

SOUNDINGS

Hendrick Hudson School District

2013-2014 BUDGET EDITION

District To Meet Tax Cap

While Maintaining Programs

On Tuesday May 21, 2013, district residents will go to the polls to vote on the Hendrick Hudson School District's \$72,117,785 spending plan for the 2013-14 school year. Now in our second year of budgeting under the New York State Tax Cap guidelines, the district continues to propose an increase in the tax levy that does not exceed the tax cap limit.

Under the tax cap guidelines, school districts need to limit their tax levy increase to about 2%. For Hen Hud, due to the complex nature of the state tax cap formula that takes into account exemptions, debt service and some other factors, the 2013-14 tax levy increase will be only 0.74%. BOCES has confirmed that this is the lowest tax levy increase of any district in Westchester, Putnam and Rockland counties.

With salaries and benefits comprising over 70% of the budget (see pie chart), a tax levy increase that low is a challenge to meet without impacting staffing. The district is pleased to report that no staffing cuts were necessary due to budget constraints. This is largely due to union concessions made in prior years that have resulted in relatively small salary increases, for which the district remains grateful. However, the budget does include a potential reduction of three elementary teaching positions due to declining enrollment. Dr. Brian Monahan, Interim Superintendent of Schools, remarked, "There will be a reduction in the number of teaching staff, but that will be a result of reduced enrollment rather than budget cuts. Regardless, those reductions are difficult." He continued, "(W)e have been able to maintain our programs in curricular and extra-curricular areas. We will not be eliminating courses or increasing class size. We will also be able to keep programs in sports, drama, music and other areas at the same level."

(Cont'd on page 2)

Budget Summary

2013-2014 Proposed Budget

\$72,117,785

2012-2013 Approved Budget:

\$70,603,157

Budget to Budget Increase:

2.15%

Estimated Tax Rate Increase (Decrease):

Cortlandt Peekskill

1.00% (2.93%)

School Budget & Bus Proposition

VOTE TUESDAY,

MAY 21st

Frank G. Lindsey School

Montrose, NY

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

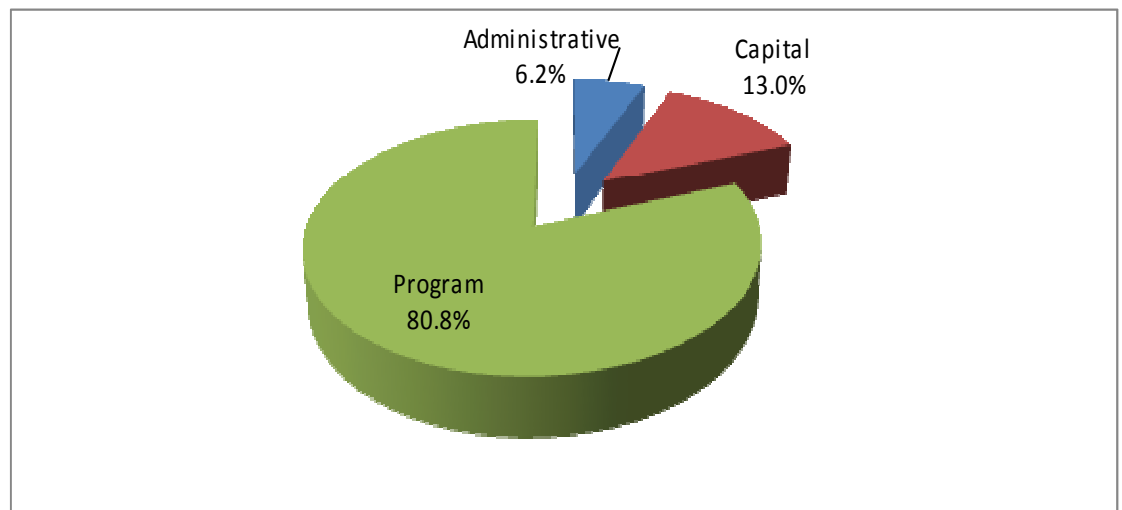
Bus Proposition also on Ballot

Each year as part of the annual budget vote, the Hendrick Hudson School District has asked voters to approve modest propositions to fund the replacement of aging school buses as part of our district-wide fleet management plan.

This year, voters are being asked to vote on a bond proposition of up to \$555,000 to support the purchase of four buses, as well as equipment for the bus garage. According to Enrique Catalan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, “The buses we are proposing to replace are between 13 and 15 years old and average 100,000 miles or more per vehicle.”

Approximately \$540,000 of the proposition would go toward the purchase of new full-size buses. The administration is currently looking into the costs vs. the benefits of purchasing either additional ‘pushers’ (buses with the motor in the rear), which makes up the majority of our current bus fleet, or conventional buses with the motor in the front. The difference in cost per bus is approximately \$17,000, with the conventional bus being the less expensive option. However, the capacity of conventional buses is 72, compared to 75 for the ‘pushers.’ Depending on which buses are ultimately purchased, the amount expended may be less than the amount of the proposition, in which case the total amount of the bonds issued will also be lower.

2013-2014 Proposed Budget by Expense Category



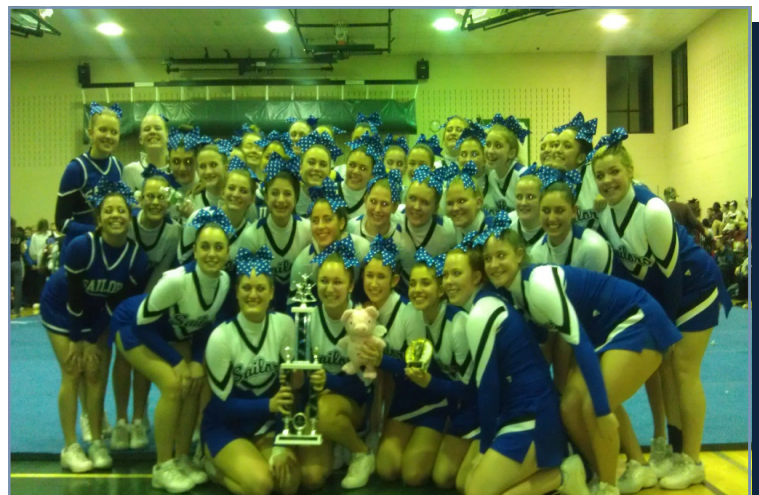
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The budget also includes the reinstatement of the district’s elementary librarian to full-time status. While it does not restore the library program to historical levels, it will allow every child to have access to the library on a consistent basis going forward.

On the revenue side, as is the case with many districts state-wide, Hen Hud will receive an increase in state aid for 2013-14. This is a welcome relief after many years of cuts in state aid that have forced the district not only to make deep budget and staffing cuts, but also to deplete its reserves. In order to improve the district’s financial stability, the Board of Education intends to set aside a portion of this money to increase our reserve funds. These reserve funds will help to lower future tax increases. The budget also includes the use of a portion of the district’s general fund balance in order to avoid going over the tax cap. The amount to be utilized this year, \$1.13 million, is the same amount as was utilized in last year’s budget.

Cost containment and careful budgeting have enabled the district to present the lowest tax levy increase in the tri-county area. All district staff played a part in and can be

proud of this achievement. By working together in a spirit of compromise, the Hendrick Hudson School District has once again been able to present a budget that stays within the tax cap limit.



HHHS Sailors Cheer Competition team celebrate their win at the CNY Cheer Empire Championship held in Utica, NY in February

A Message from Dr. Brian Monahan, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Dear Friends,



First, let me begin this letter by thanking the residents of the Hen Hud community for making me feel so welcome in the district. Although my time here has been relatively short, I will look back on it as one of the high points of my career. I am proud of the fact that we have worked together to move Hen Hud forward despite numerous challenges.

The proposed budget on which you will vote represents our best efforts to balance the needs of our students with the concerns of our taxpayers. The increase in the tax levy is well under one percent. That increase is the lowest in the region. The budget does not include any major increases in programs or personnel, but it will allow us to maintain what we have and continue to provide our students with a quality education. The budget will also let us maintain the level of sports and co-curricular activities which we offer. As those of you who know me are aware, I am a strong believer in the value of having students involved in their school. Research has shown that students who participate in sports and other activities earn higher grades and get involved in fewer negative activities.

This budget process has been lengthy. I appreciate the members of the community that have come to Board meetings to offer input. I also appreciate those of you who attended one of the many meet-and-greets which we hosted to gain informal input. The input of residents was critical in helping the Board and me make the difficult decisions that had to be made.

Some areas of the budget are beyond the District's control. For example, there has been a significant increase in what we must pay into the retirement systems. In order to keep the increase in the tax levy so low, we had to hold the line on virtually all areas of the budget over which we do have control. There will be a small increase in the level of library services which we provide to our students. There are also expenditures for additional security items.

As you review the District's budget materials, feel free to contact me through email, Brian.Monahan@HenHudSchools.org or 257-5112 if you have any questions. Again, it has been a privilege to work with you over the past year.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Monahan

Brian D. Monahan, Ph.D.

A Message from Mary-Pat Briggi President, Board of Education



Once again, it is the time of year when it occurs to all of us how quickly the school year is passing. We reflect on what our children have achieved and learned, and consider what is ahead of us – plans for the summer, the next school year, etc.

The Board, as parents, taxpayers, and members of the community, along with the Administration, goes through that same thought process.

But when we look at the coming school year, we look at it in terms of the financial implications for the District as well. We have spent the last several months not only preparing a spending plan for the coming year, but also considering the District's financial situation and goals for the next five years. In doing so, our objective was to present a budget that can be supported by all stakeholders in the community – one that we hope preserves, or expands, our students' educational opportunities while being fiscally responsible and within the constraints set by New York State. What we wound up with was a budget totaling \$72,117,785. Our budget-to-budget increase is 2.15%, and will result in a tax levy increase of 0.74%, which is *the lowest* in this area.

Our intention was to keep any reductions as far from the core academics as possible – and we managed to do so. This year, we have continued the same level of academic offerings, maintained the same class cap size, restored a librarian position at the elementary level, and made no further changes in co-curricular programs. Reductions in personnel were either through attrition or a product of declining enrollment. The past several years of program evaluation, budget review, contractual negotiations, and cost-savings measures has allowed us to avoid making such cutbacks this year. Many of our neighboring districts are now facing this situation as they present their 2013-2014 budgets, but the aforementioned efforts have minimized these circumstances for the budget we will be presenting to you for your vote on May 21st.

The public will also be asked to vote on a transportation bond in the amount of \$555,000. These funds will be used primarily to replace buses, but also includes purchasing software and a heavy-duty laptop for use in diagnosing, repairing and maintaining our buses. Another voting opportunity is regarding the three open Trustee positions. There are three candidates for these seats who also happen to be the incumbents – Carol Popolow Abraham, Carson Jacobs, and Marion Walsh.

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As always, the Board thanks you for providing your input, for taking the time to inform yourselves of the details of the school budget, and most importantly, for making the effort to vote.

Further information can also be found on the HenHud website at www.henhudschools.org.

Take care,



Mary-Pat Braggi

Hen Hud Musicians Represent

The following is a listing of Hen Hud students who earned spots in NYSSMA's Area All-State, Area All-County and Conference All-State performing groups:

Hendrick Hudson High School All-County participants

Band:
Jacob Alter, French Horn

Orchestra:
Jinji Martine, Piccolo/Flute
Cassandra Cavalieri, Bassoon

Area All-State participants

Band (*) :
Chris Williams, Flute
Drew Abatemarco, Clarinet
Ella Rasmussen, Clarinet

Orchestra (*):
Philip Solomon, Clarinet
Jodi Scharf, Trombone

Mixed Choir (*):

Eva Baransky
Sarah Ann Duffy
Lily Evans
Sadie McMurrin
Jennifer Morris
Stacey Sternberg
Rafiq Taylor

All-State participant

Women's Chorus:

Jennifer Morris
Conference All-State participant

Jodi Scharf, Piano (one of 10 from the entire state, and the youngest!)

Blue Mountain Middle School All-County participants

Band:
Jacob Shapiro, French Horn

Orchestra:
Ellen Gruber, Oboe
Ryogi Schwartz, Violin

Chorus:
Vincent Astarita, Devan Burke,
Brandon Gibson, and Grace O'Malley

Furnace Woods Elementary School

All-County participants
Chorus:
Katie Ciulla, Hayden Gelman,
Cameron Hornbarger, and Matthew Klimek

Kudos to our incredibly dedicated music teachers district-wide for our students' strong showing in the 2012-13 NYSSMA season!

(*)These performances were cancelled, sadly, due to the weather, but our students' achievements are just as impressive!

Chess at FWS

Chess Master Sunil Weeramantry has been teaching chess to grades 1-5 at Furnace Woods Elementary School for the past sixteen years. Dr. Helene Kane, FWS Principal,

commented, "By the time the students reach 5th grade, they are highly skilled chess players." The chess program is generously funded by the FWS PTA.



FWS students in Mrs. Emanuelo's class learning chess with Chess Master Weeramantry

HHHS Art Contest Winners



From left: Meghan Mastroddi, Maya Feero, Maia Silber, Mrs. Nash

High school art teachers Jan Aiello and Jessica Nash are understandably proud of their students' recent showing in the Women's Club of Peekskill & Cortlandt's Art & Craft contest. Madison Quigley won 1st place in Mosaic, Maya Feero won

1st place in Charcoal, Meghan Mastroddi won 2nd place in Design, and Maia Silber won 2nd place in Watercolor. First place winners will go on to compete at the state level in their categories.



From left: Joseph DiBitetto, 6th grade, 3rd runner-up; Teddi Worledge, 7th grade, second runner-up; Sam Glosser, 6th grade, winner; and Harrison Turner, 6th grade, 1st runner-up.

You Be The Chemist Challenge

In April, Blue Mountain Middle School sixth-grader Sam Glosser won the first-ever "You Be the Chemist Challenge" contest in New York State held at the BASF laboratories in Tarrytown. Sam competed against twenty-four other BMMS students and won an all-expense paid trip to the national competition which will be held in Philadelphia on June 24. BMMS is the first New York school to participate in the Challenge, so one of our students was guaranteed to become the state winner and earn a spot in the national competition. Sam will represent New York and will go up against competitors from 27 other states at the competition, which is run by the Chemical Education Foundation. The contest is part of a new partnership between the district and BASF. BASF is the world's largest chemical company and has a facility located in Peekskill. The partnership began with a visit by BASF scientists to Ms. Dinella's and Mrs. Pereira's sixth grade science classes. Each student was provided with a "Kids' Lab" kit which included safety goggles, an apron, and a lab journal. Students learned about polymers and created a non-Newtonian fluid, otherwise known as "goop"! Participation in the contest was voluntary, and interested students in sixth through eighth grade attended an informational session with BASF and then studied the materials provided by BASF independently. Congratulations to Sam!

HHHS Business Students Recognized

In March, the College of Westchester presented eight Hendrick Hudson High School students with awards for outstanding achievement, determination and leadership in Computer and Business education. The students were nominated by Maura Koch, Computer and Business Education teacher. The Hendrick Hudson students were among many students throughout the tri-state region that were recognized for excellence in their Business courses.



Left to right: Senior Kevin Kiley; Sophomore Damian Pezzano; Junior Kristen Ellis; Junior Catherine Reilly; Senior Bradley Barthelmes



Writing at FGL

Students in grades K-5 at Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School are given a writing book every year. Each student, with the help of his or her teacher, compiles writing throughout the year. By the time they graduate, students will have a six-volume collection of their writing from K-5. Remarkd Donna Torrisi, FGL Principal, "The program encourages students to become writers and experience a variety of different writing forms, from poetry, narratives, informational and even in some cases lyrics to songs they have created." In June, the students will share their books at the Author's Day Celebration, held outside in a read-together setting with picnic blankets and lunch.

What's New in Curriculum?

By Dr. Alice Gottlieb,
*Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum, Instruction, and
Professional Personnel*

Ask any New York State teacher to describe “what’s new in curriculum?” this spring, and you’ll get one answer: the Common Core.

Last spring, New York State adopted the Common Core Learning Standards, along with 46 other states. For the first time, children all over the country will be expected to learn and be able to do the same things. How great for children in our mobile society!

The Common Core brings changes to both our curriculum (what we teach) and our instruction (how we teach it). New York State describes these changes as “shifts.” The shifts in English Language Arts (ELA) are not just for English teachers; teachers in every subject area are taking a new look at how they integrate reading and writing into their classes. When you read that the Common Core calls for a greater emphasis on informational text, it does not mean that English teachers need to replace novels, stories, and poetry to read text books. It means that children will be reading and writing in every class.

The Common Core in Mathematics challenges us to focus on fewer topics, in greater depth. It also stresses a “dual intensity,” a balance between memorizing facts and understanding how math works. Children will be expected to develop number sense and to solve rich problems. As in ELA, mathematics instruction will extend beyond math classes. There has always been a great deal of math in science classes; now expect to see math instruction in PE, in music, and even in art. The more connections we can make for children, the stronger their learning.

Making the shift to the Common Core is a challenge for schools throughout the state and country. At Hen Hud, our goal in this work continues to be to “maximize the potential of each child.”

HHHS Science Research Students' Successes

Junior Audrey Hecht won Second Place in the Biology category at the 2013 Tri-County Science and Technology Fair,

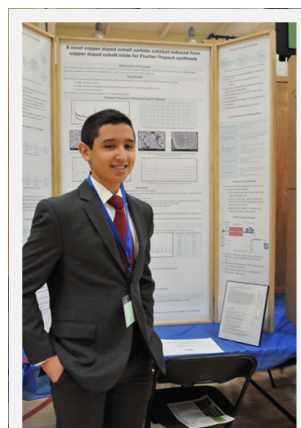


HHHS Junior Audrey Hecht

held at White Plains High School in April. Audrey has been researching molecular interactions acting on the Dopamine Transporter for the purpose of developing new anti-depressant medications under the guidance of Dr. Matthias Quick, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center.

In February, Audrey also won first place at the Westchester-Rockland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in the Biology III Category for her poster on

the same topic. In addition, senior Alexis Mangual won 5th place at the Symposium in the Physical Sciences II Speaker Category for his work on “A novel copper doped cobalt carbide catalyst reduced from copper doped cobalt oxide for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis.” This research on catalysts is extremely important in the search for renewable sources of energy, and was conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Steven Suib, University of Connecticut.



*HHHS Senior
Alexis Mangual*

Audrey’s and Alex’s achievements are outstanding examples of how the high school’s three-year Science Research program, led by Dr. Christine Rogers, affords students the unique experience of working on authentic research projects with mentors from highly regarded academic institutions. Audrey will continue her research this coming summer and compete again as a senior next year. Alex will be studying engineering in the fall.

Thanks to all who participated in the PTAs’ Hen Hud Live fundraiser! Proceeds from the evening will be contributed to the district to enhance technology, athletics and the arts.

School District Budget Notice

HENDRICK HUDSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Budget Adopted for the 2012-13 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2013-14 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount	\$70,603,157	\$72,117,785	\$71,817,168
Increase or Decrease for the 2013-14 School Year		\$1,514,629	\$1,214,011
Percentage Increase or Decrease		2.15%	1.72%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		2.10%	
Resulting Property Tax Levy for 2013-14		\$40,935,310	\$40,634,693
Administrative Component	\$4,447,999	\$4,471,303	\$4,452,664
Program Component	\$56,906,144	\$58,271,170	\$58,028,272
Capital Component	\$9,249,013	\$9,375,312	\$9,336,232
<p>* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2013-2014 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. Computer equipment; all other equipment and furniture; all capital expenditures and some supplies for students and staff will be eliminated. Staff will be reduced and class size will be increased. Instructional and athletic programs will be reduced in size or eliminated.</p>			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR¹ Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$1,810

¹Based on a hypothetical house in the Town of Cortlandt with a full value of \$7,700

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2013-2014 by the qualified voters of the Hendrick Hudson Central School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School Gym, 57 Trolley Road, Montrose, NY in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Under 495 of Real Property Tax Law, the Real Property Exemption Report is available on the District Website and is attached to the 2013-14 budget book.



Sophomore and Clarinetist Philip Solomon was awarded 2nd place in the Yonkers Philharmonic Youth Concerto competition. Mr. Solomon received a cash prize and will be performing the Weber Clarinet Concertino on May 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at Saunders Trade and Technical High School with the Yonkers Philharmonic. The concert is free to attend. Benjamin Acrish, HHHS Band Director, commented, "Philip is an active member in the band and studies privately at the Julliard School in NYC. He is one of the most talented and gifted students I've gotten to work with."

Affiliation with the Gilder Lehrman Institute

The district is pleased to announce that the Hendrick Hudson High School has become an affiliate of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. After four years of enjoying and benefiting from the Institute's *Teach American History* program in which three of our teachers participated, the high school's Social Studies department decided to pursue formal affiliation with the Gilder Lehrman Institute.

Affiliate schools receive preference in the Institute's highly competitive Summer Seminar Program, which consists of 40 week-long seminars each summer. The high school will now also receive free classroom materials three times a year, as well as a discount on all Gilder Lehrman publications.

The high school will also have access to the Gilder Lehrman collection of themed sets of documents and high resolution PDFs as well as an archive of more than 60,000 rare historical manuscripts located in New York City. In addition, our teachers will have access to traveling exhibitions on major historical topics, invitations to forums and conferences featuring lead historians, and there will be opportunities for students to participate in exclusive national history competitions.

Commented HHHS Assistant Principal Dan Callahan, "Our affiliation with Gilder Lehrman is an honor. They are a huge resource for schools and we look to take advantage of their offerings."

Voter Information

Registration

To vote in the Hendrick Hudson School District election, you must be registered. If you are registered to vote in the general election and have voted within the last four years, you are also registered to vote in the school district election. If you wish to register for only the school district election, you may register on Thursday, May 16, 2013 with the District Clerk, Rosanne Squillante, at the School District Administration Building, 61 Trolley Road, Montrose, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you are not sure if you are registered, please call Ms. Squillante at (914) 257-5112.

Qualifications to Vote

A person must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- at least 18 years old
- registered to vote in the general election and/or the school district elections and
- a resident of the district for at least 30 days preceding the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots are available now for registered voters who will not be able to vote in person on May 21, 2013. You may apply in person at the School District Administration Building for an application. May 14 is the deadline for absentee ballot applications if it is to be mailed to the voter. May 20 is the deadline for absentee ballot applications if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter. All absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21. For further information, contact Ms. Squillante, District Clerk, at either the address or phone number above.

Frequently Asked Questions

What went into developing this year's budget?

This year's budget comes after months of work by both our school administration and our central office staff starting back in November. It also reflects the Board of Education's thoughtful deliberations after carefully listening to and considering the public's comments from Board meetings and around town.

In developing this year's budget, we focused on several core goals:

- Provide the community with an affordable, sustainable budget
- Maintain all academic and extra-curricular programs
- Continue cost-effective maintenance of facilities
- Continue focus on achieving efficiency
- Work with the Board as representatives of the community to stay within the tax cap.

Where does the money come from?

As a public school in New York State, we receive our funding from a variety of sources, some large and some small, but each an important piece of the "funding pie." Due to the relative wealth of our community, a vast majority of the budget comes from the local tax levy. This is about \$41 million (57%) of total revenue. The next largest source of funding comes from several PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreements with corporations such as Entergy, LaFarge and Wheelabrator/RESCO. This accounts for over \$23 million dollars (32%) of revenue. These two sources together account for nearly 90% of the district's total revenue. The other 10% comes from state aid (7%), and other revenue sources such as interest income, rentals and fees (3%). In addition to expense control and careful money management, the district is expecting to push forward \$1.1 million from fund balance to reduce the tax levy. These measures allow the district to keep local taxes at a stable and low rate.

Where does the money go?

The school budget can be broken down into three categories: Administrative, Capital and Program. The Administrative portion (6.2%), which is the smallest part of our budget, covers expenses such as district and school administrators and their support staff, legal fees and Board of Education meetings and fees. The Capital portion (13.0%) contains the funds necessary to run our schools including energy, maintenance, facilities and debt service. The Program portion (80.8%) of our budget is the largest and contains the costs associated with directly educating our students including teacher salaries and instructional support services.

Will there be any reductions in staff this year?

Yes. Three elementary teachers will be excessed due to declining enrollment in the elementary schools.

What happens if the budget fails?

In the event that the recommended budget fails to meet voter approval on May 21, the district has three options to choose from. The first option would be to put the same budget up for a vote a second time and hope for a different outcome. The second option would involve the school board making additional reductions to the budget that could include additional staff cuts. If the budget fails to gain enough support the second time, the district will be forced to adopt a contingency budget. The third option would be to immediately adopt a contingency budget.

What does a contingency budget mean?

Under a contingency budget, the tax levy would remain frozen at last year's level, with no exceptions or allowances. In order to continue to meet the tax cap under a contingency budget, the district would need to reduce approximately \$300,000 from the proposed budget. In addition, the district would be forbidden to buy any equipment and also would be required to charge outside organizations for facility usage.

Why is there a tax rate increase of 1% for Cortlandt Manor and a tax rate decrease of (2.93%) for Peekskill, but the tax levy is 0.74%?

The tax cap limits the change in the total amount of taxes that the district can increase from the prior year, but the extent to which that change limits your individual tax rate depends on property value assessments and the equalization rates between Peekskill and the Town of Cortlandt. Your property tax bill could rise faster than the tax levy if, for example, there is a decrease in assessed property values during the same year or if the equalization rate is higher for your town or city. This could be caused by a drop in total assessed values by property owners. If some assessments change more than others, then taxes will increase more for some property owners than for others.

For 2013-14, changes in the New York State equalization rates resulted in a lower tax rate for Peekskill and a higher tax rate for the Town of Cortlandt.

For additional information, you can refer to *New York State's Property Tax Cap, A Citizen's Guide*, published by the Empire Center for New York State Policy and available at www.EmpireCenter.org.

Will there be anything else on the ballot?

Yes. When voters enter the voting booth, they will see a Proposition to purchase new school buses for the district. Voters will also be asked to select three people to serve on the Board of Education. Each term is a full three-year term.

Additionally, voters will see the Hendrick Hudson Free Library budget. We share the ballot with the library to reduce the costs of holding separate budget votes.





James Berkowitz, HHHS Special Education Teacher, led the new Mountain Biking Club on its inaugural ride on the world-class mountain biking trails at nearby Blue Mountain Reservation early this spring. Mountain biking has be-

come one of the most popular new club activities in high schools across the country. Brad Fredman, HHHS Physical Education Teacher, polled his students on what new sports they would like to see offered, and mountain biking topped the list. The mountain bikes were funded in part by a grant secured by Mr. Fredman from the Hendrick Hudson Community Educational Foundation.

B-V's Reading Buddies



Students heading to read with their Reading Buddies while listening to the song "Gotta Keep Reading" over the loudspeaker

To promote a love of reading while exposing students to various works of literature, Buchanan-Verplanck Elementary School staff and students take part in Reading Buddies every month. K-3, 1-4 and 2-5 grade classes get to-

gether to read books on the following monthly themes: Friendship, Just-Right Books, Mystery, Famous Authors, Sports, Art, Hobbies, How-To, Celebrating Diversity, Holidays, Nonfiction, African American and Women's History, Music, Poetry, Family, Patriotism and much more!

Feedback from all members of our school community is consistent – this experience is beneficial for all students. Students work on fluency, comprehension and other literacy skills while working together with fellow B-V Eagles. Each Reading Buddies day is also a Spirit Day so you will always see a lot of blue, white or B-V spirit wear on these days. There is also a special day in May each year where ALL family members are invited to join their children for Reading Buddies.



Erica Denler, the Director of Choral Music at HHHS, is proud to announce that senior Martin Rubin-Weiss is the first singer from Hen Hud ever to be selected for the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) National Honor Choir. Thousands of students from all over the country submitted pre-recorded audition tapes in the fall and from that only 150 young men were selected to participate in this prestig-

ious group. In March, Martin flew to Texas and spent four days rehearsing with the top singers from all over the country under the direction of a renowned conductor. The experience culminated in a concert at the ACDA Convention for an audience of thousands. "I am so proud of Martin. This is a huge honor! It is a very selective process, and really the best singers from the country are selected. Martin deserves this honor," stated Mrs. Denler. Martin has been extremely active in the HHHS Music Department over the past four years and plans on studying music in college next year.



Senior Mark Grant on the podium for his first place finish at Sectionals

In January, the Hendrick Hudson High School wrestling team won its 2nd League Championship. Senior Mark Grant accomplished an even loftier personal goal by winning his class at the 2013 Sectional Wrestling Tournament at Pace University. Going into the tournament as the 3rd seed, Mark upset the top contender and won the 113 lb. weight class in dramatic fashion by scoring 4 points with only 10 seconds remaining. Hendrick Hudson hasn't had a Sectional champion since 1990 when two-time State Champion Anthony Alberti was crowned. Mark also was the sole student participating this year in the BOCES Walkabout program, a unique opportunity for students to explore their interests inside and outside the classroom. Varsity Wrestling Coach Paul LaVallee remarked, "Mark has worked extremely hard all season to reach this goal and is very deserving of the title Champion!"

Hen Hud Athletics Update

At Hen Hud, success in athletics and academics go hand in hand. Since Con Edison began its weekly Scholar Athlete award program to recognize exemplary athletes who also excel academically, Hen Hud has had 97 Con Edison Scholar Athlete winners. **This puts the district in the top 5 in all of Westchester County for overall number of Scholar Athlete winners.**

- Under current Athletic Director Tom Baker's tenure, Hen Hud has had 27 Con Ed Scholar Athlete winners in 11 years.
- As of April, we have had two Con Ed winners this year: Matthew Ledwin and Kyle Monk.
- We anticipate that 15 of our senior athletes will continue to play a sport in college.
- During the fall and winter seasons, Hen Hud had 65 student-athletes named to their sport's All-League Team. 23 of them were also honored with All-Section and/or All-County status.
- Six Hen Hud teams have won League Titles so far this year - Girls' Soccer, Boys' Soccer, Wrestling, Boys' Lacrosse, Boys' Track and Girls' Track.
- Student athletes raised over \$2,500 dollars this year to fight cancer. The funds raised were donated to the American Cancer Society and to Support Connections for Breast Cancer.
- Over 90% of our teams this year were deemed New York State Scholar Athlete Teams.

Tom Baker commented, "The athletic year here at Hendrick Hudson is one that the community should be quite proud of. I surely am. The student-athletes here at Hendrick Hudson do a wonderful job of representing our school district both on and off of the field of play. On the field of play, we had teams win league championships, we had competitions won, and scores of individual accolades for many of our students. However, it is off of the field that the student-athletes make me so proud. Whether the athletes are donating money to cancer awareness, participating in Breast Cancer Week, or performing clinics for the youth in our community, the community is able to see our student-athletes in such a wonderful light. Congratulations on a terrific year!"

Earth Day Cleanup at Steamboat Waterfront Park



Coach Bugara and Modified Spring Track team members at Steamboat Waterfront Park

On Saturday, April 13, members of the Blue Mountain Middle School Modified Spring Track Team, coached by BMMS Science Teacher Sean Bugara, volunteered to participate in the Town of Cortlandt's Earth Day clean-up. Their target: Steamboat Waterfront Park in Verplanck. In recognition of their service to our community, Town of Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi presented the team with a Certificate of Appreciation and gave each participant a water bottle holder as a thank you for "your assistance in keeping the Waterfront Park clean and beautiful." Supervisor Puglisi commented, "Councilman Frank Farrell told me what an excellent clean-up you did for our waterfront."

Hendrick Hudson Mission Statement

The mission of the Hendrick Hudson School District, a dynamic, innovative, and supportive educational community, is to ensure each student is an engaged, passionate learner who achieves his or her maximum potential and contributes to society. This is accomplished in a system characterized by:

- A culture of the highest expectations for all;
- A rigorous, articulated curriculum;
- Diverse, effective instructional strategies and resources;
- An educational environment that is challenging, creative, exploratory, accessible, and nurturing; and
- A fully engaged, supportive community.

Visit us on the web at
www.henhudschools.org
for the latest news and
information

Hendrick Hudson School District Administration

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Laurie Ryan, Vice President
Carol Popolow Abraham
Carson Jacobs
Barbara Pettersen
Charles Thompson
Marion Walsh

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Interim Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Alice Gottlieb
Assistant Superintendent for
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Professional Personnel

Enrique Catalan
Assistant Superintendent for Business

Kathleen Coughlin
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Dr. Mathew Swerdloff
Director of Technology

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