



May
2022

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



@NYMillsUFSD



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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

A challenge for any school district, regardless of size, is to provide the very best educational program for its students within the means of the local taxpayers and state aid. The 2022-2023 New York Mills Union Free School District budget reflects this responsibility. In addition, with the leadership of the Board of Education, and careful day to day financial management, the financial health of this district remains strong. Much like last year (and, potentially, the foreseeable future), school districts in our county, region and state continue to combat economic and fiscal variables that challenge us to make difficult decisions, as we annually review our budget scenario. Our mindset is always to develop a budget that supports viable and vibrant programming for our children and remains fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. We have developed the 2022-2023 budget keeping these two factors in focus. Despite the challenges of the budget season, we are particularly proud that we continue to build upon student programming offerings and opportunities.

Our proposed 2022-2023 school budget is \$15,945,575, with a 0% increase to the tax levy. The responsible use of fund balance from our District's savings, and the work that the Board of Education and the District completed through the budget building process, allow us to propose a consistent, responsible, balanced school budget for the 2022-2023 school year. This budget also includes a capital outlay project that will allow us to secure our buses and keep them next to the bus garage.

A public hearing will be held in the High School Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3. The annual budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 17 at Beekman Gymnasium. The polls will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The May 17 vote at Beekman Gym includes the 2022-2023 school budget, and the election of a board member to the NY Mills Board of Education. After everything that has transpired this past year, I remain so proud of this community and our staff as we continue to work together to provide opportunities for students. Thank you for your continued support of our district and our students.

Respectfully,

Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

**BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD
OF EDUCATION ELECTION**

TUESDAY, MAY 17

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

IN THIS ISSUE

**2022-2023
SCHOOL BUDGET
INFORMATION**

*OPTIMIST STUDENTS
OF THE MONTH*

*NYM WINS UTICA
NATIONAL'S SCHOOL
SAFETY EXCELLENCE
AWARD*

**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)

VOTE

2022-2023 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 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$15,495,435	\$15,945,575	\$15,799,194
Increase/decrease for 2022-2023 school year		\$450,140	\$303,759
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		2.90%	1.96%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
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	\$243,082	\$243,470	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,874,204	\$7,873,816	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,874,204	\$7,873,816	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$1,698,819	\$1,698,819	\$1,698,819
Program component	\$11,583,450	\$12,044,909	\$12,029,409
Capital component	\$2,213,166	\$2,201,847	\$2,070,966

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** 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)

Description	Amount

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$643

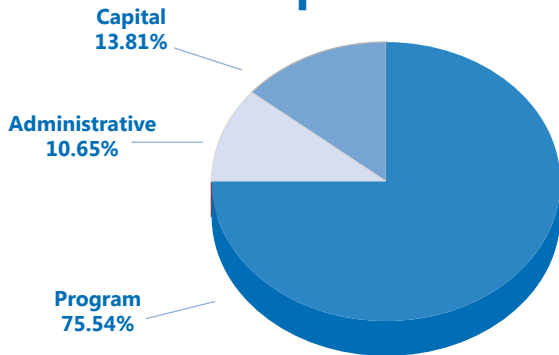
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the New York Mills School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Beekman Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

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

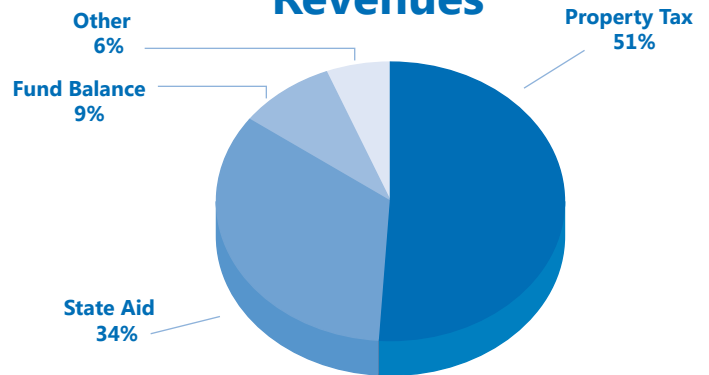


2022-2023 BUDGET INFORMATION

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 \$15,945,575 as a general fund appropriation for the 2022-2023 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

Tax on True

The tax on true value for the district in 2022-23 will be approximately \$20.34.

Tax Levy Increase

The tax levy increase for 2022-23 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 10, 2022, if the ballot is to be delivered by mail, or on or before May 17, 2022, 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 17, 2022.

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 is one (1) 5-year vacancy for the school board (2022-2027):

Jonathan M. Fiore

Robert Mahardy

Amy Vandehei





The New York Mills Drama Club cast of "Footloose" performed on March 24, 25 and 26 to a live audience.



Board of Education Candidate Personal Statements

Jonathan M. Fiore

In 2014, you, the voters, entrusted me to represent your interests and be your public servant on the New York Mills Board of Education at the age of only 18. Eight years later, I have made the decision to ask you to once again do the same.

New York Mills is more than just a school to me. It is my home. It is where I was shaped into the man I am today and a place which I seek to preserve to allow others to forge their own paths in life, as well. As a graduate and lifelong resident of the district, minus a stint of a few years in which starting my career called me away, I understand what makes both our district and our community so important. Having served in this role before, I also understand the personal sacrifice that is required to be successful as a board member and to ensure the continued success of the district.

Over the course of my life, I have had the opportunity to develop the skill set necessary to be an effective board member and ensure the proper stewardship of our district. As a graduate of the district, I understand the complexities that make our district unique and the challenges we face. As a graduate of Utica College, I focused my studies on accounting and finance, enabling me to provide oversight and guidance to the finances of our district. While away from the area, I attained a master's degree in tax accounting, allowing me to further understand the impact of district taxation policies on our residents and district funding. Now, as a mortgage loan officer, I see how our school draws in new families looking to move to our district, in search of the same educational opportunities that allowed me to succeed in life.

When I left this district originally, it was a bittersweet goodbye, but I knew it would not be forever. Now, my wife and I have returned to our district and look forward to raising our family here. It is of the utmost importance to me that we work to keep the doors of our district open, the quality of our education second to none, and the burden we levy on taxpayers manageable. As a former board member, I know all too well the difficulties that come with managing these competing interests. It is not easy to satisfy everyone in this job, but it is always possible to do what is best for our students and taxpayers.

Education has always been, and will continue to be, a lifelong passion of mine, ensuring that the current and future children of our district have the best opportunities in life that we can provide. On May 17, I ask you to once again give me the opportunity to be a champion for our district and give you the voters a strong voice on all matters that are of importance to you.



Robert Mahardy

Robert Mahardy grew up in North Utica and graduated from Utica Senior Academy in 1989. After many years working with youth in organizations such as The Boy Scouts of America, The Family Nurturing Center and School Partnership for Youth, he decided to pursue his dream of becoming a teacher. He received his Masters of Education from Utica College and became certified in Elementary Education and Students with Disabilities. He has been teaching in the Rome City School District for 14 years, working with 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. In the summers, he often teaches Special Education summer school. He also has chaired and served on numerous committees such as School Improvement, Literacy, Lego Robotics, and Camp CEAL.



Robert is an Eagle Scout, an Assistant Scout Master in Troop 111, and the Camp Director for Camp Kingsley. He directs the Cub Scout Summer Camp and several weekend programs each year. Robert and his family are active members of the New Hartford Presbyterian Church and he currently serves on the Communications Committee and helps to livestream services for those who cannot attend in person.

Robert has been married to his wife, Amy, for 22 years, and they have three wonderful children who attend New York Mills. Hannah graduated in 2021 and attends Houghton College, Hailey is a sophomore and Liam is in 8th grade.

Robert would like to be a Board Member because he and Amy often attend Board Meetings and try to stay involved and up-to-date on the school's happenings. Their children are receiving a top-notch education at New York Mills, and have the benefit of a supportive, creative and highly motivated staff. He would like to assist The Board in continuing to provide and develop quality education policies that will benefit students, teachers, administration and the community in an ever-changing educational landscape in these post-COVID times. He appreciates your support in this important role.

Amy Vandehei

I am the parent of a New York Mills student. I have worked in several fields. I was a security officer at Turning Stone Casino and a private investigator in Green Bay, WI.

While my daughter was in junior high school, I pivoted to a position as a substitute teacher. I spent five years substitute teaching in Ashwaubenon, WI. I really enjoyed teaching and decided to go back to school so that I could teach at a college level. I have now finished my PhD and have begun my search for a new career.

While in school my son was born. He has high-functioning autism. Prior to his diagnosis, I had no experience with autism. My son helped me to understand that we shouldn't educate only to those at the middle of the bell curve. All students deserve an equitable position to learn from. School policy can encourage inclusivity and acceptance of diversity. I am running for the school board as a way to encourage policy that will work for and protect all children.



HONOR SOCIETY

Induction Ceremonies

On April 21, 13 students were inducted into New York Mills' Phi Delta Chapter of the 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 students were presented with awards funded by donations from the Miga family and friends. Danil Donchuk received the Tutor of the Year Award in recognition of the time and commitment he has given to the Miga Mentoring Program. Noah Diskin was the recipient of the Walter Miga Memorial Award for his embodiment of those characteristics that defined Mr. Miga, including honesty, generosity, and perseverance.

On April 28, 17 members of the class of 2026 were inducted into the Phi Delta Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. 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

Lily Comenale
Josie Cook
Carlos Delacruz-Benta
Marc Fellows
Thomas Malinowski
Kara Osika
Elijah Pereira
Julie Roberts
Isaiah Sobolewski
Bryan Tramacera
Danni Williams
Kamryn Williams
Cindy Wu

National Junior Honor Society Inductees

Ayden Barber
Asah Bova
Abbey Calhoun
Maggie Copperwheat
Matthew Denicola
Skyler DesMarais
Madison Dobson
Nathaneal Dzwonkowski
Nevaeh Kimble
Mark Klein
Liam Mahardy
Lily Marchese
Quinnton Ostrander
Chelsy Plows
Samantha Siriano
Stefanie Siriano
Mason St. James

*Congratulations to all of the
new Inductees!*



Optimist

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

September - Noah Diskin

Noah Diskin was named the September 2021 Optimist Youth of the Month. Noah is the son of Paul and Ellen Diskin of Yorkville.

Noah is a high honor roll student and a member of National Honor Society. His activities include membership on Student Council for six years, participation in community service activities, serving as senior class vice president, membership on Varsity Club, and peer tutoring. Noah has been a contributing member of our cross country, basketball, and baseball teams throughout high school.

Noah plans to attend a four-year college in the fall.



October - Danil Donchuk

Danil Donchuk was selected as the October 2021 Optimist Youth of the Month. Danil is the son of Oleg and Tamara Donchuk of New York Mills.

Danil is a high honor roll student and is a member of our chapter of National Honor Society. Danil has been very active as a school tutor and as a member of the technology club. Danil has released a video game to the Microsoft Xbox store and formed a sole proprietorship of his own game design studio.

Danil plans to attend RIT in the fall to study Computer Science.



November - Isabella Cornish

Isabella Cornish was chosen as the Optimist Student of the Month for November 2021. Isabella is the daughter of Timothy and Candace Cornish of New York Mills.

Isabella is a high honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. She has served as the vice president of the Technology Club for six years and has been an active participant in the drama club since middle school. This year, she is the stage manager for the school's production of the musical "Footloose."

Isabella plans to attend SUNY Poly in the fall to major in Computer Science.



DECEMBER - *Logan Copperwheat*

Logan Copperwheat was named the December 2021 Optimist Student of the Month. Logan is the son of Michael and Melissa Copperwheat of New York Mills.

Logan is an honor roll student and a member of the New York Mills chapter of the National Honor Society. He has been a member of Student Council throughout high school and has played on the varsity basketball, football, and baseball teams for several years.

Logan plans to attend a 4-year college in the fall and is considering a number of options.



JANUARY - *Jemma Jordan*

Jemma Jordan was named the January 2022 New York Mills Optimist Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Robert and Lindsay Jordan of New York Mills.

Jemma is an honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. She has participated as a delegate to the student council throughout high school and, this year, she is the vice-president of the Executive Board. She is a member of our prom committee and varsity club. Jemma has been a contributing member of our field hockey, basketball, and softball teams. This year, she reached the milestone of earning a spot in the 1,000 club for basketball.

Jemma plans to attend a 4-year college in the fall and is considering a number of options.



February - *Olivia Beaulieu*

Olivia Beaulieu is the New York Mills Optimists Student of the Month for February 2022. She is the daughter of Raymond and Karen Beaulieu of New York Mills.

Olivia has been a member of the student council throughout high school for which she was elected secretary for a number of years and this year serves as the Executive Board president. She is a member of the yearbook club, prom committee, and is a multi-year participant on our field hockey, basketball and track teams. Olivia also holds a part-time job.

Olivia plans to attend MVCC in the fall for General Studies.



March - *Ethan Hurst*

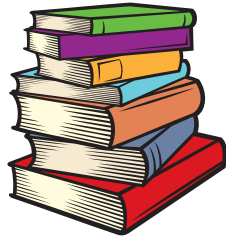
Ethan Hurst, son of Lisa Calhoun of New York Mills and the late Ryan Hurst, was named the New York Mills Optimist Student of the Month for March 2022.

Ethan is an honor roll student and president of the New York Mills chapter of the National Honor Society. Ethan is a member of the school chorus and drama club. He has held a number of lead and supporting roles in the school musical since elementary school. This year, he plays the lead role of Ren McCormack in the school's production of "Footloose."

Ethan plans to attend the SUNY Potsdam Crane School of Music to study music composition.



BATTLE of the Books



It was a battle of brains instead of brawn at the local Battle of the Books competition on April 6.

The fierce competition was held among the Battle of the Books Club members to earn the right to represent New York Mills in the regional battle, which will be held in May. The four students who will be moving on to the regional competition are Nathaneal Dzwonkowski, Keira Dzwonkowski, Lena Galime, and Adriana Karakalchu.

This school year, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in the Battle of the Books Club were tasked with reading their choice of at least five out of 17 books (some students read all 17). The club has been meeting weekly to discuss the books, play review games and participate in fun competitions.

Their knowledge was put to the test during the local battle, where club members were read quotes from the 17 books and they had to answer with the book title and author's name. Each student had a buzzer to use, and they had to be both quick and accurate with their answers.

On May 16, the top four students from the Local Battle will travel to Clinton High School to compete against teams from Clinton, Dolgeville, Holland Patent and Richfield Springs.

Congratulations to Nathaneal, Keira, Lena and Adriana, and best of luck in the regional competition!



Safety Efforts Earn New York Mills UFSD Utica National's School Safety Excellence Award

The New York Mills Union Free School District is one of at least 145 school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in New York State to receive the Utica National Insurance Group's School Safety Excellence Award for 2022 at the Titanium with Honors level.

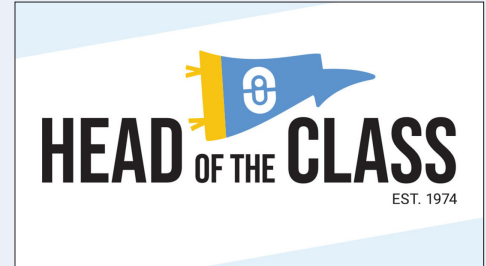
This honor is presented annually and recognizes school districts' safety efforts as they work to help keep students, staff and visitors safe. The New York Mills Union Free School District received its award at Utica National's 40th School Safety Seminar, one of seven such seminars the company hosts in the state. For more than 45 years, Utica National has kept kids and school staff safe and currently insures more than 300 school districts in upstate New York alone.

New York Mills Union Free School District officials accepted a certificate to commemorate the District's safety efforts and a \$500 award for use in furthering those efforts from Utica National representatives.

Utica National's School Safety Excellence Award Program has three levels: titanium, platinum and gold, in which schools can earn a meritorious distinction by meeting specific criteria to enhance overall safety. Through the program, schools with their own transportation, schools with contract transportation and BOCES are evaluated. Categories covered include bullying prevention programs, playground safety and other areas, and are measured using specific, quantifiable surveys.

"Safety and health concerns continue to be a priority in our school districts," explained Brian Saville, Senior Vice President in Utica National's Educational Institutions Unit. "Districts that go 'above and beyond' to provide a safe, healthy and focused culture for learning are to be applauded, and we're pleased to count the New York Mills Union Free School District among them."

Mr. Saville noted that, beyond the recognition itself, an added benefit of following the safety program is the chance to pinpoint specific threats to safety. "The time to address those threats is before a loss happens, which really helps contribute to the safety culture that districts are working toward."



The cast of "Footloose" performs at the New York Mills Senior Center for residents.





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Board of Education

Jacqueline Edwards, *President*
Kristin Hubley, *Vice President*
Alicia Albright
Scott Carman
Kimberly Gyore
Michelle Jordan
Steve King

Administration

Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, *Superintendent of Schools*
Mary Facci, *K-12 Executive Principal*
Brent Dodge, *K-12 Principal*

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<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 11 - Winter Sports Recognition, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 12 - Elementary Band/Chorus Spring
Concert, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 14 - Jr./Sr. Prom

MAY 17 - Budget Vote and Board of Education
Election, 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.,
Beekman Gymnasium

K-3 Spring Concert, 6:00 p.m.

MAY 19 - Jr./Sr. HS Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 30 - Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

JUNE 7-9 - Kindergarten Screening

JUNE 15-23 - Regents Exams

JUNE 17 - High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m.

JUNE 20 - Juneteenth (observed) - NO SCHOOL

JUNE 24 - Last Day of School for Students