

MAY 2023

NY Mills

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



@NYMillsUFSD



@NYMillsUFSD

Message from the Superintendent

Dear New York Mills UFSD Families and Community,

Over the past several months, I have been continuously impressed with our incredible school district and the wonderful opportunities available for our students. I credit our dedicated staff, faculty, students, Board of Education and supportive community for our success.

One of our greatest accomplishments is our ability to continue to offer expanded academic programming and extracurricular activities within a small school scope. This can often be a challenge for schools like ours, as we look to provide the best educational program possible, but often face difficult decisions given our expenditures versus anticipated revenues. With the additional federal stimulus monies over the past two years, the District was able to fund some expenditures that would normally draw from our operating budget. With federal funds going away in 2023-2024, the District must be prepared to absorb these costs within the regular operating budget.

After extensive planning, analysis and future projections, the Board of Education unanimously adopted the 2023-2024 New York Mills Union Free School District budget at the March 7, 2023 meeting. The spending plan provides for continued programming and activities for our students while balancing the needs of our taxpayers in both the short and long-term. Much like last year, "our mindset is always to develop a budget that supports viable and vibrant programming for our children and remains fiscally responsible for our taxpayers."

The proposed 2023-2024 school budget is \$16,415,975 with a 0% increase to the tax levy. The tax levy limit requires school districts in New York State to apply a multi-step formula to determine the tax levy a district can propose. We will once again stay within this tax levy limit. The \$ 16,415,975 spending plan results in a levy below the District maximum levy limit. Our ability to propose a consistent and balanced budget with a levy under the allowable limit is attributed to sound fiscal oversight, strategic planning and the hard work of the Board of Education and the District during the budget development process.

The budget also includes a \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project for the reconstruction of the front entry doors on the school building and improvements to the main entrance foyer. This will result in enhanced building access safety features and a more secure attendance kiosk. Similar to previous Capital Outlay Projects, this project qualifies for building aid. In addition, the budget also includes the purchase of a new bus (\$145,995) which will allow the District to continue with its normal bus replacement schedule to support our transportation services. As a District, we make it a priority to protect the community's investments. We will continue to identify and prioritize items that are of important need to the District as it relates to facilities, infrastructure, programming, etc., with community input at the core of decision making on future capital improvement plans.

The New York Mills Union Free School District is committed to providing our families and community with the necessary budget information to make an informed decision on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Please review the budget information in this newsletter.

We invite all residents to attend the public hearing in the cafeteria of New York Mills Union Free School on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The budget vote will be held at the Beekman Gymnasium on Tuesday, May, 16, 2023. The polls will be open from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The May 16th vote also includes the election of three vacant seats on the New York Mills UFSD Board of Education.

Your consideration of the 2023-2024 school budget is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of our District and our students!

Sincerely,

Michele D. LaGase
Superintendent of Schools

IN THIS ISSUE

**2023-2024
SCHOOL BUDGET
INFORMATION**

*OPTIMIST STUDENTS
OF THE MONTH*

*STUDENTS PERFORM AT
OCMEA ALL-COUNTY
FESTIVALS*

**Don't have
internet access?**

Join our mailing list for paper updates! To sign up, contact District Clerk Stefany Scharf at sscharf@newyorkmills.org or by calling 315-768-8127 (option #2, option #1).

BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 16

NOON - 8:00 P.M., BEEKMAN GYMNASIUM

VOTE

2023-2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

The administrative component consists of overall management activities including board of education, superintendent's office, business office operations such as central data processing, payroll, purchasing, BOCES administrative expenses, insurance, printing, mailing, personnel, legal and auditing services, and building administrative costs.

Function or Account	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Increase or (Decrease)
Board of Education	\$25,955	\$33,950	\$7,995
Central Administration	\$215,500	\$223,500	\$8,000
Finance	\$193,225	\$204,025	\$10,800
Legal Services	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$-
Personnel	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$-
Records Management	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$-
Public Information	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$-
Other Central Services	\$81,000	\$75,500	\$(5,500)
Other Special Items	\$202,500	\$206,850	\$4,350
Curr. Dev. & Sup.	\$118,000	\$128,000	\$10,000
Supervision - Regular Sch.	\$321,235	\$296,335	\$(24,900)
Employee Benefits	\$415,404	\$418,005	\$2,601
Total	\$1,698,819	\$1,712,165	\$13,346

Administrative
Component
is 10.43%
of Budget

PROGRAM COMPONENT

The program component consists of funding the instruction of and educational support services for the district's 560 students. Transportation of students, athletics and co-curricular activities are also included in this budget component.

Function or Account	2022-23	2023-24	Increase or (Decrease)
Legal Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Instruction	\$8,683,978	\$8,962,870	\$278,892
Other Dist. Transportation	\$464,915	\$479,715	\$14,800
Garage Building	\$67,950	\$62,450	\$(5,500)
Employee Benefits	\$2,814,716	\$2,870,627	\$55,911
Other Transfers	\$13,350	\$13,350	\$ -
Total	\$12,044,909	\$12,389,012	\$344,103

Program
Component
is 75.47% of
Budget

CAPITAL COMPONENT

The capital component consists of maintenance of buildings, upkeep of grounds, and electricity, heat, water & sewer and telephone services. Funds are also included for the lease of school buses, payments on the capital project and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

Function or Account	2022-23	2023-24	Increase or (Decrease)
Operation of Plant	\$428,158	\$428,158	\$ -
Maintenance of Plant	\$307,000	\$382,738	\$75,738
Refund of Taxes	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ -
Lease of Buses/Purchase	\$114,786	\$145,995	\$31,209
Employee Benefits	\$165,230	\$166,299	\$1,069
Debt Service	\$1,076,673	\$1,081,608	\$4,935
Transfer to Capital	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$ -
Total	\$2,201,847	\$2,314,798	\$112,951
Total Budget	\$15,945,575	\$16,415,975	\$470,400

Capital
Component
is 14.10%
of Budget

**Total Budget
Increase
2.95%**



2023-2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

THIS NOTICE IS MANDATED BY NEW YORK STATE New York Mills Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$15,945,575	\$16,415,975	\$16,102,480
Increase/decrease for 2023-2024 school year		\$470,400	\$156,905
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		2.95%	.98%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.00%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,117,286	\$8,117,286	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$8,117,286	\$8,117,286	\$8,117,286
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$243,470	\$254,061	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,873,816	\$7,863,225	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,873,816	\$7,863,225	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$1,698,819	\$1,712,165	\$1,712,165
Program component	\$12,044,909	\$12,389,012	\$12,376,512
Capital component	\$2,201,847	\$2,314,798	\$2,013,803

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Amount				
Description	Amount						

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$628

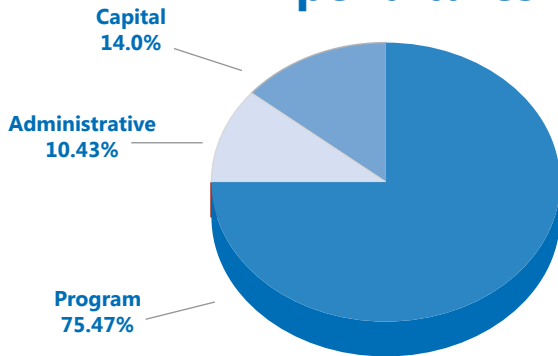
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the New York Mills School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Beekman Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

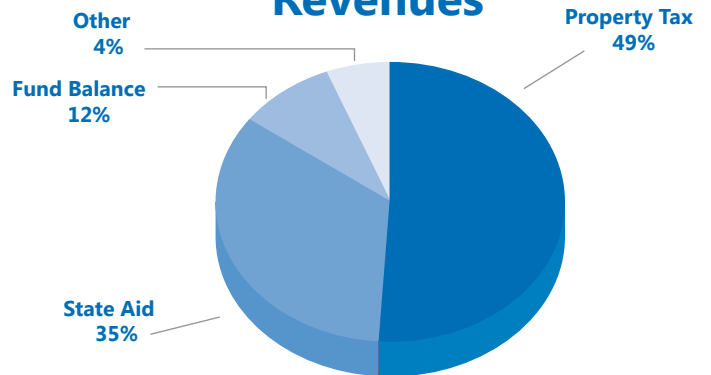


2023-2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

Expenditures



Revenues



BUDGET PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 1 - RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$16,415,975 as a general fund appropriation for the 2023-2024 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

Tax on True

The tax on true value for the district in 2023-24 will be approximately \$18.69.

Tax Levy Increase

The tax levy increase for 2023-24 is projected to be 0%.

Note: Rates are estimated based on current information available. Final equalization rates will not be set by the State of New York until August. In the two previous years, the final tax on true was actually lower than projected at the time of budget development.

Absentee Ballots

Ballot Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk on or before May 9, 2023, if the ballot is to be delivered by mail, or on or before May 16, 2023, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voters. Absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the date of the election, May 16, 2023.

Voter Eligibility Requirements

A voter must meet the following eligibility requirements to vote in school elections:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have been a resident of the school district for a minimum of 30 days prior to the vote, including those who rent. Section 2018-C of the Education Law may require all persons who vote to provide one form of identification or proof of residency.
- Be at least 18 years of age.

Board of Education Candidates

There are two (2) 5-year vacancies (2023-2028) and one (1) 1-year vacancy (2023-2024) for the school board:

Jonathan M. Fiore

Kristin Hubley

Jeremy J. Fennell

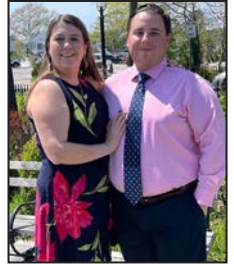
Michelle Jordan



Board of Education Candidate Personal Statements

Jonathan M. Fiore

New York Mills is the place I have called home for all of my life. Our District has been a point of pride for both myself, as well as many residents both past and present. While we should always look back fondly on our memories, it is now more important than ever to look forward to the future. The composition of our District and our financial condition has changed drastically in the years since my graduation. If we wish to provide our students with the best education possible and still keep our doors open, we must commit to doing the absolute most we can with the resources and partnerships at our disposal.



As my younger brother works to complete his education at New York Mills and my wife and I plan to soon have children of our own to raise in our District, it becomes ever more apparent to me that we need to be mindful of the burden we place on the tax payers of our District. We need not adopt the mentality of doing more with less, but instead, simply being more efficient. I know our District is able to provide our students with a top-tier education that prepares our students for the workforce or continued education, and I am committed to enabling our District to continue to do so.

My background in financial services, along with my education in tax policy and economics, leaves me uniquely positioned amongst our current Board and this year's candidates to intimately understand the impact of our decisions as Board members. Consistently raising taxes has a negative effect on current residents, future residents and even students, from leading to rising rents to increased odds of a budget being voted down. Results such as those are neither good for kids nor our community. In this inflationary environment, money is tight for families and retirees. What may seem like a modest increase to some, can have an outsized impact on the most vulnerable.

During both my current and previous tenure on the Board of Education, I worked to establish a committee aimed at overseeing the finances of the District. During this past year, that committee was able to trim approximately \$300,000 from our budget with no impact on student services or the quality of education we are able to offer. Making these tough choices are paramount to the survival of our District, for after this budget year, we will reach what is known as "fully funded" status in the eyes of the state. This will mean that we have, in essence, maxed out the amount of financial assistance we will receive from Albany. That could very well mean that every additional dollar spent by our District would need to come in the form of property tax increases.

Our school is a diamond in the rough. We are one of the last districts of our size in a suburban area across the state, and have been fortunate to avoid having to consolidate as many other districts have. This is a gift from our community that I will always appreciate. My goals are simple: support our students, preserve our District and protect our taxpayers. I ask for your support on May 16 so that I can continue to serve you.

Kristin Hubley

I am excited to be seeking re-election for a seat on the New York Mills Union Free School District's Board of Education. Serving our community and advocating for our students' education has been an honor. I appreciate all the support I received during my first election bid, and humbly ask for your support again.



Having served as a school board member, vice president for two years and president this current year, I have learned many valuable lessons. Mainly, that the education a school community provides for its children and future citizens is the responsibility of all. By providing the best education in a fiscally responsible manner, we ensure that all of our children become productive citizens who, in turn, will give back to their community.

My husband and I have lived in New York Mills for 27 years. We both grew up locally in a larger school district. When deciding where to live, we chose to go back to my father's roots in NY Mills. My father and his family shared so many positive memories of the village and community that we wanted to build our family here. Our son Alex was born deaf, and the support that he received at New York Mills was crucial for him to succeed and graduate in 2020.

Good citizenship, serving my community and advocating for children is very important to me. Prior to my service as a school board member, I served our District in many capacities: PTSO president; PTSO craft fair chairperson; Building Leadership Team and Special Education Parent Advocate, to name a few.

Having worked in the student loan industry for more than 25 years, I have developed strong skills in problem-solving, project management, quality assurance and financial management. These skills have proven to be useful in my role as a Board Member, whose responsibilities include fiscal oversight and policy development.

I remain committed to further improving our District through unbiased leadership, and will continue to make decisions objectively, act with integrity and respectfully collaborate with all Board Members and administration to continue to make the New York Mills Union Free School District the backbone of our community.

~ Your Voice, Your Vote! ~



Board of Education Candidate Personal Statements

Jeremy J. Fennell

I have lived within the New York Mills community for over 20 years with my wife, Deb, and our four children. Having moved around extensively as a child, I have wide-ranging personal experience of both very small and very large school environments, each having their own set of advantages and challenges. The insight developed from these experiences contributed to our decision those many years ago to purchase a home in this wonderful town and enroll our then three young boys in this equally wonderful District. I am proud to say that my three sons have since graduated from NYM and my last little lady is currently enrolled.



My 15 years of professional experience as a civil engineer has provided me the opportunity to work on Capital Improvement Projects for multiple school districts throughout Upstate NY. Managing these projects has allowed me to develop an understanding of the collaborative efforts needed to successfully work within a team to make complex decisions.

A successful Board of Education member should be one who can focus on the balance of facilitating an excellent learning environment, while managing necessary financial goals. My education and career experience, along with decades of great memories with the school system, make me the ideal candidate.

Michelle Jordan

My name is Michelle Jordan and I am running for re-election for the New York Mills UFSD School Board of Education. My husband Chris and I have two wonderful daughters Samantha (junior) and Molly (eighth grade).



I graduated from Clinton Central School, attended BOCES earning my LPN, MVCC and Syracuse University, ultimately earning my Master's in social work. I currently work for New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities as a social worker.

I was elected to the Board of Education in 2018. During this time, I have participated in the hiring of a new superintendent and served on the Communication Committee advocating for increased quality communication within the school district and the community. I have been the chair of the Facility Committee for four years, keeping safety and efficiency of the building and grounds at the forefront. I feel it is important to volunteer and support organizations like PTSO and Sports Boosters, who provide additional activities and experiences for the students to supplement their current opportunities.

I would be honored to work collaboratively with the Board of Education to continue:

- Increasing quality communication throughout the school district and community
- Providing a robust K-12 education, extracurricular activities and sports to our students
- Ensuring the physical safety, emotional and mental support of all students and staff
- Focusing on the safety and efficiency of our buildings and grounds

I know I have the skills, experience and commitment to ensure that all students, staff and community members will benefit for voting for me for one of the open seats on the New York Mills UFSD Board of Education.



*Please take the time to vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023,
from 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Beekman Gymnasium.*



HONOR SOCIETY

Induction Ceremonies

On April 26th, thirteen students were inducted into the New York Mills Union Free School District's Phi Delta Chapter of National Honor Society, our Nation's oldest, largest and most prestigious student recognition program. Membership was based on scholarship, leadership, service and character.

In addition, two awards funded by donations from the Miga family and friends were presented. Isaiah Sobolewski received the Tutor of the Year Award in recognition of the time and commitment he has given to the Miga Mentoring Program. Isaiah was also the recipient of the Walter Miga Memorial Award for his embodiment of those characteristics that defined Mr. Miga, including honesty, generosity and perseverance.

Nine members of the class of 2026 were inducted into the Phi Delta Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society on April 20th. Selection was based upon the effective demonstration of the qualities held in high esteem by the society: leadership, character, citizenship, service and scholarship.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Inductees

Lenna Comenale

Hailey Mahardy

Emily Pavlus

Abigail Evans

Amelia Mendez

Madison Smith

Jayla Jordan

Lamanh Nguyen

Emily Zeun

Samantha Jordan

Victoria Odarchuk

Lauren Kulpa

Luke Paparella

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Inductees

Gage Barber

Molly Jordan

Julia Phillips

Rana Bilal

Caleb Miner

Aubrey Salmon

Emma Decker

Haelee Phillips

Andrew Tallman

Congratulations to all of the new Inductees!



Optimist

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER - *Elijah Pereira*

Elijah Pereira was named the September 2022 Optimist Youth of the Month. He is the son of Ross and Stephanie Pereira of New York Mills.

Elijah is a high honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. He participates in indoor and outdoor track and field, and has worked at an overnight camp, local retail store and doing landscaping work. During the summer of 2022, Elijah volunteered on a two-month mission trip to Zambia to help build security walls and houses.

Elijah plans to attend the University of Florida to pursue nuclear engineering and join the Navy ROTC.



OCTOBER - *Carlos Delacruz-Benta*

Carlos Delacruz-Benta was selected as the October 2022 Optimist Youth of the Month. He is the son of Tiara and Carlos Benta of New York Mills.

Carlos is an honor roll student and president of the New York Mills Chapter of National Honor Society. He has been a member of numerous organizations and teams throughout high school including Student Council, cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field, Multicultural and Debate Club, chorus, concert and jazz band and Tech Club. Carlos has had lead roles in the school musical in grades 10, 11 and 12. In addition, he is interning with the New York Department of Transportation through the OHM BOCES Regional Program for Excellence.

Carlos plans to pursue a career in engineering and is considering a number of college options.



NOVEMBER - *Victoria Odarchuk*

Victoria Odarchuk was chosen as the Optimist Youth of the Month for November 2022. She is the daughter of Aleksandr and Natalya Odarchuk of New York Mills.

Victoria is a high honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. She is co-president of the Newspaper Club and participates in a number of activities through her church.

Victoria plans to become an anesthesiologist and will attend Utica University in the fall.



DECEMBER - *Benjamin Boccardo*

Benjamin Boccardo was named the December 2022 Optimist Youth of the Month. He is the son of Michael and Holly Boccardo of New York Mills.

Benjamin has played varsity baseball for multiple years and also participates in travel baseball year-round.

Benjamin plans to pursue a career as a high school social studies teacher and baseball coach. He will begin his post-secondary education at Mohawk Valley Community College and will play on the Hawks' baseball team.



JANUARY - *Isaiah Sobolewski*

Isaiah Sobolewski was selected as the January 2023 New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month. He is the son of Steven and Heather Sobolewski of New York Mills.

Isaiah is an honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. He has been a member of cross country, track and field, bowling and golf teams, for which he has earned numerous awards and accolades including being named a 2023 CSC All-Star for varsity bowling. In addition, Isaiah participates in Robotics and Multicultural and Debate Clubs, is enrolled in the OHM BOCES New Visions: Engineering program and holds a part-time job.

Isaiah plans to attend SUNY Polytechnic Institute in the fall to study engineering.



FEBRUARY - *Kamryn Williams*

Kamryn Williams was chosen as the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for February 2023. She is the daughter of Mark and Hilary Williams of New York Mills.

Kamryn is an honor roll student and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has been involved in a number of extracurricular activities including outdoor track, basketball, Student Council (class secretary for four years) and the combined New York Mills UFSD/Notre Dame soccer team. In addition, Kamryn plays club soccer, is involved in activities in her church and holds a part-time job.

Kamryn plans to attend St. John Fisher College in the fall to study nursing.

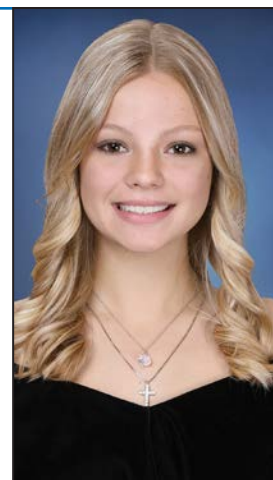


MARCH - *Lily Comenale*


Lily Comenale, daughter of David and Denise Comenale of New York Mills, was named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for March 2023.

Lily is a high honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. She has been involved in a multitude of school activities and athletics, and has held leadership positions in many of them. This year, Lily is president of the National Honor Society, Student Council Executive Council and the Class of 2023. She has held the position of class president since ninth grade. Lily's other activities include Varsity Club, prom committee, field hockey, softball and volleyball, the latter of which she was selected as captain. Lily is also a member of band and chorus and has participated in activities in her church.

Lily's career goal is to become an attorney and she will attend Tulane University in the fall.



BATTLE *of the* Books



It was a battle of brains over brawn at the Regional Battle of the Books competition on March 20. The collaborative event is made possible through the efforts of Mrs. Danielle Howe and other regional Book Club advisors. Seven area schools participated in the event, held at Hamilton College. This was the first year since 2019 that the event was held at the College, and all were excited to be back at the venue.

Students from Clinton, Dolgeville, Holland Patent, Little Falls, New Hartford, New York Mills and Richfield Springs school districts participated in the day's events. Students in the middle school Battle of the Books competed on their knowledge of a list of 17 books, while the newly-formed high school Book Club had a list of 13 books to study. Judges read quotes from the books and students buzzed in "Jeopardy" style, to answer with the correct book title and author's name.

The New York Mills middle school team of Keira Dzwonkowski, Eljas Kacic, Adriana Karakalchu and Yocheved Portillo placed third; and the high school team of Skylar DesMarais, Austin Exton, Kaylee Frank and Jaden Roback placed third as well. Both the middle and high school competitions were very close with only one point separating the second and third place teams.

Hamilton College librarians Kristin Strohmeier and Alex Wohnsen arranged additional learning experiences for the students including virtual reality, drones and rare books and manuscripts. The collegiate environment was a great culminating experience for the students as a reward for all of their hard work this year in Book Club.



MANIE MUSICALE

In French class with Madame Traver, students studied French speaking countries, their culture and music literacy throughout the month of March.

"Manie Musicale" is an annual competition of songs modeled after the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament in the U.S. Students filled out brackets to try to predict which of the 16 songs will win the "championship." Then, once the tournament starts, students vote for their favorite songs to see who wins. Songs include a variety of contemporary Francophone artists from around the world. Teachers collaborate to create activities to support use of the songs in class as a linguistic and cultural teaching tool.



Danielle Pereira

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARD WINNER



Danielle Pereira won a Scholastic Art Award Honorable Mention for her pastel drawing "The Fox's Changing of the Seasons." Danielle's piece was selected out of more than 400 pieces of art in her category. The Scholastic Art Competition has been supporting and recognizing exceptional artists for 100 years.

Danielle's Scholastic Art accomplishment was recognized at a ceremony on January 17 at the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College, and her fox drawing was exhibited at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at OCC from January 11-March 3. New York Mills is so proud of Danielle's efforts in art studio and glad that she is representing the New York Mills Art Department!

You can find more information on the www.artandwriting.org CNY region website.





THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL



On March 23rd through 25th, the grades 7-12 New York Mills Drama Club presented a new and unique musical, "The SpongeBob Musical," to the community.

The cast consisted of 43 members, and was joined by 14 professional musicians to transform our school auditorium into the underwater world of Bikini Bottom. The talented young actors created magical characters from Nickelodeon's cartoon and brought them to life on stage.

Some of the cast of characters included: Mia Gyore as SpongeBob, Carlos Delacruz-Benta as Plankton, Audra Brannum as Karen, Cira Guarno as Sandy, Gavin LaPaglia as the French Narrator, Julie Roberts as Patchy the Pirate and

Hailey Cornish as our stage manager.

These students performed for their last time on our stage here at New York Mills as they will graduate this June. We wish them all well and hope they had the "best day(s) ever" here on our stage as they venture out to perform in a new role as individuals. "Break a leg," seniors!

Thank you to the community for supporting our creative students and giving them the opportunity to spread their wings and learn new important life skills through the musical theater experience. We look forward to continuing the long-standing musical theater tradition here at New York Mills in the years to come.



OCMEA Jr. High
ALL-COUNTY
MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to New York Mills students Aidyn Barber, Asah Bova, Madison Krupa, Caleb Miner, Sophia Rauscher-Canty and Nevaeh Rose Vivacqua who participated in the chorus of the Oneida County Music Educators Association's (OCMEA) Jr. High All-County Festival, held at the Clinton CSD on March 28.



The students auditioned in January and were accepted into the chorus based on their successful auditions. They had the opportunity to work and perform with other students their age from Oneida County and create music with a guest conductor.



OCMEA Elementary
ALL-COUNTY
MUSIC FESTIVAL

Five New York Mills students participated in the Oneida County Music Educators Association's (OCMEA) Elementary All-County Music Festival on April 1 -- three singers and two instrumentalists! Congratulations to Mckenna Bolick, Lukas Dziuba, Carter Lovecchio, Victoria Mitchell, and Emma Spellman for representing New York Mills at the OCMEA All-County Festival.



Varsity Bowling Team Captures **SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

The New York Mills varsity bowling team won the Class C/D Sectional Championship held on February 5 at AMF Strike 'N Spare Lanes in Syracuse. The team included Nathan Alford, Joey Cirusuolo, Ryan Connor, Tommy Malinowski, Xander McCoy and Isaiah Sobolewski, and was coached by Anthony Ricco.



Arianna McClendon Competes at Indoor Track and Field State Championship

Arianna McClendon represented New York Mills in the 2023 NYSPHSAA Indoor Track and Field Championships Meet at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island on March 4th.

Arianna ran the 600m as an individual, placing 19th in New York State with a time of 1:39.54. She also represented New York Mills and Section 3 in the Intersectional Relay, running a 200m leg.

Spring Concert Schedule

MAY 11	Elementary Band and Chorus, 7:00 p.m.
MAY 16	Grades K-1, 6:00 p.m. Grades 2-3, 6:45 p.m.
MAY 18	Grades 7-12 Band and Chorus, 7:00 p.m.



**Turn to page 16
for more important dates!**



Students Follow Sousa's March Mania for its 10th Year!

New York Mills elementary students participated in the United States Marine Band's "Sousa's March Mania," where 32 Sousa marches went head-to-head to crown the 2023 champion! This was the second year that New York Mills has enjoyed the stickers and performances the Marine Band sends to participating schools, as well as having their voice heard in daily voting!

Students in kindergarten through second grade took turns leading moves to the marches and marches around the music room, including the griddy or "get sturdy" to some of Sousa's classics!

Third through sixth grade listened and were occasionally quizzed on random historical and musical trivia relevant to the day's march. Those with correct answers earned March Mania stickers.

Fourth through sixth grade tried their hand at filling out brackets, and many were weeded out quickly as brackets often are! Small prizes were offered for any bracket that picked the championship march, and anyone with a perfect bracket was crowned "March King," getting to wear a Marine-provided paper crown, special Sousa stickers and a Sousa lapel button or two!



Check out the marches, the bracket, and this year's winners at www.marineband.marines.mil/Educational/Sousas-March-Mania



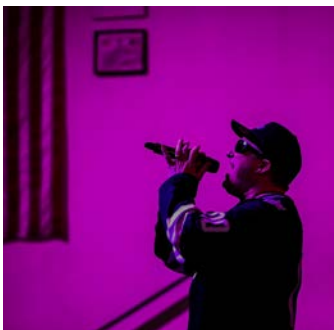
On March 16, international teacher and rock star Steven "Étienne" Langlois visited New York Mills to perform a language concert in the auditorium.

From Ontario, Canada; Étienne went from writing catchy songs for the students in his classroom to keynoting conferences and performing sold-out concerts worldwide.

Students from several surrounding districts were in attendance and had the opportunity to engage in listening, reading, writing and speaking French before, during and after the event.

The auditorium was full of energy and all that attended had a great time learning and "rocking out!"

Etienne also visited Brighton Central School District, Chittenango High School, Newark Central School and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Middle School.





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Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

Important DATES

MAY 11 - Elementary Band/Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 16 - Budget Vote and Board of Education Election, 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Beekman Gymnasium

Grades K-1 Concert, 6:00 p.m.

Grades 2-3 Concert, 6:45 p.m.

MAY 18 - Grades 7-12 Band and Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 20 - Music in the Parks Competition, Six Flags New England

MAY 29 - Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

JUNE 14-22 - Regents Exams

JUNE 16 - High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m.

JUNE 19 - Juneteenth - NO SCHOOL

JUNE 23 - Last Day of School for Students