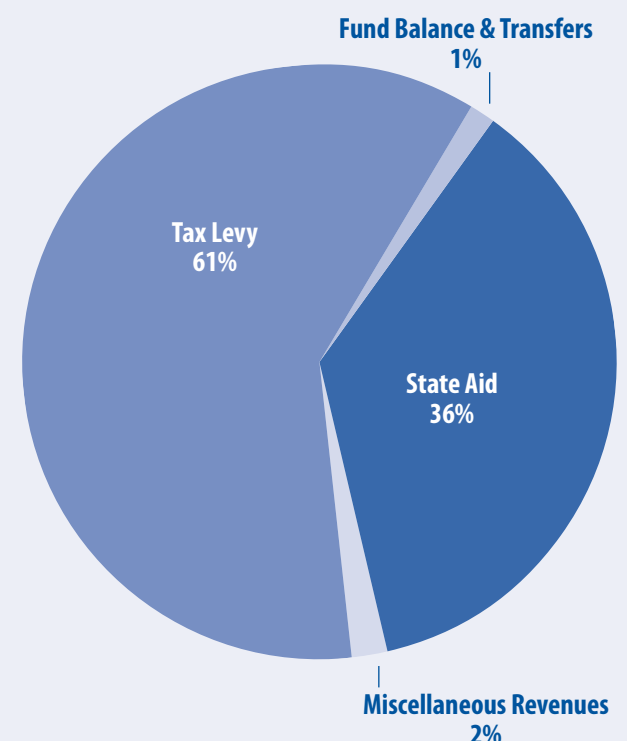
Expenditure Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2016-2017	PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-2018	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
GENERAL SUPPORT			
Board of Education	\$45,851	\$46,528	\$677
Central Administration	\$252,622	\$259,788	\$7,166
Finance	\$426,075	\$440,512	\$14,437
Staff	\$282,455	\$300,698	\$18,243
Central Services	\$2,959,696	\$2,972,910	\$13,214
Special Items	\$922,369	\$936,795	\$14,426
Total General Support	\$4,889,068	\$4,957,231	\$68,163
INSTRUCTION			
Administration & Improvement	\$1,585,420	\$1,686,641	\$101,221
Instruction - Teaching	\$28,130,905	\$28,171,170	\$40,265
Instructional Media	\$1,381,486	\$1,430,442	\$48,956
Pupil Services	\$2,370,058	\$2,365,186	(\$4,872)
Total Instruction	\$33,467,869	\$33,653,439	\$185,570
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION			
District-Owned Transportation	\$220,996	\$231,117	\$10,121
Contract Transportation	\$3,638,738	\$3,806,584	\$167,846
Total Transportation	\$3,859,734	\$4,037,701	\$177,967
UNDISTRIBUTED			
Employee Benefits	\$16,090,151	\$16,993,623	\$903,472
Debt Service	\$2,490,051	\$2,492,038	\$1,987
Interfund Transfers	\$250,000	\$250,000	-
Total Undistributed	\$18,830,202	\$19,735,661	\$905,459
TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES	\$61,046,873	\$62,384,032	\$1,337,159

How the Money Will Be Spent



Where the Money Comes From



Revenue Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2016-2017	PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-2018	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
Total Miscellaneous	\$825,573	\$825,573	-
Total State Aid w/o STAR	\$22,303,171	\$22,701,466	\$398,295
Total Other Than Property Tax/STAR	\$23,128,744	\$23,527,039	\$398,295
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$450,000	\$785,222	\$335,222
Property Tax	\$37,191,264	\$37,771,856	\$580,592
PILOT Reimbursement	\$276,865	\$299,915	\$23,050
Total Property Tax/STAR	\$37,918,129	\$38,856,993	\$938,864
TOTAL ALL REVENUES	\$61,046,873	\$62,384,032	\$1,337,159

Saugerties

Central School District

2017-2018 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 16, 2017, 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 4:30 PM on May 15.

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 2017-2018 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	0.815
Woodstock	1.00

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.

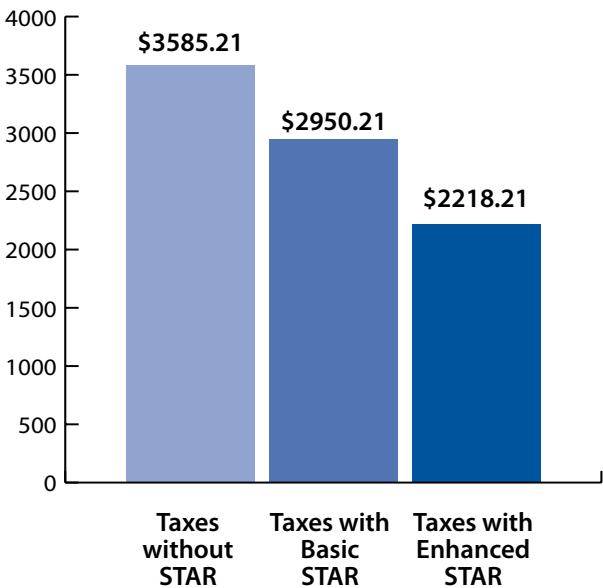
Existing homeowners will continue to see the relief in the form of an actual reduction in their property tax bills. New homeowners, or those who have recently moved, will pay their full tax bill and receive a refund check directly from New York State.

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

2017–2018 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 16, 2017. 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 1.56 percent and still meet the criteria of the tax cap formula for a simple majority vote.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday, May 16
6 AM–9 PM

Cahill Elementary School

Morse Elementary School

Mt. Marion Elementary School

Riccardi Elementary School

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$61,046,873	\$62,384,032	\$61,803,440
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$1,337,159	-\$580,592
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.19%	1.24%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$37,191,264	\$37,771,856	
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)	\$37,191,264	\$37,771,856	\$37,191,264
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$650,716	\$571,668	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$36,574,866	\$37,200,188	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$36,540,548	\$37,200,188	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$34,318	-0-	
Administrative component	\$4,695,515	\$4,972,537	\$4,937,728
Program component	\$49,816,842	\$50,830,067	\$50,420,739
Capital component	\$6,534,516	\$6,581,428	\$6,444,973

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year: Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, a contingency budget for 2017 – 2018 requires that the tax levy increase by 0.00%. Therefore, a budget gap of \$580,592 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
	PROPOSITION 2: Shall the Board of Education be authorized to construct a greenhouse at the Saugerties Jr./Sr. High School campus, including related site improvements and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and appurtenances, and any incidental improvements and expenses, at an estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$540,000, which estimate maximum cost shall be paid from unappropriated and unassigned general fund balance?
	PROPOSITION 3 : Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund for the purpose of appropriating sufficient funds necessary to construct district-wide renovation and/or additions to their facilities, as well as original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and appurtenances, including incidental improvements and expenses, as identified from time-to-time and recommended in its five-year capital facilities plan, in the ultimate amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 over a probable term of ten (10) years; and that the source of such ultimate amount shall be transferred on an annual basis from unappropriated and unassigned general fund balance in excess of the four percent (4%) statutory limit?



Under the Budget Proposed for the
2017-2018 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings ¹ —————→ **\$635**

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 2017-2018 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 16, 2017, 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 2017-2018 school year in the total amount of \$62,384,032.00 (the budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the District?

PROPOSITION 2: Shall the Board of Education be authorized to construct a greenhouse at the Saugerties Jr./Sr. High School campus, including related site improvements and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and appurtenances, and any incidental improvements and expenses, at an estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$540,000, which estimate maximum cost shall be paid from unappropriated and unassigned general fund balance?

PROPOSITION 3 : Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund for the purpose of appropriating sufficient funds necessary to construct district-wide renovation and/or additions to their facilities, as well as original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and appurtenances, including incidental improvements and expenses, as identified from time-to-time and recommended in its five-year capital facilities plan, in the ultimate amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 over a probable term of ten (10) years; and that the source of such ultimate amount shall be transferred on an annual basis from unappropriated and unassigned general fund balance in excess of the four percent (4%) statutory limit?

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 five candidates filed petitions to run for the Board of Education:

Alex Rappoport	Damion Ferraro	Charles Schirmer	Krista Barringer	Susan Gage
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Proposed Budget

“It will let them get used to us and introduce them to the school experience without being overwhelmed,” said Mt. Marion Elementary School Principal Carole Kelder.

The elementary school principals and their staff were inspired to create the program by a longstanding practice at Saugerties Junior High School that reserves the building for only seventh graders on the afternoon of the first day of school. “I thought, we should really be doing something similar,” Kelder said. “We’re really excited. I think it will be neat.”

Proposition 2: Building a Greenhouse

In addition to voting on the budget, residents will be asked to consider a proposition to support the construction of a greenhouse on the Junior-Senior High School campus. The money for the construction and furnishing of the greenhouse comes partially from a New York State Education Department grant. Voter approval is only required by State education law because the construction of the greenhouse is considered a capital project.

The greenhouse is the final piece of the Saugerties G.R.O.W.S. (Graduation Requirements through Occupational Work Study) initiative. Saugerties G.R.O.W.S., which was launched in 2016 and is funded by a State grant, provides students with hands-on work experience toward a career and occupational studies credential upon graduation.

Ultimately, students will grow organic produce in the greenhouse and school garden, bake pies, can jam, and even create seasonal wreaths and other handmade crafts. They also gain merchandising and sales experience by selling the items, along with SHS Maple Syrup, at a new farmstand.

Proposition 3: Saving for Future Facilities Upgrades

Proposition 3 asks voters to approve the establishment of a Capital Reserve fund, which is a budgeting tool designed to save money to offset the cost of future building repairs, renovations, additions, and other improvements.

New York State education law requires voter approval to both establish the Capital Reserve, as well as to spend any of the saved money.

Money to fund the reserve comes from the unappropriated and unassigned general fund balance, which is money that is left over at the end of the school year after all expenses are paid. By law, the District is permitted to maintain an unappropriated, unassigned general fund balance of no more than four percent of the coming year’s budget. Money in excess of the four percent can be transferred to Capital Reserve Fund, and will vary from year to year. The District is seeking voter approval to save a maximum of \$10 million over the course of 10 years.

Potential future improvement projects that can be paid for through the Capital Reserve Fund will be identified in the State-mandated five-year building condition survey, a required analysis of the District’s facilities that is completed by professional architects and engineers. Any projects proposed through the Capital Reserve require voter approval.

What if the Budget Is Defeated?

If the budget is defeated, the Board of Education has the option of either adopting a contingency budget or holding a second vote on either the same budget or a modified one. If the second budget is defeated, a contingency budget is mandated.

Rules of the tax levy limit legislation do not allow a tax levy increase under a contingency budget and would result in \$580,592 of budget cuts to programs and services.

Engineers Day Inspires Critical Thinking and Creativity



Cahill student Gaia Franklin-Ross tests her turbine.

Riccardi students Sean Secor, left, and Nicholas Sawchuk build their lunar lander.



Morse students watch closely as engineer Mike MacIsaac prepares to test a lunar lander.

Look out, NASA, here come the Mudkipz. With some good old-fashioned rocket science and help from real engineers, a team of Riccardi fifth graders created a lunar lander that accurately and safely splashed down, albeit in the middle of the cafeteria floor.

The lunar lander project was part of Engineers Day activities held at all four elementary schools this spring. With guidance from engineering professionals who volunteer their time as part of a nationwide campaign to promote engineering in schools, students in fifth and sixth grade tackled engaging projects that helped them understand what engineers do and how much fun STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) can be.

At Mt. Marion, engineer Steve Wehr helped students design small vehicles that were propelled by the air from a deflating balloon.

At Riccardi and Morse, students used foam cups, tape, straws, paper, and pennies to create a lunar lander that was dropped from the top of a ladder onto a target, in the hopes of it landing close to the bulls-eye without tipping

over. IBM engineers Mike MacIsaac and Mike DeAngelis showed students video of actual astronauts splashing down in the ocean and also discussed cutting-edge technology that included 3D printing, nano-technology, and drones.

Meanwhile, Cahill students were busy using discarded CDs and craft sticks to create their own wind turbines, which IBM engineer Lisa Case attached to a volt meter and placed in front of a fan to test the amount of energy each generated. One turbine actually generated 415 volts of electricity, more than enough to start a car or illuminate a light bulb.

The projects lit up proverbial light bulbs, too, not only encouraging students to use critical thinking and collaboration skills, but opening up all the career possibilities available to them in engineering.

Mudkipz team member Thomas French said he enjoyed creating the lunar lander. "I like mechanics and science. It's very inspiring to have to prove something," he said.

Planting the Seeds of Learning



The seeds of gardening expertise were planted among Saugerties Junior-Senior High School technology students in April thanks to a visit from a Master Gardener from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County.

Master Gardener Cecily Frazier helped students gain a better understanding of soil types, composting methods, varieties of plants and seeds, and garden record keeping, along with other horticulture and environmental science topics. The students will be able to put what they learned from Frazier to good use in the school garden, which will produce organic produce as part of Saugerties G.R.O.W.S., a grant-funded initiative to help students develop real-world career and occupational skills.



Mt. Marion Treats Bus Drivers to Breakfast



A Mt. Marion student shares a high-five of appreciation with a bus driver.



Mt. Marion bus drivers enjoy breakfast.

The dedicated bus drivers who keep Mt. Marion students safe going to and from school every day got paid on March 24, not in money, but in hugs, kisses, songs, and French toast.

The annual Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast, a joint effort presented by the school PTA and staff, recognized the hard work and care of drivers, crossing guards, and aides. While the guests of honor enjoyed a tasty buffet breakfast, they were treated to a performance of "The Wheels on the Bus" and "Little Bunny Foo-Foo" by Jen Arcadipane's class. Each guest received a Dunkin' Donuts gift card, a certificate of appreciation, and a hand-decorated goody bag. Students expressed their thanks with enough heartfelt hugs and high-fives to fill a school bus.

'Leaders of Tomorrow' Visit Albany



Student Council members deliver donations to Ronald McDonald House in Albany. From left: Mt. Marion Student Council President Jade Meneses, Riccardi Social Director Gabby Papa, and Riccardi Student Council President Aiden Schoonmaker.

Seventeen young "elected officials" from the four Saugerties elementary school student councils traveled to Albany on March 23 for an inspiring, informative field trip. They watched a session of the NYS Legislature, met with Senator George Amedore, and toured the Capitol building. Afterward, they stopped at the Ronald McDonald House, a charitable organization for families of sick children. The student council officers presented donations from their respective schools, toured the facility, and learned more about its mission.

The idea for the combined learning and service trip originated at Mt. Marion and the outing provided fun, knowledge, and inspiration for everyone. Jade Meneses, president of the Mt. Marion Student Council, said that helping others at Ronald McDonald House was a highlight of the trip for her. Cahill student Phaedra Wakefield was inspired in her desire to be a good leader. Raamina Chowdhury of Riccardi was enthralled with the Capitol's "Million Dollar Staircase," and Morse Student Council president Nick Stinemire found it fun to watch the legislature debate and vote on fiscal issues.



The "Leaders of Tomorrow" from all four Saugerties elementary schools pose for a group photo before starting off on their trip to Albany.

Riccardi Second Graders Celebrate Heritage Hoopla

Whether they were saying bonjour, enjoying pierogies, coloring in the Union Jack, or watching an Irish step dance, second graders at Riccardi embraced history, heritage, and diversity during Heritage Hoopla festivities in March.

The goal of the annual celebration is to help students learn more about where they came from and instill a sense of pride in their heritage.

"It gets the conversation started at home and hopefully they can learn from their parents," said teacher Frances Murphy, who launched the project about eight years ago. This year, teacher Sue Rinaldi and her students joined the celebration.

After about two weeks of learning more about the nations their ancestors hail from, the students and their families came together to share their history, customs, traditions, music, and food. In addition to preparing stu-

dents for their study of world civilizations in third grade, the event also helped them hone their public speaking skills by presentations with information about their ancestors' countries.

Santos Lopez, who immigrated to the United States from the Philippines at age 5, attended the festivities to celebrate his heritage



Alejandro Martinez presents information about Mexico while his father, Alfredo, looks on.

with his daughter, Delia. He was pleased that students are exploring their family history.

"It's always good to know the world is bigger than just your own country," Lopez said.

Jaidyn Oakley and his father, Gus, display their Norwegian pride.



Students in Mrs. Murphy's class show off the flags they colored for Heritage Hoopla.

Cahill and Morse Students Explore Science



Fifth grader Sarah Mangione demonstrates her portable hand-washing station at the Cahill science fair.



Cahill sixth grader Sunny Tamang makes his volcano erupt.



Cahill fourth grader Ellie Leffaao creates a dry ice bubble.



Clockwise, from top: Kylee Hommel and Emma Stafford watch fireworks in a jar at the Morse science fair.

Kore Ferrendino flashes a magnetic smile while learning about magnets at the Morse science fair.

Morse students Lauren Stinemire, Ayla Delaney, and Cassandra Wamsley look for sea monkeys.

Morse student Domenic DeFelice listens in on an old-fashioned "phone" that was part of a science fair experiment.

When Maliyah DeGraw mixed up her first batch of homemade natural toothpaste, she wasn't too pleased with the results.

"It tasted bad to me," said the Cahill sixth grader. "I used too much turmeric."

Maliyah's experiment in oral hygiene was just one of many scientific discoveries taking place in Saugerties this spring, as both Cahill and Morse held their annual science fairs.

From sea monkeys to a solar oven that cooked s'mores, from dry yeast explosions to holograms, students delved into both the fun and challenges of science. Cahill's science fair was open to students in grades 4, 5, and 6, while Morse's event was for third graders.

The students were asked to use the scientific method of forming a hypothesis, testing it, and presenting the results. Their projects were both practical and fascinating.

Cahill fifth grader Sarah Mangione created a

portable hand-washing station using buckets, a stainless steel basin, plumbing parts, and her father's hand truck.

"You could use it for field day, or a picnic," said Sarah, who got the idea for her creation from a TV show about engineers.

At Morse, Eian Cooper baked 10 batches of chocolate chip cookies, each without a key ingredient, to observe the different results. His experiment might well have been titled "How to Make Cookies Disappear" because, regardless of the missing butter, salt, sugar, and other ingredients, the cookies were quickly gobbled up by students eager to be true scientific experimenters.

Other students, staff, and families were impressed with the students' hard work and creativity.

"Every year they amaze me," said Cahill Principal Dawn Scannapieco. "Their little minds are constantly thinking and creating."

Saugerties Graduate is National Teacher of the Year

Chaffee is a ninth grade humanities teacher at Codman Academy Charter Public School in Dorchester, Massachusetts, where she has worked for the last decade, empowering and engaging students through meaningful lessons in history and social justice. Chaffee is described by Codman Academy Head of School Thabiti Brown as a “master teacher and master learner” and an “unstoppable teaching force for good.”

Outstanding and innovative even as a high school student, Chaffee was a member of the National Honor Society, art club, health team, and literary magazine while a student at Saugerties High School, and was the founder of Shatter, an all-female student group dedicated to addressing women’s issues.

At the end of this school year, Chaffee will embark on a year-long national speaking tour as an advocate for the teaching profession, which she discovered thanks to the dedication of her own teachers in Saugerties, who made teaching exciting.

“They set me on fire with learning,” Chaffee said recently in an interview with the *Boston Globe*.

Mt. Marion 4th Graders Become ‘Sailing Scientists’

Mt. Marion fourth graders set sail on a floating classroom in April, as they boarded the *Hudson River Sloop Clearwater* for fun and learning on the Hudson River. During a three-hour sail on the replica of an 18th century Dutch cargo vessel, the students became “sailing scientists,” learning more about tides, water turbidity, the ecology of the Hudson, and navigation. They also tried their hand at steering the boat, worked together to raise the 3,000-pound canvas sail, looked belowdecks, learned traditional sailors’ songs called shanties, and created their own Hudson River School-inspired artwork of their surroundings.



Trevor Bodie, Danielle Payne, Kaelin LeGoff, and Mason Bach take the tiller of the *Hudson River Sloop Clearwater*.



Jada Mooers pours water from the Hudson River into a turbidity tube aboard the *Hudson River Sloop Clearwater* while classmates Keiran Hinchey, Abigail Jurkowski, and Dakotah Walsh watch.

Songs and Skits Make SHS Lip Sync a Hit



Vicki Kritikakos channels Jimmy Fallon.

Madison Swart and Kenan Bernard climb the ladder of Lip Sync success.

Saugerties Junior-Senior High School hosted its annual Lip Sync this spring, treating audiences to chart-topping hits and laugh-out-loud skits.

Lip Sync is a longstanding tradition in Saugerties, dating to the 1980s. This year’s event featured 16 acts by students in 7th through 12th grades, ranging from Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way” and Van Halen’s “Jump” to a freshman synchronized swimming skit and a duet by Becky Squared, two friends and singers both named Becky. An introductory video that included SHS Principal Tom Averill was a hit, as was a skit featuring a student dressed up as late-night TV host and Saugerties graduate Jimmy Fallon.

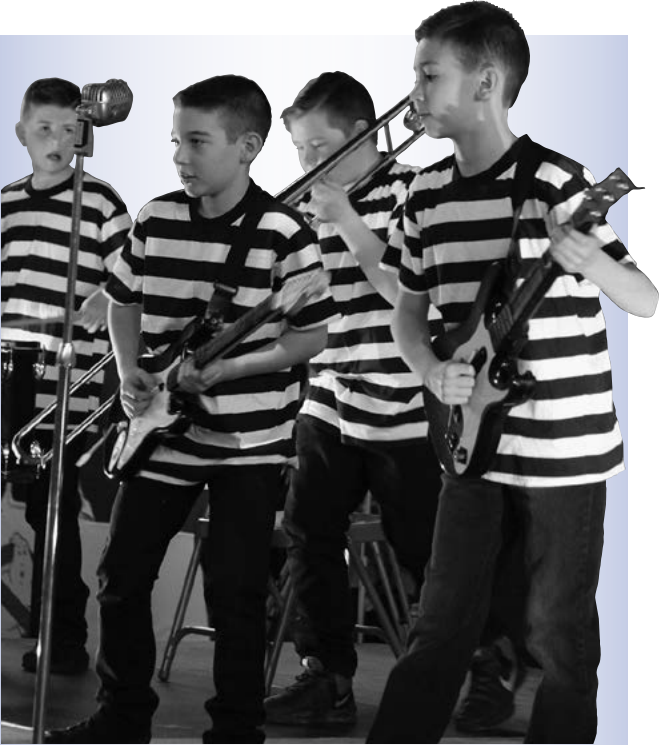
Junior Alexis Metcalf, who performed in two acts, said she decided to participate in Lip Sync for the first time because of the people involved.

“Everybody’s so upbeat and happy,” she said.

Freshman Matt Morgan agreed, saying that the students who take part in Lip Sync “have such vibrant personalities.”



Saugerties Junior High School student Kaden Krauss plays Van Halen.



Sixth grade boys lip sync to “Jailhouse Rock.”

Morse Rocks Out to Lip Sync

The 31st annual Morse Lip Sync showcased the talents of the school’s sixth graders in March, giving them a moment in the spotlight, literally. A total of nine acts rocked the house with current hits like “Stressed Out” by twenty one pilots, ‘80s tunes like “Hey, Mickey,” and even the classic 1946 Irving Berlin Broadway show tune “Anything You Can Do.” The entire student body clapped along, showing their appreciation for the performers, the standout stage crew, and faculty and staff who helped make Lip Sync a success.



Sixth grade girls wrapped up lip sync with MKTO’s “Classic.”

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