



MIDLAKES.ORG

# MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE III  
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## FIND MORE AT MIDLAKES.ORG



**VIDEO:** Students tap some campus trees to make maple syrup for a New York Agriculture in the Classroom contest.



**PHOTOS:** Midlakes Elementary School hosts its spring concert in front of a full crowd in the Midlakes High School Auditorium.

TUESDAY,  
MAY 17

# Annual VOTE

NOON - 9 P.M.

Midlakes Middle School Gymnasium

**D**uring its April 18 meeting, the Board of Education adopted an approximately \$40.6 million budget for the 2022-2023 school year that will be put to a vote on Tuesday, May 17.

The proposal calls for a 2% tax levy increase, which is less than one-third the annualized rate of inflation and well below the District's tax cap limit set by the state.

Voters will also be asked to elect three candidates to the Board of Education. The two highest vote-getters will be elected to three-year terms starting on July 1. The third-highest vote-getter will be elected to a 13-month, 13-day term beginning May 17.

A proposition to purchase six new buses along with a separate funding measure for the Clifton Springs Library and Phelps Community Memorial Library will be on the ballot. The District hosts the vote for the libraries, but the actual funding does not impact school taxes.

Additional details on the annual vote can be found in this issue of the *Midlakes Journal* and on the District's website at [Midlakes.org/AnnualVote](https://Midlakes.org/AnnualVote). ■

## BUDGET HEARING

6:30 p.m.,  
Monday, May 9,  
Middle School Cafeteria\*

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\*Meetings/hearings are streamed to the Midlakes Schools YouTube channel and Midlakes.org, under Board of Education "Meeting Dates."

## HIGHLIGHTS



## NEW TOOL FOR STUDENTS

Midlakes is excited to announce a partnership with Paper, a secure new tool offering students (Grades 7-12) free, unlimited academic support.

Students can receive one-on-one support from specially trained tutors in more than 200 subjects and in multiple languages with Paper. Tutors are available 24/7 and provide chat-based online support for assignments, and can review topics already introduced at school.

Paper is not intended to replace classroom instruction but is another tool to support students when they need it and as often as they need it. Districts throughout the country and state currently use the service.

Midlakes teachers also have accounts and will be able to review student activity to see what they're working on and provide more targeted instruction as needed.

Families interested in learning more about the service can sign up for an information session hosted by Paper (available in English and Spanish) at <https://pages.paper.co/webinars-for-parents-and-guardians>, and can reach out with questions to Paper directly at [parents@paper.co](mailto:parents@paper.co). ■

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# BUDGET ADVANCES KEY SUPPORTS

I would like to thank the Midlakes community for its patience and perseverance in navigating another unusual school year. While 2021-2022 has seen many changes for the better, we appreciate how our students, staff, families, and community have adapted to the challenges of the past two years.

As we look forward to what we hope will be a more "normal" 2022-2023 school year, the District is pleased to present a budget that advances important instructional and social-emotional supports for our students while responding to unique financial challenges. These challenges required careful planning to maximize the use of state and federal revenues and District reserves to minimize the tax burden on our community.

The proposed budget includes a tax levy increase of 2%, which is less than half of the District's legal tax levy limit of 4.15%.

While we are pleased that New York State has continued the process of fully funding Foundation Aid, which was underfunded for many years, other factors have limited the positive impact of this change. A substantial portion of the District's Foundation Aid increase is offset by escalating healthcare costs and rising prices for fuel, utilities, equipment, and supplies. These projected increases, which are outside the District's control, have influenced our spending plan for 2022-2023.

Federal COVID-19 relief and stimulus funds allocated to the District last year will continue to support significant investments in instructional and social-emotional supports for our students for the next two years. These funds enabled us to add positions to close achievement gaps, lower class sizes, and provide additional supports to our students. Since the federal funds are allocated over multiple years, we can finance these positions without immediately impacting our annual budget.

Aided by federal funds, we are able to use the proposed 2022-2023 school budget to address other critical needs. This budget includes funding increases for equipment and supplies to keep up with rising utility and operational costs.

The budget also includes the addition of a laborer/night supervisor to ensure appropriate staffing to clean our buildings and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

The District is also carrying forward \$125,000 in surplus revenue from the 2021-2022 budget to purchase a backhoe with a 14-foot plow. Conservative spending during the current budget cycle made it possible to fund this purchase without impacting our tax levy or reserves. The backhoe will assist with snow removal as we add a staff parking lot behind the Elementary School through the current capital project. It will also be used to maintain our retention pond and the drainage ditches that

channel runoff water. This investment will support proper drainage and improve the condition of our athletic fields and green spaces on campus.

The proposed budget also includes the addition of a computer services position to further support our 1:1 student device initiative, classroom technology, and increased cybersecurity protocols. The District seeks to expand student, staff, and family access to technological assistance to support our extensive use of instructional technology.

Finally, the proposed budget includes a more stable approach to providing student behavioral support, social-emotional support, and effective implementation of our Special Education program.

For years, the District has used "Teachers on Special Assignment" (TOSA) to serve as Deans of Students and assistants to the Committee on Special Education. Often, these positions were filled by teachers pursuing administrative certification. Recently, fewer teachers are interested in these TOSA positions, making the model difficult to sustain.

The District is proposing to replace two TOSA Dean positions with two 10-month Administrative Deans. These probationary positions will provide more predictable student support from year to year. Since the TOSA Dean positions are in the current budget, the transition to ten-month Administrative Deans results in only a slight cost increase.

Likewise, we are proposing the addition of a school psychologist position, replacing the TOSA CSE assistant position and enabling us to reassign one of our veteran psychologists as District Psychologist/CSE Chairperson.

This change will provide stable leadership of the CSE process, enhance district-level support for student social-emotional interventions, and enable the Director of Special Programs to focus on instructional and programmatic leadership to improve student academic outcomes. Since the TOSA CSE assistant position is in the current budget, the transition to an additional school psychologist provides a more stable approach with no budgetary impact.

We are confident the 2022-2023 proposed budget meets the needs of our students and community in a fiscally responsible manner. We have been strategic in structuring new and existing positions in a way to improve District operations while keeping costs under control.

The 2% tax levy increase needed to support this spending plan falls far below the current rate of inflation. We will always look for ways to meet student needs while being mindful of the impact on our community.

Thank you for your continued support of all Midlakes students. ■

— Matt Sickles, Superintendent





## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Included are responses to some commonly asked questions regarding the Annual Vote.

For more, visit [Midlakes.org/AnnualVote](https://Midlakes.org/AnnualVote).

### How will the budget affect property owners?

The \$40,636,321 budget proposal calls for a 2% increase in the real property tax levy. Based on \$100,000 assessed value and overall assessments and equalization rates from the 2021-2022 school year, residents can expect to see an average increase of \$35.25 if they qualify for the STAR exemption, \$15.90 if they qualify for enhanced STAR, or \$49.52 with no STAR exemption. Keep in mind that the equalization rates and overall assessments across seven municipalities overlapping the District have yet to be released for 2022-2023.

### What expenditures are increasing the most?

The District is part of the Finger Lakes Area School Health Plan (FLASHP) consortium and its rates for 2022-2023 are expected to increase by 21.9%. As a result, the District is projecting an increase of \$837,409 in employee benefits/health care costs.

### How has inflation impacted the budget?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) between November 2020 and 2021 rose 6.8%, a rate of increase the nation hasn't seen in nearly 40 years. On top of that, CPI rose another 1.2% as a result of the war in Ukraine and rising gas prices. The District has seen a steady increase in the cost of utilities, materials, supplies, and equipment during the 2021-2022 school year and has budgeted accordingly for 2022-2023.

### How is the tax levy limit calculated?

State law mandates that an eight-step formula be used to calculate the District's tax levy limit. This calculation accounts for growth in the local tax base, the rate of inflation, and provides the District with certain exemptions (capital expenditures, retirement contributions, court orders, and judgments). The District may also carry over the unused

portion of the tax levy limit from the previous year. The District has \$230,322 in carryover from 2021-2022, resulting in a tax levy limit for the upcoming school year of \$15,485,323 for a 4.15% annual increase. For 2022-2023, the District is proposing a tax levy increase of 2%.

### Has refinancing the District's debt helped?

Based on the recommendation of Fiscal Advisors, the District was able to take advantage of low-interest rates in refinancing \$9.34 million in serial bonds from prior capital projects. This is projected to save the District approximately \$75,000 annually through 2030.

### Why is the District paying for more buses?

The District works to ensure the safety of students and staff by using a 10-year rotation to purchase new buses and phase out aging models. To continue this schedule, the District will spend up to \$684,804 out of its Bus Purchase Reserve Fund to purchase six buses, specifically two 30-passenger, two 65-passenger, and two 71-passenger buses. The state provides 90% aid reimbursement over five years on the purchase of buses. The net cost to the District after state aid will be \$68,480 out of the reserve fund.

### What happens if the budget isn't approved?

The District has two options if the budget is defeated. It can propose a new budget or the same budget for a re-vote in June. If that budget proposal is defeated, the District would be required to adopt a contingency budget. Since the District is proposing a 2% tax levy increase, there would be a change to the tax levy in the contingency budget, specifically a reduction of \$297,352. In addition, there would be restrictions on purchasing non-contingent items and the District would be required to charge fees for all facility uses. ■

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ANNUAL VOTE SUMMARY

**BUDGET:** \$40,636,321

**TAX LEVY INCREASE:**

2% over 2021-2022

**STATE AID:**

+\$1,742,891 over 2021-2022

**RESERVE SPENDING:**

\$1,149,575 (\$160,080 over 2021-2022)

**BUDGET HEARING:** A budget hearing will be held in the Midlakes Middle School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 9.

**IN-PERSON VOTING:** Noon to 9 p.m., Tuesday May 17, Middle School Gymnasium.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Completed ballot applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, May 16. All absentee ballots are due to the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Residents qualify to participate in the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District vote, provided they are:

- A U.S. Citizen
- At least 18 years old
- A resident for at least 30 days

*\*\* No property requirement to vote\*\**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact District Clerk Krystal Plante at (315) 548-6420 or [KPlante@midlakes.org](mailto:KPlante@midlakes.org), and visit [Midlakes.org/AnnualVote](https://Midlakes.org/AnnualVote). ■

## STAFFING CHANGES UNDER BUDGET PROPOSAL

The following are proposed changes for the 2022-2023 academic year:

- A Computer Services Assistant to allow expanded service relating to increased use of technology and safety protocols.
- A Laborer/Night Shift Supervisor (K-12) to handle overnight cleaning and other work.
- Part-time occupational therapy services (0.2) and part-time physical therapy services (0.4) provided by WFL BOCES to cover increased needs. The District would receive aid in

the following year.

- An Elementary and Secondary Administrative Dean of Students to replace two Teachers on Special Assignments to provide an enhanced candidate pool and more stable services.
- A School Psychologist to offset the elimination of a Teacher on Special Assignment CSE Chair and to provide more social-emotional support.
- Eliminating a teaching assistant position, which aligns with a staff retirement.

Additional positions and programs were addressed in 2021 with the use of federal and state aid, and include:

- After-school and summer programs.
- Additional math and reading support.
- Positions to support social-emotional learning.
- Materials/supplies to support in-person instruction.
- Cleaner/laborer and clerical positions to support cleaning/health and safety protocols.
- HVAC upgrades to improve ventilation. ■



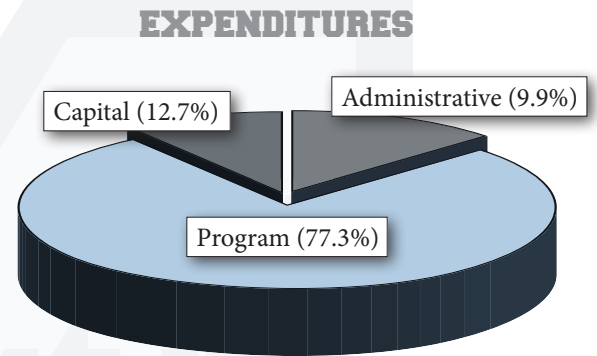
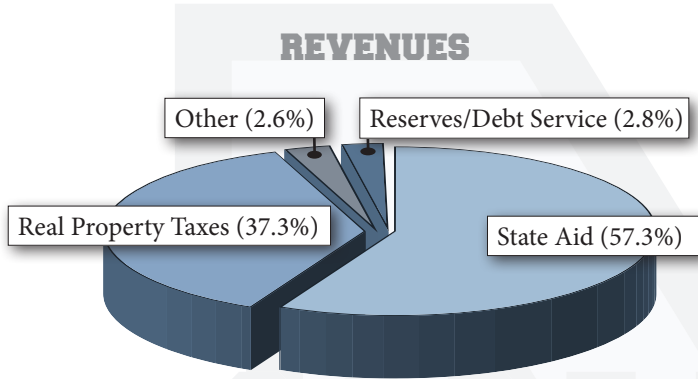
# BUDGET PROPOSAL

The following charts and figures detail the sources of revenue and expenditures of the proposed budget.

Further information can be found on the District's website at [Midlakes.org/AnnualVote](https://Midlakes.org/AnnualVote).

## PROJECTED REVENUES

CATEGORY	2021-2022	2023-2023	INCREASE (DECREASE)
State Aid	\$21,540,342	\$23,283,233	\$1,742,891
Real Property Taxes	\$14,867,586	\$15,164,938	\$297,352
Reserves/Debt Service	\$989,495	\$1,149,575	\$160,080
Other	\$913,575	\$1,038,575	\$125,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$38,310,998</b>	<b>\$40,636,321</b>	<b>\$2,325,323</b>



Figures are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point. May not equal 100%

## EXPENDITURES

### ADMINISTRATIVE

CATEGORY	2021-2022	2022-2023	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Board of Education	\$82,375	\$83,741	\$1,366
Central Administration & Finance	\$767,437	\$784,297	\$16,860
Legal, Personnel, Public Information	\$199,670	\$207,930	\$8,260
Central Services & Special Items	\$757,469	\$818,250	\$60,781
Curriculum, Supervision, Research & Planning	\$1,092,414	\$1,199,578	\$107,164
Employee Benefits	\$866,294	\$965,914	\$99,620
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,765,659</b>	<b>\$4,059,710</b>	<b>\$294,051</b>

### PROGRAM

CATEGORY	2021-2022	2022-2023	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Staff Development & Training - Regular School	\$11,290,110	\$11,676,988	\$386,878
Programs for Students with Disabilities	\$6,497,111	\$6,610,508	\$113,397
Pupil Personnel, Guidance & Health Services	\$823,750	\$979,027	\$155,277
Athletics	\$507,937	\$525,456	\$17,519
Transportation	\$1,720,410	\$1,888,069	\$167,659
Employee Benefits	\$903,342	\$9,727,842	\$688,500
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$29,878,660</b>	<b>\$31,407,890</b>	<b>\$1,529,230</b>

### CAPITAL

CATEGORY	2021-2022	2022-2023	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$1,896,450	\$2,430,533	\$534,083
Employee Benefits	\$632,166	\$675,288	\$43,122
Debt Service & Bus Purchases	\$2,138,063	\$2,062,900	(\$75,163)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,666,679</b>	<b>\$5,168,721</b>	<b>\$502,042</b>

## TOTAL BUDGET

	2021-2022	2022-2023	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$38,310,998</b>	<b>\$40,636,321</b>	<b>\$2,325,323</b>

Expenditures rounded to the nearest whole dollar

# BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

*Voters will elect three (3) individuals. Board members serve without pay and are listed in order of appearance on the ballot.*



**LINDSAY MARINO**

**Family:**

Husband, William; sons Nicholas and Judah; daughter, Natalie.

**Occupation/**

**Career:** Pediatric Emergency

Room RN at Strong Memorial Hospital; Pediatric RN.

**Qualifications and Activities:**

Volunteer YMCA youth basketball coach, Midlakes Football Boosters volunteer, Midlakes Jr. Eagles medic volunteer. I was honored to serve on the 2021-2022 Midlakes school board. I have resided in the Phelps/Clifton Springs community for the last 15 years.

**Personal Statement:**

Phelps is a great place to raise a family and I am proud to send my children to Midlakes. This last school year we made large strides returning the school system to a "normal" experience for our children and I anticipate the trajectory for 2022-2023 to be similar. I have 20 years of experience working with children as a pediatric RN. My nursing specialty is in pediatric emergency care. I am passionate about making decisions that are holistically right for our children while focusing on their academic and emotional needs. I am an active member of the community with three young children in the district. I would be honored to serve on the school board.



**JAMIE McCARRICK**

**Family:** Wife, Stephanie; sons, Tyler and Cole.

**Occupation/**

**Career:** State Correction Officer, and retired U.S. Army.

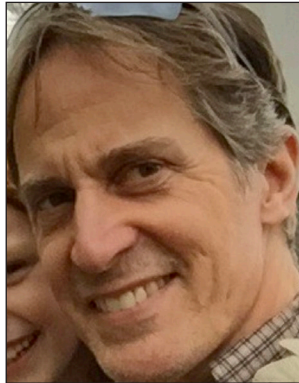
**Qualifications and Activities:**

Planned and handled multi-million-dollar budgets while in the U.S. Army. Served as the Director of Football for the Jr. Eagles. Midlakes

modified and varsity volunteer football coach for the last five years. Sat on the planning committee for the capital project.

**Personal Statement:**

I am running to be more involved in the school district and its interaction with the community. My main goal is to help current Board members make our school district the best it can be. I would use my personal contacts with the local community and business owners to get them more involved with school activities. I would like to be greatly involved with the safety of our students and staff.



**MICHAEL DORR**

**Family:** Wife, Michelle; 9 children.

**Occupation/**

**Career:** Teaching Assistant, Head Start Program, Phelps.

**Qualifications and Activities:**

Active member of the Midlakes community since 2009, former Phelps Community Library Board member and active volunteer with events sponsored by the Phelps Community Center and the Village. I have a 30-year work history in human services, which includes mental health, addiction emergency and homeless services, and was trauma recovery trainer in New York State for 16 years before a moving to public education.

**Personal Statement:**

Open communication and clarity is key in our interactions, so I will write as if we're in the same room talking: Several years ago when I was considering a career change, I attended an open house at Midlakes with some of my kids. They were greeted so warmly by the teachers they had that it hit me, "This is where I need to be." I began as a substitute in January 2017, earned my Teaching Assistant Certification, and was hired by the UPK program, where I became known as "Mr. Mike." When COVID-19 hit, I told school administrators that I wanted to be involved in anyway possible and was hired as a long-term music teacher for the 2020-2021 year, where I prepared and delivered engaging curriculum to every classroom (UPK - Grade 6). I love those kids! I want to continue my involvement and am invested in growing through the school board so I can serve you.



**LYNN LEBRECHT**

**Family:**

Husband, Stephen; sons Charles, Stephen Jr. and Stavell; and daughter Emmajay.

**Occupation/**

**Career:** Staff Social Worker

at Ontario County Mental Health.

**Qualifications and Activities:**

I am a former Midlakes Jr. Eagles Cheer Coach and former member of the Midlakes Jr. Eagles Board. I am currently a member of the Midlakes Football Boosters, and an active member of my faith community. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor. I have worked in the fields of mental health and substance abuse for 18 years, providing direct care, supervision, advocacy, program development, and linkage to community resources. With my knowledge and diverse experiences, I believe I can be a valuable asset for our district and community.

**Personal Statement:**

I am a proud Midlakes alumni and believe it is important to give back to my community. I look forward to creating collaborative relationships to ensure our children have access to the highest quality education and supportive services. ■

**MIDLAKES AQUATIC CENTER**

**Open & Family Swim**  
returns **May 4.**  
**6-8 p.m., every**  
**Wednesday & Friday**

**SWIM AT THE MAC**  
Midlakes.org/AquaticCenter  
Prices subject to change

**MIDLAKES EAGLES AQUATIC CENTER**

Lifeguards needed. For more information, contact Jack Hauber at (315) 548-6451 or [jhauber@midlakes.org](mailto:jhauber@midlakes.org).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

BALANCING OUR NEEDS,  
KEEPING TAXES IN CHECK

*The 2022-2023 budget proposal continues  
a long trend of modest tax increases.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

THE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

Agendas, minutes, meeting dates, and live streams of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education meetings are posted regularly to the District's website at Midlakes.org. For further information, contact District Clerk Krystal Plante at (315) 548-6420 or kplante@midlakes.org

**JACOB AMIDON**  
PRESIDENT

**TRACY ALTMAN**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**RYAN DAVIS**  
BOARD MEMBER

**LINDSAY MARINO**  
BOARD MEMBER

**DON MILLER**  
BOARD MEMBER

**MATT MURPHY**  
BOARD MEMBER

**AMBER WILKES**  
BOARD MEMBER

One of the chief responsibilities of the Board of Education — and one we take very seriously — is to oversee the annual budget process, which includes approving the final spending plan before putting it out to a vote by our community.

We began the process of developing the 2022-2023 budget in November, when we first reviewed the draft budget development calendar, and for the last several months have reviewed and provided feedback on several iterations of the spending plan presented to us by Business Administrator Karl Dubash and Superintendent Matt Sickles.

Together, we have worked hard on presenting a budget to voters on May 17 that has a minimal impact on taxes and prioritizes the needs of our students.

Our budget maintains programs and services with a modest 2% tax levy increase, which is less than one third of the annualized rate of inflation. We were able to do this despite significant increases in health care, inflationary pressure, and an unprecedented labor shortage that made maintaining our level of service tremendously difficult.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our schools has been profound and this budget prepares the District for the upcoming academic year by providing our students with the very best opportunity for success while responding to changing conditions.

Also, we are particularly happy to propose an additional school psychologist position in the

budget. This position will help us remain focused on supporting the "whole child" to help sustain a plan already in place that helps develop students by addressing their social-emotional needs — a critical

piece for our students as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

This budget, along with federal and state pandemic aid, allows us to invest in initiatives directly affecting students in meaningful and positive ways.

We are proud that this budget continues our long trend of modest tax increases. We are once again well under the District's calculated tax levy limit of 4.15%.

But we couldn't settle on a 2% tax levy increase without being forward in our thinking. An example of this was how Mr. Dubash saw an opportunity to refinance bonds

issued by our District from earlier capital projects. Refinancing these bonds will save the District \$75,000 each year through 2030 and had a critical role in our ability to close a gap between revenue and expenses in this budget.

Overall, we feel that this budget reflects the Board's commitment to balancing the needs of our students, staff, and taxpayers, while responsibly investing in our educational plan for the future.

Again, thank you for your continued support of our students — it does matter! ■

— Jacob Amidon is president of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District Board of Education.

*"Together, we have  
worked hard on  
presenting a budget  
to voters on May 17  
that has a minimal  
impact on taxes and  
prioritizes the needs  
of our students."*

**Jacob Amidon,**  
Board President

## ITEMS ON THE BALLOT

## DISTRICT BUDGET

To adopt the annual budget of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable real property of the District.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

To elect two members to the Board of Education for three-year terms, each commencing July 1, 2022. The seats are presently held by

Jacob Amidon and Ryan Davis. To elect one member to the Board of Education for a partial term of one year, one month, and 13 days, commencing May 17, 2022. The seat is presently held by Lindsay Marino.

## BUS PURCHASE

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase six student transportation vehicles, including related furnishings and equipment, not to exceed \$684,804, which

is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for such buses by using \$684,804 from the District's Bus Purchase Reserve.

## COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

A separate proposition for the approval of \$174,000 annually to be contributed to support the Clifton Springs Library in the amount of \$87,000, and to the Phelps Community Memorial Library in the amount of \$87,000. ■



# GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION

*Two Midlakes graduates and a former educator join prestigious group.*

## INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Midlakes Graduates of Distinction will be celebrated on Friday, May 6 during a reception and induction ceremony at Warfield's Restaurant Lounge & Bakery, 7 W. Main St., Clifton Springs. Tickets (\$20) for the reception are available at the Midlakes High School Main Office, Sandy's Floral Gallery, and Phelps Hometown Pharmacy.

For more details, nomination forms, and other information on the Midlakes Graduates of Distinction program, visit [Midlakes.org/GraduatesofDistinction](http://Midlakes.org/GraduatesofDistinction).

**T**he Midlakes Graduates of Distinction program returns to recognize a successful entrepreneur, a senior executive at the National Science Foundation, and an educator who taught at Midlakes for 35 years.

The program, established in 2016, recognizes outstanding alumni of Midlakes High School and other honorees who have made significant contributions to society or achieved outstanding accomplishments while forging successful careers.

This year's inductees were selected two years ago but their induction was postponed due to the pandemic. The 2020 inductees are Paul Sheppard, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel currently serving as a senior executive for the Office of Polar Programs within the National Science Foundation; Jeff Knauss, an angel investor and entrepreneur who co-founded a highly successful digital marketing agency; and Jeanne Smith, a retired Midlakes Primary School teacher.

Each inductee will be recognized during a celebration that includes a tour of Midlakes schools, visits with staff and students, and an hors d'oeuvre reception at Warfield's Restaurant in Clifton Springs. ■



**PAUL R. SHEPPARD**  
MIDLAKES HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1978



**JEFF KNAUSS**  
MIDLAKES HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2004



**JEANNE SMITH**  
RETIRED MIDLAKES EDUCATOR

*\*Read more about the Graduates of Distinction at [Midlakes.org/GraduatesofDistinction](http://Midlakes.org/GraduatesofDistinction).*

## CAPITAL PROJECT BEGINS



Work has begun on the capital project approved by voters in 2019. Crews have started Phase One of the project which will create additional parking at Midlakes Elementary School, a new on-campus fueling station, a salt barn at the Bus Garage, and bring needed repairs to the Bus Garage. ■



# TITLE TIME

Congratulations to our coaches, players, families, sport boosters, and fans for their hard work, dedication, and support in making the 2021-2022 winter sports season successful.



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Midlakes defeated Wellsville to claim the Class B2 sectional championship at Rush-Henrietta Senior High School.



## WRESTLING

Teddy Raes won the Class B1 wrestling title with a decisive 13-2 win in the championship round of the 138-pound division finals at Wayne High School.



## INDIVIDUAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

### GIRLS BASKETBALL\*

Stella DelPapa  
Camryn Ford  
Mary Givens  
Hanna Godkin  
Kate Mahoney  
Grace Murphy  
Catherine Peacock  
Callie Walker

### GIRLS BOWLING\*

Elaina Harris - Maxwell  
Samantha Lewis  
Sky Liu  
Maeghan Mahoney  
Grace Payne  
Cassie Cook  
Madison Robinette

Emileigh Cardin  
Anna-Lee Henderson  
Alivia Miller

### GIRLS INDOOR TRACK & FIELD\*

Heather Belcher  
Alyssa Crance  
Lorelai Lane  
Sienna Lowe  
Mari Spooner  
Emma Ubbink  
Katelyn Wilkes

### BOYS SWIMMING

Jackson Laird  
John Dante Trickey

### BOYS

**BASKETBALL**  
Michael DeHond  
Nico Schroeffer

### CHEERLEADING\*

Libby Pane  
Alexis Waite  
Alexis Kopetchny  
Carmin Contreras  
Brigget Cooley

### WRESTLING

Ryan Peck  
Leah Peck  
Jotniel Mulero

**BOYS BOWLING**  
Christopher Behen  
Gavin Mateo

## INDOOR TRACK

Alyssa Crance, Emma Ubbink, Hayden Wells, and Kianna Naval (4x200-meter relay team), Katelyn Wilkes (3,000-meter run) along with Mari Spooner and Tyler Lantrip (both in weight throw) won their events during the Class A3 Sectional Championships at Houghton College.



## SWIMMING

Jackson Laird, Teddy Altman, Ethan Brodman and Evans Raes teamed up to win both the Class C 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay during the Section V Championships at Haverling High School.

\* Denotes Scholar-Athlete Team.



## ALL COUNTY SELECTIONS

The following students from the Midlakes music program were selected for All County based on individual merit and teacher recommendations.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BAND



Brian  
Cannan



Zoey  
Overslaugh

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



Haven  
Benz



Jamie  
Lawson



Kyle  
Bell



Aaron  
Gonzalez

### HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS



Holden  
Dorr



Elena  
Graf



Jennifer  
Petracchi



Danny  
Spruill

### HIGH SCHOOL BAND



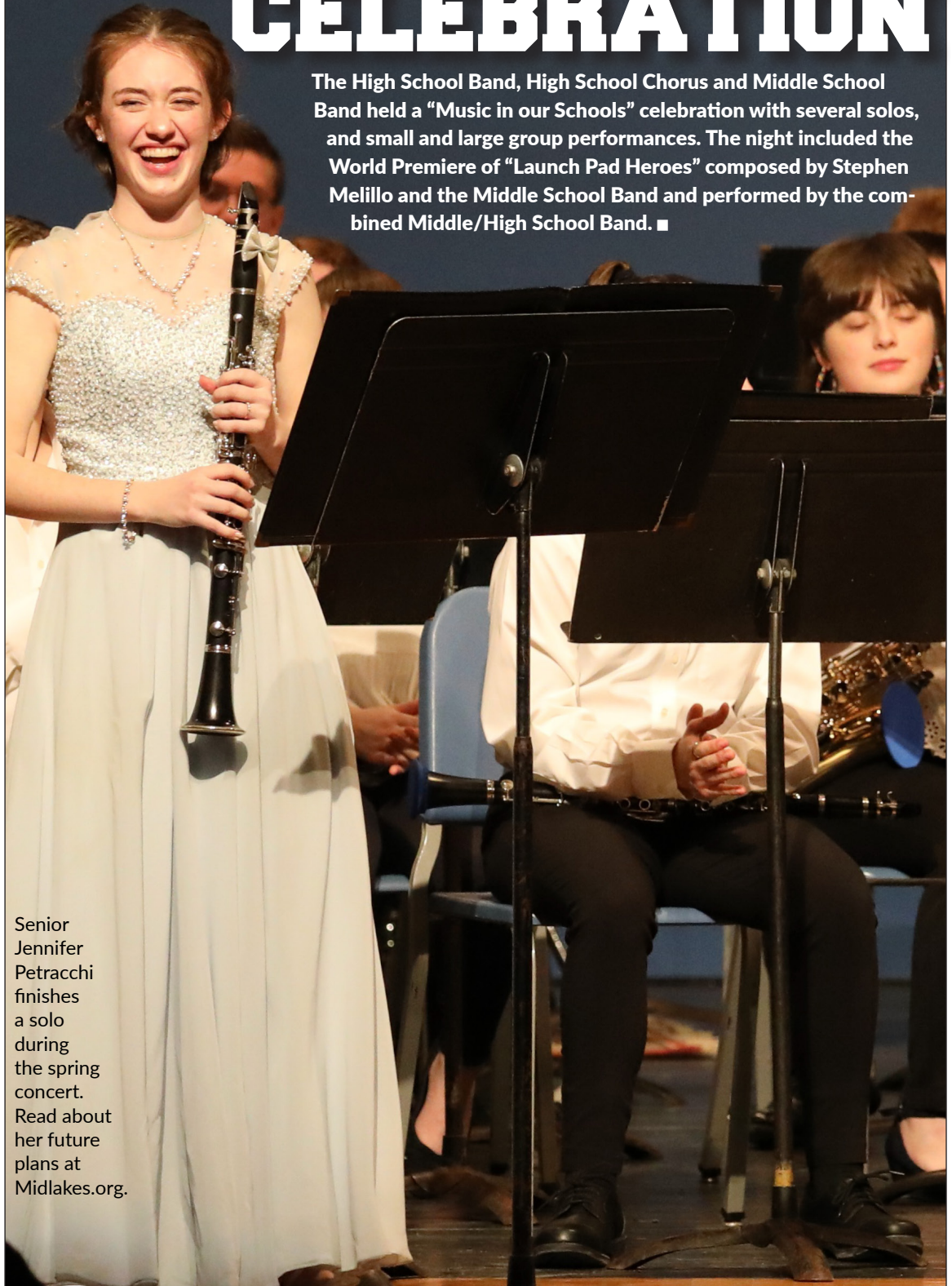
Cheria  
Caraballo



Matt  
Cannan

# MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS CELEBRATION

The High School Band, High School Chorus and Middle School Band held a "Music in our Schools" celebration with several solos, and small and large group performances. The night included the World Premiere of "Launch Pad Heroes" composed by Stephen Melillo and the Middle School Band and performed by the combined Middle/High School Band. ■



Senior Jennifer Petracchi finishes a solo during the spring concert. Read about her future plans at [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org).

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

- Middle/High School Choral: 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 25.
- High School Band: 7 p.m., Thursday, June 2.
- Middle/Elementary Band & Chorus: 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 14.
- Middle/High School Jazz Band: 7 p.m., Thursday, June 16.

## HIGHLIGHTS

DONATING TO  
HELP UKRAINE

Midlakes senior Maggie Mahoney was so struck by the images of a war-torn Ukraine, she knew she had to do something to help.

Mahoney, president of the Midlakes Interact Club, placed collection boxes in the high school and made flyers asking staff, students, and visitors to donate socks, diapers, sleeping bags, feminine hygiene products and other items to help.

The items were then donated to ROC Maidan, a Rochester-area organization affiliated with the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Rochester, which has been working to support Ukraine.

"When she heard about the drives going on in the Rochester area, she was determined to have Midlakes make a difference," said Brandy Hungerford, Interact Club adviser. "She's just the best and I'm so proud of her taking it upon herself to do this and I'm glad Interact Club can help." ■

DICTIONARIES FOR  
THIRD-GRADERS

The Clifton Springs Grange continued a long-standing tradition by donating new dictionaries to third-graders at Midlakes Elementary School through its "Words for Thirds" program, which encourages good reading habits and comprehension skills. Thank you for your continued support! ■

## LOOKING AHEAD

## 2022-2023 CALENDAR

The Board of Education approved at its April 18 meeting the District calendar for the 2022-2023 academic year. Below are a few highlights:

**First Day of School:** All students to report on Thursday, Sept. 8.

**Superintendent Conference Days:** Staff only. No students on Tuesday, Sept. 6; Wednesday, Sept. 7; Wednesday, Oct. 26; and Friday, March 17.

**Thanksgiving Break:** No school on November 23-25.

**Winter Break:** No school on December 26 - January 2. School reopens Tuesday, Jan. 3.

**February Break:** No school on February 20-24.

**Spring Break:** No school on April 2-7.

**Holidays:** Columbus Day, October 10; Veterans Day, November 11; Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16; Memorial Day, May 29; Juneteenth, June 19.

**Elementary half days:** December 7-9, March 14-16, June 22-23.

All school events and dates are subject to change. Contact your child's school for additional information. View Districts calendars and sports schedules at [Midlakes.org/Page/2](https://Midlakes.org/Page/2). ■

## CAN'T MISS EVENTS



## MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

First-graders at Midlakes Elementary School will once again present a tribute honoring local servicemen and women who sacrificed to protect our country.

**DATE:** Thursday, May 26. ■

## COMMENCEMENT

Show your pride in all that the Class of 2022 has accomplished during Midlakes High School's annual Commencement Ceremony, where students will walk the stage to receive their diplomas. Additional details to be released. Contact the High School or visit [Midlakes.org](https://Midlakes.org) for more information.

**DATE:** Ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 25. ■



## THIS MONTH &amp; NEXT

## » MAY

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ROLLER SKATING

May 3: Grades K-2  
May 4: Grades 3-4  
May 5: Grades 5-6

## AP EXAMS

May 2 - May 13

GRADUATES OF  
DISTINCTION RECEPTION

May 6

BUDGET HEARING,  
BOARD MEETING

6:30 p.m., May 9

## DISTRICT VOTE

Noon - 9 p.m., May 17

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY  
INDUCTION CEREMONY

6:30 p.m., May 24

## BOARD MEETING

6:30 p.m., May 25  
(Only if budget is defeated)

## MEMORIAL DAY

(NO SCHOOL)  
May 30

## » JUNE

## BOARD MEETING

6:30 p.m., June 7

## FLAG DAY

June 14

## REGENTS EXAMS

June 15-23

## JUNETEENTH

(NO SCHOOL)  
Observed June 20

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
HALF DAYS

June 21-24

COMMENCEMENT  
REHEARSALS

1 - 3 p.m., June 23  
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., June 24

## COMMENCEMENT

7 p.m., Saturday, June 25

Events subject to change. Find school calendars, sports schedules and more under the "Community" tab at [Midlakes.org](https://Midlakes.org).



## DISTRICT NEWS



## 'FOSTER GRANDPARENT' FINDS A HOME AT MIDLAKES

Rita Parrish wrings the paint out of used brushes, sharpens pencils and cleans up around the art rooms at Midlakes Elementary School through a volunteer program that brings retirees into the classroom.

The Geneva resident visits school about three times a week through Foster Grandparents to help out however she can.

"I just love it," said Parrish. "I am not a person who can sit at home, watch TV, and drink coffee. I am someone who wants to get out and do things. It's good to come in, help, and see their smiling faces."

There are about 40 people who volunteer as Foster Grandparents at area schools and daycare centers in Ontario, Wayne, Seneca, and Yates counties, according to the Wayne County Action Program, which places and supports area volunteers.

"She is just amazing," said Melissa Kuter, an art

teacher at Midlakes Elementary School. "She is so helpful. She offers assistance, and just loves coming in and interacting with the kids."

Volunteers are 55 or older and reside locally. They go through a background check and are trained with assistance from the New York State Office of the Aging. They also receive a small stipend funded through a federal grant administered by the Corporation of National and Community Service.

While the program provides an extra set of hands in classrooms and a bit of one-on-one attention for students, it keeps Foster Grandparents busy by engaging them in their community.

"This is my first year at Midlakes, so I hope to come back next year," Parrish said. "Once I get home and think about the smiles you see throughout the day — it was well worth it. I love it." ■

## STUDENTS BRING CHESS TO SCHOOL

Three classmates have started a Chess Club at Midlakes Elementary School.

Kaden Guillaume, Colt Walker, and Brian Cannan came up with the idea and worked with school librarian Heather Bradley to find a location to host the club.

The students then worked with principal Chris Moyer to create permission slips and get the club off the ground. Mr. Moyer also purchased chess boards for the club. A dozen students signed up for the club's first meeting, which saw students go head-to-head in games of chess.

The club allows students to work on game strategy while also developing concentration, memory, and critical-thinking skills. The club meets on Tuesdays. ■



## HIGHLIGHTS



### STRATTON NAMED MASTER TEACHER

Brie Stratton, a science teacher at Midlakes High School, was named a New York State Master Teacher by Gov. Kathy Hochul, becoming the fourth educator in recent years at the school to receive the designation to boost STEM-related education.

The Master Teacher program was started in 2013 to recognize the exemplary work of educators in science, technology, engineering, and math. Stratton's acceptance into the program is the result of a highly competitive process that will allow her to deepen her knowledge to benefit students.

She hopes the program, which requires at least 50 hours of professional development annually and peer-based collaboration, will allow her to "stay ahead of the curve" with new science standards on the horizon. ■

### STAFF MEMBERS EARN TENURE

Several teachers and other personnel were recently awarded tenure by the District. Congratulations to the following:

- Elementary teachers Cheryl Fisher and Mareasa Severson
- Art teachers Shannon Gage and Melissa Kuter
- English as a second language teacher Rebecca Hall
- Social worker Katie Peck
- Reading teacher Beth Rothberg
- Social studies teacher Rob Sarneckis
- Math teacher Jacob Taylor. ■

## HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNITION

### VALEDICTORIAN AIDAN CONOVER

**Aidan Conover**, son of Diane and Roland Conover, will be attending St. John Fisher College's Ralph C. Wilson Jr. School of Education to major in Inclusive Adolescence Education and Mathematics in the fall.

#### Activities and achievements

**include:** Yearbook Club, Environmental Club, Band, Chorus, the Mary Hicks Preston Jr. Board, the Principal's Advisory Group, and Midlakes Theatre Experience. He is also the Treasurer of National Honor Society, was nominated for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar, is on the Midlakes Varsity Volleyball Team, and helps coach volleyball for camps throughout the year. Aidan received the Hands of Christ Award from the Diocese of Rochester, as well as Outstanding Supporting Actor from the Rochester Broadway Theatre League's Stars of Tomorrow. He has run sound for the Phelps-Clifton Springs Community Theatre's production of "Mamma Mia" and is a mathematics tutor. ■



ester Broadway Theatre League's Stars of Tomorrow. He has run sound for the Phelps-Clifton Springs Community Theatre's production of "Mamma Mia" and is a mathematics tutor. ■

### SALUTATORIAN ELENA GRAF

**Elena Graf**, daughter of Carrie and Daniel Graf, will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University's College of Humanities and Sciences to major in Forensic Biology.

#### Activities and achievements

**include:** Varsity Cross Country and National Honor Society, Art Club, Vocal Jazz, Cabaret, and the Midlakes Theatre Experience. She gives back to her community through volunteer work. For years, she has participated in such community service projects as the annual Adopt-a-Family Christmas shopping, Midlakes softball tournament concession volunteer, and she has designed and painted two murals for local businesses. Elena is most proud of her involvement with the New Visions Medical Career Program at Geneva General Hospital. She



has earned over 150 clinical service hours by providing quality and compassionate care to real patients. She plans to attend medical school after undergraduate studies to become a Forensic Pathologist. ■

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