



# MOUNT PLEASANT

## Central School District

FROM THE HEART

SPECIAL BOND EDITION DECEMBER 2023

## BACK TO THE BASICS WITH AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE

On Tuesday, December 12, 2023, Mount Pleasant Central School District residents will go to the polls to vote on a bond referendum in the amount of \$35,957,772 to address critical building and instructional needs throughout the district. The District will once again have retiring debt in 2026, making the proposed project tax neutral, thus having no additional tax impact.

Last spring, the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education and leadership team began the process of identifying the areas of our instructional program and facilities that require attention. We conducted a community survey to gain feedback from residents and consulted our Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan directs us to “create educational spaces and school facilities that reflect the updates to the nature of classroom instruction and the student learning experience.”

Through this months-long process, safety and security; the expansion and upgrades to instructional spaces; libraries and science labs; fine, visual, and performing arts spaces; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning emerged as priorities.

We currently have 445,827 square feet of space that requires ongoing updating, upgrading, and maintenance. What was state of the art 50-70 years ago is now in need of updating for today's students. Our students learn and engage with content differently than we all did. Our spaces must reflect those needs and create a stronger bridge between K-12 and what they will expect in the workplace and in college. The proposed bond will:

- Improve safety & security district-wide including secure entrance vestibules and security cameras
- Enhance and expand instructional spaces including libraries, science labs and makerspaces, fine, visual & performing arts spaces, add classrooms at Hawthorne and Columbus, and a cafeteria expansion to accommodate a new engineering lab at WHS
- Upgrade ventilation & air cooling of large instructional spaces

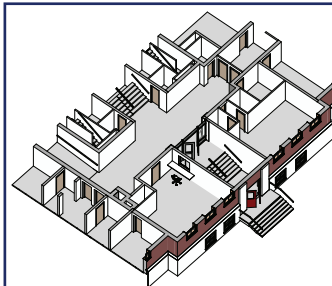
We encourage you to educate yourself about this proposal by carefully reviewing this newsletter and visiting the district website for more information including videos. Please reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

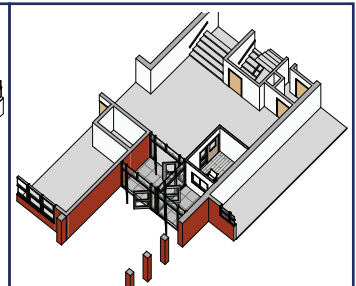
Dr. Peter Giarrizzo

Superintendent of Schools

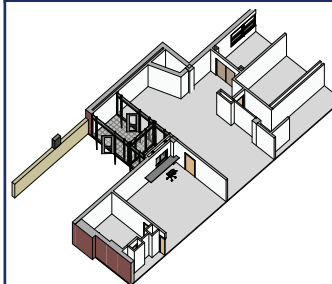
### SAFETY, SECURITY & WELLNESS



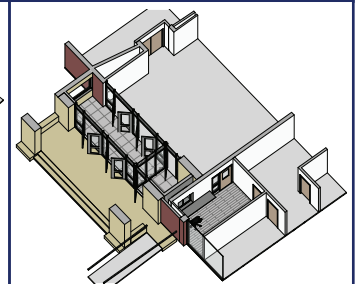
Hawthorne



Columbus



Westlake Middle School



Westlake High School

- New secure entrance vestibules
- Security cameras and devices
- Air conditioning in all gymnasiums and new construction

See Page 2 for more renderings

**TUESDAY • DECEMBER 12, 2023 • 7AM TO 9PM**

Westlake High School Gym  
825 Westlake Drive  
Thornwood, NY

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT  
[www.mtplcsd.org](http://www.mtplcsd.org)

# SCOPE OF WORK

## Hawthorne Elementary

- Reconfiguration of Kindergarten Classrooms and 4-classroom kindergarten addition
- Reorganization to cluster students by grade level and to centralize special area instruction and services
- New centralized area for performing arts, visual arts, STEM and Library/Media Center for school-wide events and community-use

## Columbus Elementary

- Classroom renovations to support small group instruction and support services
- Renovations to create a new Band Classroom and group collaboration
- New STEM Lab and 3-classroom addition
- Art room

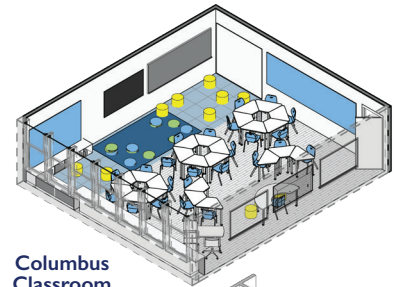
## Westlake Campus

- Science Lab renovations
- WMS Locker Room renovation
- Gut renovation of the theater including lighting, rigging and acoustics
- Science Lab renovations
- Studio art classroom renovations and new STEM Lab/Makerspace
- Cafeteria addition and, Cafeteria & Kitchen renovation
- Westlake Library renovation
- Renovations to create a flexible modern Makerspace/media center to research, create, learn, and innovate

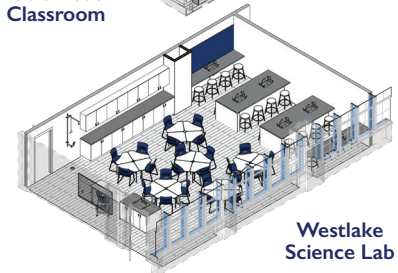
### CORE INSTRUCTION



Hawthorne Classroom

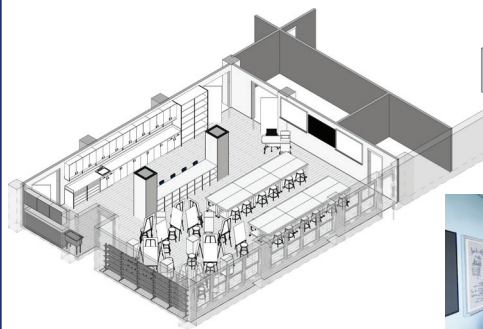


Columbus Classroom

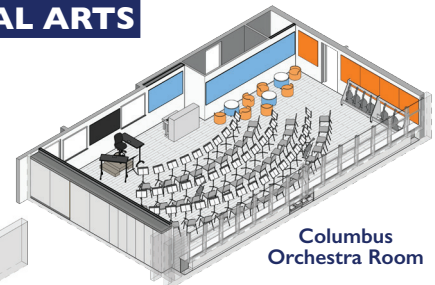


Westlake Science Lab

### FINE, PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS



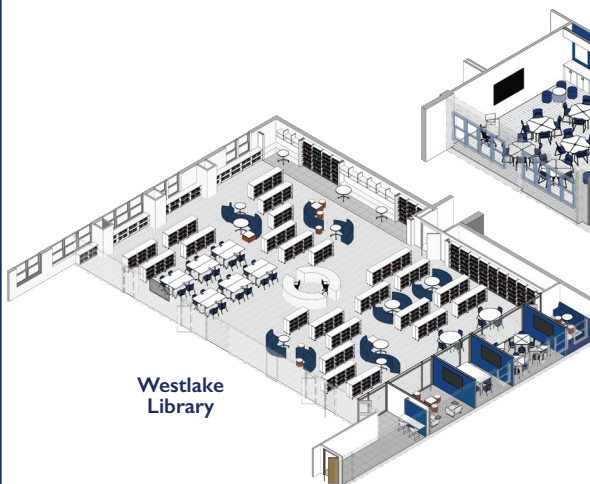
Westlake High School Art Room



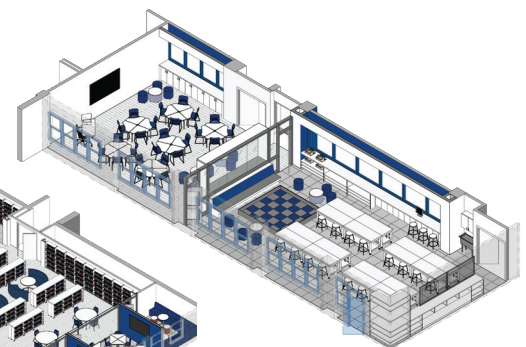
Columbus Orchestra Room



### INNOVATION, INQUIRY & RESEARCH



Westlake Library



Westlake High School Makerspace

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is the scope of the project?

Please see page 2 for a detailed list by school. Throughout the district, safety and security projects, modernization of lighting, and the addition and enhancement of HVAC offerings, including air conditioning in all four gymnasiums, will be undertaken.

## What is the timeline for the project?

If approved by the voters in December, we expect designs to be sent to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) in June, 2024, bids to be awarded in May 2025, and construction to start in summer 2025. Once started, the project is expected to be completed in 2028.

## What is the total amount of the December 12, 2023 bond?

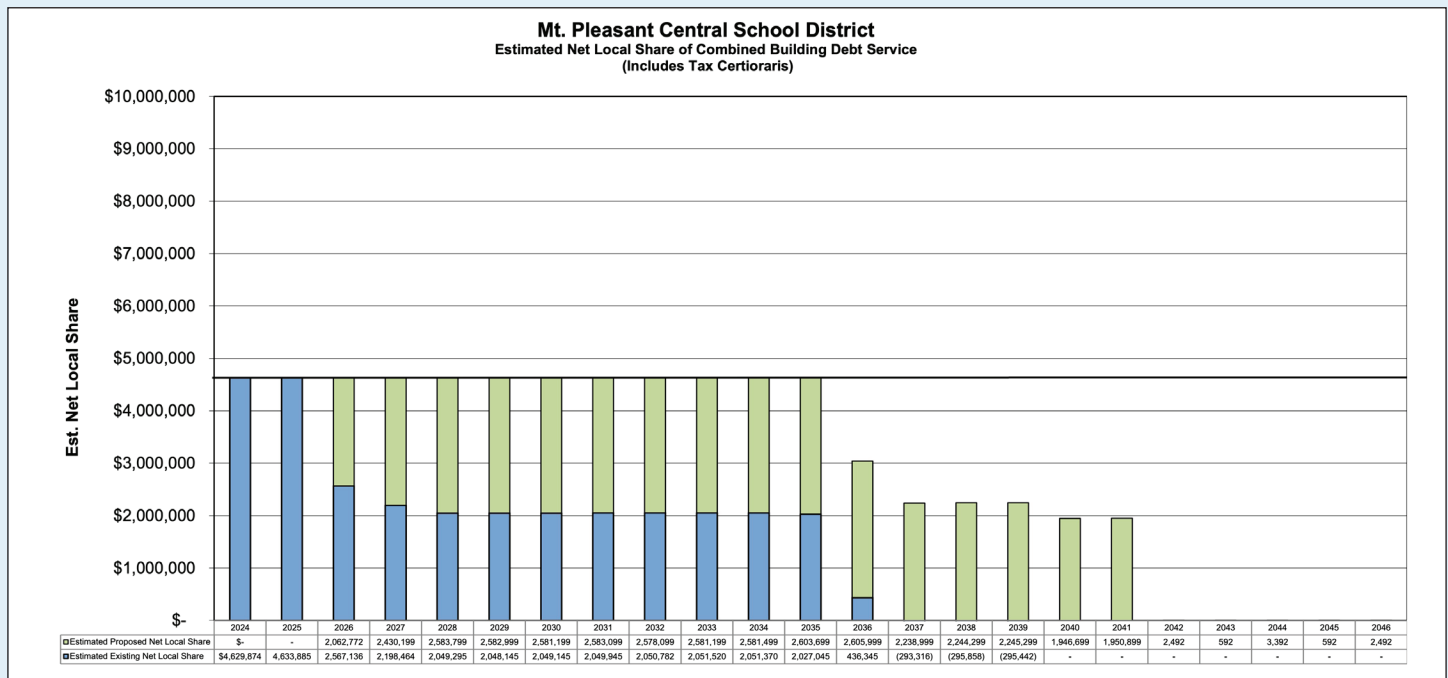
The total amount of the bond will be \$35,957,772.

## Why is the bond issue important?

Passage of the 2023 instructional bond is important to fund key improvements to our instructional spaces and programming. In Mount Pleasant we recognize that as strong as our academic programs already are, we are limited by our current physical spaces. It is essential that our classrooms be updated to accommodate our current and projected enrollment as well as the changing needs of our students. By redesigning and reconfiguring our STEAM and arts classrooms, as well as enhancing the physical atmosphere of many original and/or older spaces, our students will have access to resources and experiences that our current buildings currently cannot offer.

## Will the passage of the bond issue raise my property taxes?

No. Because the principal and interest payments will be paid with retiring debt, it is structured to have no additional impact on our residents' taxes. The chart below from our Financial Advisor, Bernard P. Donegan, Inc., shows that the current and proposed level of debt (blue and green bars) never goes above the existing payment schedule.



## WHAT WILL YOU SEE ON THE BALLOT?

Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to: (1) construct additions to, reconstruct and improve various School District buildings, facilities and sites, acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are to be used and pay costs incidental thereto, at a maximum aggregate cost of \$39,157,772; (2) expend such sum for such purpose, including \$3,200,000 of available funds; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account State aid and the amount of available funds to be expended; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$35,957,772, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

☐ YES

☐ NO



Mount Pleasant Central School District  
825 Westlake Drive  
Thornwood, NY 10594

**Board of Education**

Michael Horan, *President*  
Sara Beaty, *Vice President*  
Michael Griffin  
Steven Mastrosimone  
Colleen Scaglione Neglia  
Laura Michalec Olszewski  
Christopher Pinchiaroli

**Superintendent**

Dr. Peter Giarrizzo

Phone 914-769-5500

Fax 914-769-3733

[www.mtplcsd.org](http://www.mtplcsd.org)



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## VOTER INFO

**VOTE**  
**TUESDAY**  
**DEC 12, 2023**  
**7AM TO 9PM**

### Who is eligible to vote?

Any resident of the School District who is registered to vote in general elections is qualified to vote at said meeting without having their name placed upon the School District register of voters provided they voted at a general election at least once within the last four calendar years. Further, provided that any person who has previously registered to vote in any annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election and who has voted at an annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election held during the past four years (2023, 2022, 2021, 2020) shall not be required to re-register. The Board of Education has also provided for registration of qualified voters at the District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on any regular school day through December 7, 2023.

*\*\*Please note: if you are registered to vote in Westchester County but have since moved to the Mount Pleasant Central School District, you must be registered with the County at your Mount Pleasant address to be eligible to vote.*

### Registration Information

Download the Voter Registration form and return the completed application to the Westchester County Board of Elections: <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/register-to-vote>

### Absentee Ballots

If you are registered to vote and will not be in Westchester County on December 12, 2023, you may be eligible to apply for an absentee ballot.

To receive an absentee ballot, an application first must be completed. An application can be requested from the District Clerk or downloaded below. The absentee ballot application must be completed and returned to the District Clerk either in person or by U.S. Mail prior to receiving the actual absentee ballot. If the ballot is to be mailed, the application must be received seven (7) days before the vote. If the ballot is to be picked up, the application must be received one (1) day before the vote. The District Clerk must receive the completed absentee ballot by 5:00 pm on December 12, 2023.

**For more information, visit: [www.mtplcsd.org](http://www.mtplcsd.org)**