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# MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE III  
MAY 2023

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## FIND MORE AT MIDLAKES.ORG



**VIDEO:** Midlakes staff and students come together for a fun game of basketball to raise funds for the United Way and the Midlakes Athletic Leadership Organization.



**VIDEO:** Watch as the Art Club at Midlakes Elementary School paints a new, colorful mural in the 'Eagle' cafeteria.

# Annual VOTE

TUESDAY,  
MAY 16

NOON - 9 P.M.

Midlakes Middle School Gymnasium

**D**uring its April 17 meeting, the Board of Education adopted an approximately \$44.47 million budget for the 2023-2024 school year that will be put to a vote on Tuesday, May 16. The proposal calls for a 2% tax levy increase, which is well below the District's tax cap limit set by the state.

Voters will also be asked to elect two candidates to three-year terms on the Board of Education, approve a proposition to purchase five new buses, and establish a capital reserve fund to offset future capital improvement projects.

A separate funding measure for the Clifton Springs Library and Phelps Community Memorial Library will also be on the ballot. The District hosts the vote for the libraries, but the 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). ■

**2%**  
Proposed 2023-2024  
tax levy increase.\*

## BUDGET HEARING

6 p.m.,  
Monday, May 8,  
BOE room.

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

## HIGHLIGHTS



## FREE MEALS FOR STUDENTS RETURN

The Food Service Department expects to prepare approximately 6,000 meals from March through the end of the academic year under a plan approved by the State Education Department's Office of Child Nutrition to provide free meals at school.

The meals are being paid through excess fund balance resulting from higher than average reimbursement rates related to the Federal Free Meal Program.

Families with questions, may contact Director of Food and Nutrition Jil Swarthout at (315) 548-6415 or [jswarthout@midlakes.org](mailto:jswarthout@midlakes.org).

## ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCHES BEGIN

A comprehensive process to fill two key administrative openings began shortly after the Board of Education accepted the resignations of Middle/High School Principal Frank Bai-Rossi and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Michelle Robinette during its March meeting.

Bai-Rossi has agreed to stay with the District through the end of the academic year while Robinette left in April to take a position with the Greater Southern Tier BOCES.

Interviews for both positions began in April with the goal of naming replacements soon. Input from school stakeholders will guide the selection process for both positions.

## 2023-2024 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

# A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

With guidance from the Board of Education, we are excited to present the community a budget that helps us set our educational priorities for the upcoming year, addresses student and program needs, and keeps us focused on our responsibility to local taxpayers.

Even under difficult inflationary trends and some uneasiness in the economy, we are proposing to leverage long-promised Foundation Aid from the state to minimize the impact on local property taxes to support academics, social-emotional learning, athletics, arts, and extra-curricular activities in our schools.

The 2023-2024 budget will also help us meet the demand of another double-digit increase in health-care costs along with increased costs due to an increased demand by our students for services provided in partnership with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES.



This budget proposal builds upon a multi-year strategy to ensure a sound fiscal foundation for the future by reducing our use of reserve funds, continuing a cycle of phasing out old buses, and establishing a capital reserve account to plan for future construction/renovations.

Building a budget involves input from many different stakeholders. We've met with the Board of Education, staff and have received feedback from community members.

If you'd like to share your thoughts on the budget, please consider attending a public hearing on Monday, May 8, at 6 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room (room 103) at Midlakes Elementary School.

Future details on the 2023-2024 budget are below, in this edition of the *Midlakes Journal* and on our website at [Midlakes.org/AnnualVote](http://Midlakes.org/AnnualVote).

— Nick Ganster, Superintendent

## ANNUAL VOTE HIGHLIGHTS

### Property Taxes

By strategically allocating our state Foundation Aid, we built a budget that will accomplish our educational goals with a tax levy increase of 2%, which is well below current inflationary trends and our tax cap threshold of 4.56% set by the state.



### Use of Reserves

This budget resets the use of District reserve funds, which had increased out of necessity over the last seven years, by cutting the use of reserves from \$1,149,575 in 2022-2023 to \$649,575 in 2023-2024.



### Federally Funded Positions

The 2023-2024 budget proposal sustains our commitment to providing a high-level of service by bringing 13 grant funded positions into the general budget. Funding for these positions were added with federal COVID relief aid set to expire soon.

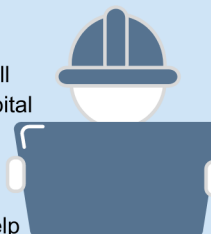


### Other Positions

The budget calls for three new positions to handle increased demand of services. The District proposes to hire a network technician, a special education teacher, and add an elementary school teacher to address an enrollment bubble.

### New Reserve Account

A proposition on the ballot will plant the seeds for future capital construction/renovations by establishing a new capital reserve account with a cap of \$8 million. The fund will help ensure that future capital projects have no impact on taxes for property owners.



### Bus Purchases

A proposition to fund the purchase (\$824,130) of five new buses (four, 70-passenger buses and a 60-passenger wheelchair accessible bus). State aid would cover 90% of the cost and bring a net cost of \$82,413 over five years to the District.





## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

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

### What are the highlights of this year's budget?

In 2007, New York State created Foundation Aid as a way of determining the amount of school aid given to districts each year. Unfortunately, the formula was never followed and several districts across the state, including Phelps-Clifton Springs CSD, were underfunded year after year. For the first time since the creation of this formula, our District is getting its full allocation of Foundation Aid. The District plans to use these funds to address key areas of the budget while ensuring a high-quality educational plan for all students.

**How will the proposed budget affect property owners?** The \$44,472,644 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 2022-2023 school year, residents can expect to see an average increase of \$53.27 with no STAR exemption, \$36.66 more if they qualify for the STAR exemption, or \$16.62 more if they qualify for the enhanced STAR exemption. Keep in mind that the equalization rates and overall assessments across the seven municipalities have not yet been released for 2023-2024.

### What expenditures are increasing the most?

During the 2022-2023 school year, healthcare under the Finger Lakes Area School Health Plan (FLASHP) went up 21.9%. For the 2023-2024 school year, health care is increasing another 12% or \$297,092. This represents nearly a 36.5% increase over the past two years. Our debt service as a result of capital projects has increased by \$1,018,513. We have also seen a significant increase in special education services to address increased student needs through Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES in the amount of \$989,370.

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

The District works to ensure the safety of students and staff by using a ten-year rotation to purchase new buses as it phases out aging models. In order to continue this cycle, the District will spend up to \$824,130 out of its Bus Purchase Reserve Fund to purchase five buses, specifically four 70-passenger, and one 60-passenger wheelchair-accessible bus. The state provides 90% aid reimbursement over five years for the purchase of buses. The net cost to the District after state aid will be \$82,413 out of the reserve fund.

### Why is the District not investing in electric buses?

One of the key factors in this decision is that there are still many challenges with adopting electric buses namely: supply chain issues with electric buses and charging stations, demand on the power grid, new fire suppression systems, and increased costs of buses and insurance. In addition, as part of the current Capital Project, the District installed a fueling station to help with purchasing diesel at state contract pricing.

### How is the tax levy limit for the District 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 previous years. However, it can be no greater than 1.5% of the prior year's tax levy limit. The District has \$232,280 in carryover from 2022-2023, resulting in a tax levy limit for the upcoming school year of \$15,855,789 for a 4.56% annual increase. **For 2023-2024, the District is proposing a school tax levy of \$15,468,237 representing a 2% increase over the previous year.** ■

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ANNUAL VOTE SUMMARY

**BUDGET:** \$44,472,644

**TAX LEVY INCREASE:**

2% over 2022-2023

**STATE AID:** \$27,558,412

(\$4,158,730 more than 2022-2023)

**RESERVE SPENDING:** \$649,575

(\$500,000 less than 2022-2023)

**BUDGET HEARING:** A budget hearing will be held in the Board of Education Meeting Room in Midlakes Elementary School at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 8.

**IN-PERSON VOTING:** Noon to 9 p.m., Tuesday May 16, Middle School Gymnasium.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Absentee ballots are due to the District Clerk by 4 p.m., May 15. Ballots may need to be hand-delivered if not sent to the Post Office in a timely manner.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Residents qualify to participate in the annual 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:

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

## ITEMS ON THE BALLOT

### DISTRICT BUDGET

To approve the proposed 2023-2024 school budget and authorize the requisite portion to be raised by taxation on the taxable property.

### CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Authorize the Board of Education to establish a new ten-year capital reserve pursuant in an amount not to exceed \$8 million plus accrued interest and investment earnings to be used for renovations, additions and related expenses to all District facilities.

The reserve will be funded from year-end surplus funds, transfers of excess monies from Board of Education, amounts from budgetary appropriations, and state aid received and made available by the Board of Education, all as permitted by law.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Elect two members to the Board of Education for three-year terms, commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026. The seats are currently held by Matthew Murphy and Jamie McCarrick.

### BUS PURCHASE

Authorize the Board of Education to purchase four 70-passenger diesel school buses and a 60-passenger wheelchair accessible diesel school bus, including related furnishings and equipment, not to exceed \$824,130.

### COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

A separate proposition for the approval of \$180,000 annually to be contributed to support the Clifton Springs Library in the amount of \$90,000, and to the Phelps Community Memorial Library in the amount of \$90,000. ■



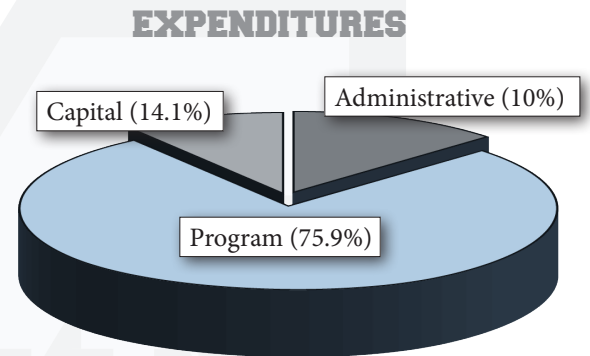
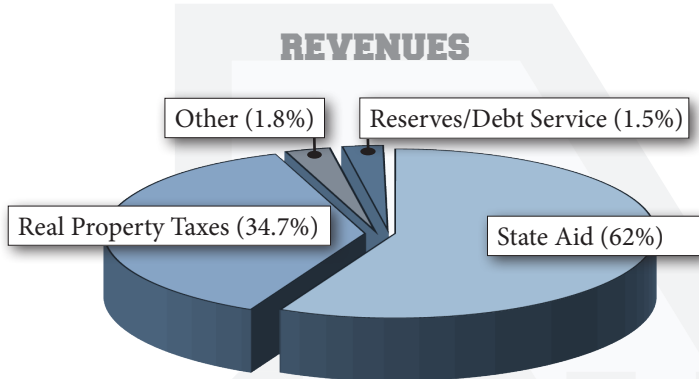
# BUDGET PROPOSAL

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 REVENUE

CATEGORY	2022-2023	2023-2024	INCREASE (DECREASE)
State Aid	\$23,399,682	\$27,558,412	\$4,158,730
Real Property Taxes	\$15,164,938	\$15,468,237	\$303,299
Reserves/Debt Service	\$1,149,575	\$649,575	(\$500,000)
Other	\$922,126	\$796,420	(\$125,706)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$40,636,321</b>	<b>\$44,472,644</b>	<b>\$3,836,323</b>



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

## EXPENDITURES

### ADMINISTRATIVE

CATEGORY	2022-2023	2023-2024	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Board of Education	\$83,741	\$96,972	\$13,231
Central Administration & Finance	\$784,297	\$834,586	\$50,289
Legal, Personnel, Public Information	\$207,930	\$231,240	\$23,310
Central Services & Special Items	\$818,250	\$918,203	\$99,953
Curriculum, Supervision, Research & Planning	\$1,199,578	\$1,296,342	\$96,764
Employee Benefits	\$965,914	\$1,067,743	\$101,829
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,059,710</b>	<b>\$4,445,086</b>	<b>\$385,376</b>

### PROGRAM

CATEGORY	2022-2023	2023-2024	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Staff Development & Training - Regular School	\$11,676,988	\$12,213,765	\$536,777
Programs for Students with Disabilities	\$6,610,508	\$7,866,271	\$1,255,763
Pupil Personnel, Guidance & Health Services	\$979,027	\$1,125,173	\$146,146
Athletics	\$525,456	\$621,690	\$96,234
Transportation	\$1,888,069	\$1,941,521	\$53,452
Employee Benefits	\$9,727,842	\$10,007,370	\$279,528
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$31,407,890</b>	<b>\$33,775,790</b>	<b>\$2,367,900</b>

### CAPITAL

CATEGORY	2022-2023	2023-2024	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$2,430,533	\$2,483,068	\$52,535
Employee Benefits	\$675,288	\$687,287	\$11,999
Debt Service & Bus Purchases	\$2,062,900	\$3,081,413	\$1,018,513
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,168,721</b>	<b>\$6,251,768</b>	<b>\$1,083,047</b>

## TOTAL BUDGET

	2022-2023	2023-2024	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$40,636,321</b>	<b>\$44,472,644</b>	<b>\$3,836,323</b>

Expenditures rounded to the nearest whole dollar



# BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

*Voters will elect two (2) individuals. Board members serve without pay and are listed in order of appearance on the ballot.*



**LYNN  
LEBRECHT**

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

**Occupation/Career:**

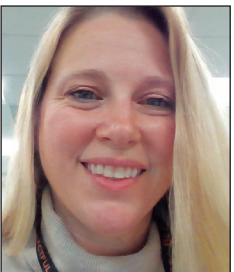
Staff Social Worker at Ontario County Mental Health.

**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 to 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.



**HEATHER  
ROCKEFELLER**

**Family:** Husband, Timothy; son, Levi; niece, Donavynne.

**Occupation/Career:**  
Director of Operations'  
Clifton Springs Hearing

Center and Business Teacher, Waterloo High School.

**Qualifications and Activities:**

I have over 20 years of experience in management, which includes human resources, budgeting, marketing, and data analysis. I have served as an adjunct at Finger Lakes Community College and now teach both high school level and Gemini courses with a focus on financial management. Additionally, I am the central treasurer for Waterloo Student Activities. In the past I have volunteered as a YMCA youth basketball coach for both boys and girls.

**Personal Statement:**

I am a Midlakes graduate and a lifelong member of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District. I believe it is important to be involved and I look forward to sharing my experience to help ensure our District continues to provide what our kids need in a safe, enriching environment.



**DEB  
GALLIHER**

**Family:** Husband, Jeremy; and son, Gavin.

**Occupation/Career:**  
Regional Director at  
AJ Letizio Sales and  
Marketing.

**Qualifications and Activities:**

Clifton Springs YMCA board member (4 years), committee member of Clifton Springs Troop 50/6059 (3 years), youth baseball coach (7 years), former board member for Midlakes Babe Ruth (7 years), former committee member/Leader Cub Scout Pack 69 (3 years).

**Personal Statement:**

Investing in our youth and community has

always been one of my top priorities as a parent, coach, and active community member. If elected, I am committed to advocating for each student to have an equitable opportunity to receive an excellent education that will help them succeed in the classroom and in their future. I also understand the importance of a strong partnership between the school, parents, and the community. I will continue to work to strengthen those relationships to provide more opportunities for our students. We must work together to create the best possible future for each student.



**JAMIE  
McCARRICK**

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

**Occupation/  
Career:** State  
Correction Officer,

retired from the U.S. Army.

**Qualifications and Activities:**

Current sitting school board member, volunteer varsity football coach, and volunteer JV baseball coach.

**Personal Statement:**

I am running to keep my seat on the board so I can continue to be a voice for the students as well as the residents of the Midlakes school district. I want to help ensure that the experience our students receive at our schools is safe, positive, and exciting. I also want to be a voice for all of our extra-curricular activities at all levels, which I believe is a cornerstone to our children's success. ■

## WE'RE HIRING

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SUPPORTIVE TEAM

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HOLIDAYS & TIME OFF  
AND MUCH MORE!



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INFORMATION, VISIT [MIDLAKES.ORG/JOBS](http://MIDLAKES.ORG/JOBS)





# WE ARE MID

## STUDENTS TASTE RESTAURANT LIFE

Culinary Arts students developed a menu, learned about food costs, took orders from teachers and staff, and prepared meals as part of a restaurant service project at Midlakes High School.

The project included six weeks of menus with various soups, salads, sandwiches, entrees, and desserts offered under the guidance of Culinary Arts teacher Ron Lombardo. ■

## SECONDARY SCHOOL HOSTS CAREER FAIR

Students in grades 7-12 filled the middle school cafeteria just prior to April recess to visit more than a dozen local businesses specializing in health care, tourism, food service, construction, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and more, as part of a career day to learn about local jobs. ■



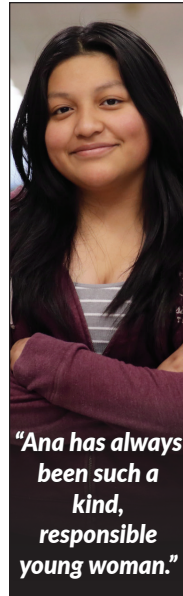
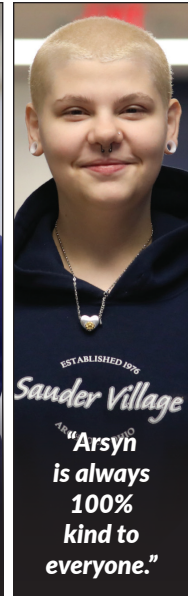
## STUDENTS TREAT TEACHERS TO SPA DAY

Julieangeliz Vellon was joined by Celimar Hernandez-Acevedo and Laura Rugiero-Altez, Ana Bravo-Rojas and Ashley Orozco-Aguilar in transforming a room in the high school into a salon.

Vellon, a first-year cosmetology student at the Finger Lakes Technical and Career Center, was joined by the other Midlakes students to learn more about running a salon. The students, all English as a New Language learners, practiced conversational English skills while cleaning cuticles, styling hair, and more. ■

## AG CLUB TRAVELS TO LOCAL FARMS

Midlakes Agriculture Club visited five local farms in February and March to learn about the techniques and technologies used in the goods they produce and their impact on the local economy. The farms produce everything from goat dairy, soaps and lotions to various grades and flavors of maple syrup, blueberries, garlic, pumpkins, mushrooms, Christmas trees and more. ■



## CELEBRATING

Midlakes PTO has recognized Brock Ford, Thomas Amador Mendietz, Ana Bravo Rojas, Arsyn Ocasio, Sophia Schutt, and Alexis Kopetchny for exhibiting positive core values of **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, INDEPENDENCE, and KINDNESS** at school.

The values were developed with community input and serve as guideposts for the types of behavior all students (UPK-12) should strive for at school.

To reinforce these values, Midlakes PTO selects two

## VOYAGE AU QUEBEC



Madame Shenton and 31 French students traveled to Québec, Canada, to experience French culture, practice French language skills, and make maple syrup. They also toured the St. Lawrence River, led their own dog sled teams, discovered snowshoeing, and visited the world-famous Ice Hotel. For many students it was their first opportunity to visit a foreign country and interact with people using a different language. ■



# MIDLAKES!



**"Thomas displays all of Midlakes core four values."**



**"Alexis displayed all four values by working to give back to her school."**



**"Sophia NEVER hesitates to help me in the classroom."**

## CARABALLO REPEATS AT SPELLING BEE

Alejandro Caraballo defended his Spelling Bee championship after a lengthy 21-round competition in the Midlakes High School Auditorium.

The sixth-grader correctly spelled "fanfic," a noun meaning stories involving popular fictional characters that are written by fans and often posted on the Internet. Graham Wakley finished second and Liberty Wickings finished third in the competition of 35 student spellers, which is part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. ■



## HIGHLIGHTS



## FORD RECEIVES AWARDS

Camryn Ford, a senior at Midlakes High School, received two prestigious awards during the second annual Wayne-Finger Lakes Superintendent Award Program Celebration and Reception.

Ford was one of just 25 students in the Wayne-Finger Lakes region to receive a Superintendent Award, given to a student with a strong academic track record who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities and consistently places others' needs before their own.

She was also one of five students from the region to receive an additional scholarship on the night. Ford was awarded a scholarship sponsored by Watchdog Building Partners. Midlakes Superintendent Nick Ganster attended the reception along with Finger Lakes Community College President Dr. Robert Nye, who helped recognize Ford. ■

## THE ARTS TAKE CENTER STAGE

Several seniors have artwork on display as part of a student showcase at Main Street Arts, 20 W. Main St. in Clifton Springs. The exhibit kicked off with an opening reception on April 29 and continues through June 7.

Also, visual and performing arts students partnered with the Phelps Historical Society in April for an evening of exhibits by students in grades 7-12, performances by middle school band members, and artifacts from the Phelps Historical Society at the Howe House Museum, 66 Main St., Phelps. ■

## OUR VALUES

students per month to receive a special prize and each honoree is recognized by the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education.

Community members, businesses, civic and community-based organizations are invited to nominate students.

Nominations will be accepted through May using the online form at [Midlakes.org/Page/4933](https://midlakes.org/Page/4933). For more information, email [MidlakesPTO@gmail.com](mailto:MidlakesPTO@gmail.com). ■



## VISITING COMPOSER SHARES MUSIC LESSON

Great music comes from a storyline, emotion, and the ability of a musician to perform independently within the confines of the notes and music that they are playing, visiting composer Tom Davis told middle school musicians during a lesson on performance and composition.

Davis also shared some of the considerations a composer must decide when writing music, such as the purpose of the composition, the strengths and weakness of the performers, the length of a composition, and more. ■

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK COVER ART SELECTED

The first thing students in grades 7-8 will notice when they pick up their yearbooks at the end of the year is a piece of artwork by eighth grader Natyiah Velazquez.

In February, a committee picked her hand-drawn cover for the 2023 Midlakes Middle School Yearbook from about a dozen submissions to the yearbook committee, which includes yearbook advisors Julie Pastore and Laura Robbins-Milliman.

Velazquez sketched out her design and also turned to the computer to add different typefaces to the cover art. ■



# SOARING TO THE TOP



Midlakes' Indoor Track and Field teams had a season that will go down in the record books after the boys and girls squads won the Class A3 team championship for the first time in school history.

The boys were paced by senior Tyler Lantrip who finished first in the shot put and weight throw. Senior Katelyn Wilkes took individual titles in the 3,000- and 1,500-meter runs. Junior Alyssa Crance won the girls 600-meter dash and freshman Aidan Bryant won the individual long jump crown.

Bryant, who set a state record for freshmen, went on to compete in the state indoor meet and the New Balance Nationals Indoor meet, where he finished first among all freshmen in the long jump. Both teams were coached by Aidan Cort and Isaiah Martin. ■



## BOYS INDOOR TRACK

**THE 2023 BOYS TEAM:** JW Smith, Ethan Ruggles, Noah Frere, Dan Spruill, Kyle Hey, Andrew Briggs, Jack DeJonge, Aiden Budd, Paul Lee, Tyler Lantrip, Zach Rozelle, Tyler McCarri, and Aidan Bryant.



## GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

**THE 2023 GIRLS TEAM:** Sienna Lowe, Emily Meath, Lilly Hargather, Katelyn Wilkes, Callie Walker, Alyssa Crance, Hailey Barber, Kenzie Turner, Kianna Naval, Hayden Wells, Heather Belcher, Karen Heffron, Mari Spooner, Jenny Iraci, Emma Ubbink and Elizabeth Elling.

## COACHES OF THE YEAR

Midlakes saw three of its varsity coaches earn Coach of the Year honors.

**AIDAN CORT**  
Indoor track

**JACK HAUBER**  
Swim

**SCOTT MONAGLE**  
Bowling

## SCHOLAR SQUADS

Four varsity programs and nearly 60 varsity student-athletes were recognized for outstanding academic achievement during the winter season by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

### SCHOLAR TEAMS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

**96.17**  
GPA

GIRLS BOWLING

**95.63**  
GPA

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

**94.96**  
GPA

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

**90.02**  
GPA

Midlakes' Indoor Track and Field teams set a total of 13 school records during the winter season, which includes Tyler Lantrip's records in the weight throw and shot put. Also, the boys swim team set two pool records!!



Scan the QR Code to meet the individual Scholar-Athletes.



## HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Two students from Midlakes High School performed in a winter concert with the Hochstein Youth Wind Symphony, leading a talented list of vocalists and instrumentalists from Midlakes recognized for outstanding musicianship.

**Matt Cannan**, euphonium, and **Nicole Szalay**, French horn, performed with the Hochstein youth symphony in February. Cannan was also named to the Area All State Senior High School Band, along with **Samantha Baker**.

Szalay was named to Area All State Treble Choir and to the All County Senior High School Band. Also, **Danny Spruill** was named to Area All State Mixed Choir and **Brian Cannan** to the Area All State Middle School Band.

Students named to All County included:

- **HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA:**  
Ian Gonzalez Jr.
- **SENIOR HIGH BAND:** Cadence Spence, Samantha Baker, Nicole Szalay, Kyle Bell, Carter Maslyn, John Finewood, Sean White, and Aaron Gonzalez.
- **SENIOR HIGH VOCAL JAZZ:**  
Carissa Brooks, Danny Spruill, and Kaylee Williams.
- **JUNIOR HIGH BAND:** Duke Van Savage (lead trumpet)
- **JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS:** Isabelle Bollinger, Maryalice Busby, Allison DeRuyter, and Maddison Stratton.
- **ELEMENTARY BAND:** Lilly Tidd, Aiden Curran, James Stratton, and Eleanor Foster.
- **ELEMENTARY CHORUS:**  
Madison Alcock, Alecia Bultron, Alexandria Bultron, Sophie Caves, Liesl Dorr, Reese Haynes, Hayden Lawson, Audriana Malone, Logan McGuire, Sophia Schutt, Alivia Sinack, and Liberty Wickings. ■

## MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

Junior Karen Heffron performs her original piece "I Adore" during a concert by the High School's Vocal Jazz ensemble at Ashton Place Senior Living. ■



## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

- Elementary School Concert: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 18.
- Middle/High School Chorus: 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 24.
- Middle/High School Band: 7 p.m., Thursday, June 1.
- Middle/High School Jazz Band: 7 p.m., Thursday, June 15.\*

\* United Church of Phelps



PROVIDED PHOTO

## TRAVELING BAND

The High School Band packed its instruments for an educational and rewarding trip of performances, rehearsals and sightseeing in March. Led by music instructor Jim Trowbridge, and others, the band's itinerary included:

- A visit to the Natural History and American History Smithsonian museums in Washington D.C.
- A composer's workshop at George Mason University.
- A stop in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.
- A performance at Busch Gardens and a visit to the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. ■



## HIGHLIGHTS



## SUMMER SWIM AT THE MAC

The Midlakes Aquatic Center is offering three sessions of summer swim classes for children ages six months to high school, in addition to ongoing water aerobics, open and lap swim sessions.

- **Session 1:** July 3-14 (no swim on July 4) and is \$60.
- **Session 2:** July 17-21 (\$35)
- **Session 3:** July 24-28 (\$35)

Registration for these programs are accepted on a first-come, first-serves basis and are separate from the YMCA Swim Club. For complete course information, descriptions and times, visit [Midlakes.org/AquaticCenter](http://Midlakes.org/AquaticCenter).

Also, ongoing swim programs will continue through July 28 under the following schedule.

- **Water Aerobics:** 7:30-8:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- **Open Swim:** 6-8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday.
- **Lap Swim,** 6-7:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 6-8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday.

A **Midlakes Youth Swim Camp** will be held after school for those in grades 3-8 from May 1-11 (\$25). Available to students who can swim one length of the pool unassisted. Busing from Midlakes Elementary School will be provided.

For more information on any of these programs, call Jack Hauber at (315) 548-6451, email [jhauber@midlakes.org](mailto:jhauber@midlakes.org) or visit [Midlakes.org/AquaticCenter](http://Midlakes.org/AquaticCenter). ■

## LOOKING AHEAD

## 2023-2024 CALENDAR

The Board of Education approved at its April 17 meeting the District calendar for the 2023-2024 academic year. Below are a few highlights:

**First Day of School:** Students to report on Thursday, Sept. 7.  
**Superintendent Conference Days:** Staff only. No students on Tuesday, Sept. 5; Wednesday, Sept. 6; Friday, Oct. 6; and Friday, March 15.

**Thanksgiving Break:** No school on November 22-24.

**Winter Break:** No school on Friday, Dec. 22 - Monday, Jan. 1. School reopens Tuesday, Jan. 2.

**February Break:** No school on February 19-23.

**Spring Break:** No school on Friday, March 29 - Monday, April 8. School reopens April 9.

**Holidays:** Columbus/Indigenous People's Day, October 9; Veterans Day, November 10; Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15; Memorial Day, May 27; Juneteenth, June 19.

**Elementary half days:** December 5-7, March 12-14, June 24-26.

All school events and dates are subject to change. Contact your child's school for additional information. View District calendars and sports schedules at [Midlakes.org/Page/2](http://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 protected our country. Contact school for more information.

**DATE:** Thursday, May 25. ■

## COMMENCEMENT

Show your pride in all that the Class of 2023 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](http://Midlakes.org) for more information.

**DATE:** Ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 24. ■



## THIS MONTH &amp; NEXT

## » MAY

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROLLER SKATING

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

## AP EXAMS

May 1 - May 12

## BUDGET HEARING

6 p.m., May 8  
 (BOE meeting follows)

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

6:30 p.m., May 9

## GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION CEREMONY

May 12

## DISTRICT VOTE

Noon - 9 p.m., May 16

## BOARD MEETING

6:30 p.m., May 24  
 (Only if budget is defeated)

## MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

May 25

## MEMORIAL DAY

(NO SCHOOL)  
 May 29

## » JUNE

## BOARD MEETING

6:30 p.m., June 12

## REGENTS EXAMS

June 14-22

## SECOND GRADE TRACK MEET

June 15

## JUNETEENTH

(NO SCHOOL)  
 June 19

## UPDATED: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALF DAYS

June 20-23

## COMMENCEMENT

7 p.m., June 24

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



# GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION

**A** world-class musician, a successful entrepreneur, and a graduate who overcame a near-death tragedy were recently named Graduates of Distinction from Midlakes High School.

The program, established in 2016, recognizes successful alumni of Midlakes High School for achieving various civic, professional, or other accomplishments and serving as models for current students at the school.

The Class of 2023 includes Hal Smith, the founder and CEO of Halco Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling; Lisa Albrecht, a musician with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; and Kevin Royston, a Winter X Games medalist.

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



**HAL SMITH**  
CLASS OF 1980



**LISA ALBRECHT**  
CLASS OF 1982



**KEVIN ROYSTON**  
CLASS OF 1988



## SCAN THE CODE

Scan the QR code with your device or go to [Midlakes.org/domain/2057](https://Midlakes.org/domain/2057) for more information on the inductees, tickets to the 2023 reception or to submit a nomination.

## HIGHLIGHTS



## JOHN LOMBARDI PRAISED FOR WORK

Midlakes' athletic director has been recognized by a group of his peers for providing outstanding leadership, mentorship, and for bringing about positive change in athletics throughout the region.

John Lombardi was named the 2023 Judith Knight Award recipient from Chapter 5 of the New York State Athletic Administrators Association, a group within Section V supporting professional growth, program ideas, and leadership opportunities for local athletic directors.

Knight taught, coached, and later became the athletic director of Edison Tech High School. She was known for having a positive impact on athletics, particularly female athletics, and was the first female president of Section V.

Lombardi joined Midlakes in 2006 as a physical education teacher and served as a Dean of Students from 2013 to 2017 prior to becoming the athletic director in early 2017.

He has been involved in several leadership roles with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section V, and the Wayne-Finger Lakes League while working to expand athletic opportunities for students.

He is also vice president of Wayne-Finger Lakes League, treasurer/membership chairperson of the Chapter 5 administrator's association, and "has been an exceptional mentor to many of athletic directors," according to his nomination. ■

## SAFETY is Everyone's Responsibility

**THE SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE®**  
*It's free and confidential 24/7*

Let us know **ANONYMOUSLY** when you know of anything that threatens the safety of our school.

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## HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNITION

### VALEDICTORIAN CAMRYN FORD

**CAMRYN FORD**, the daughter of Valerie Adams and Eric Ford, plans to attend either Daemen University or the Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall. She has been accepted into the five-year Physician Assistant Studies BS/MS program, the major she plans to pursue at each university.

#### Activities and achievements

**include:** Student Council, Midlakes Athletic Leadership Organization, National Honor Society, the Mary Hicks Preston Jr. Board, and has been the Class Officer/Secretary for the past two years. She attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar, received the George Eastman Young Leaders Award, as well as the Wayne-Finger Lakes Superintendent Award. She currently attends the New Visions Health



Therapy Sciences at the Finger Lakes Technical and Career Center. Camryn played basketball, soccer and was on the indoor track and field team. ■

### SALUTATORIAN AMELIA WILKES

**AMELIA WILKES**, the daughter of Amber and William Wilkes, is considering attending either Rochester Institute of Technology or Binghamton University. She plans to major in communications or hospitality and tourism.

#### Activities and achievements

**include:** Rotary Interact Club co-vice president and has volunteered at Rotary's chicken barbecue, roller skating parties and Santa's Secret Shop at Midlakes Elementary School. Amelia has cleaned up the Ontario County Pathway for Earth Day, wrote holiday cards to those in nursing homes, and participated in the annual Festival of Lights bake sale. She's a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, the Yearbook Club, co-editor of the Newspaper



Club, and was the student director of the 2023 production of "Mama Mia!" Amelia participated in Varsity Volleyball and the Seneca Strikers Club Volleyball. ■



PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432

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