



Red Creek Central School District

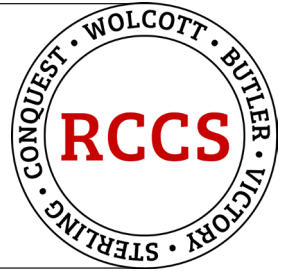
NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE RED CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume 46

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Number 3



Inside: 2023-24 Budget & Voter Information

BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 16th, 2023 from Noon-8pm in the High School Lobby

Ready to Ride: All Kids Bike Program A Success at Red Creek Central School District



It's one of the biggest milestones for a kid growing up; learning how to ride a bike. However, not every child gets the opportunity to learn. The Red Creek Central School District is now making sure every student in its community gets to experience the joy of riding on two wheels.

It's called All Kids Bike. The mission is to teach every child in kindergarten how to ride a bike in physical education

pedaling. The program also teaches students about bike safety.

Physical Education Teachers Jessica Ashlaw and Dave Briggs heard about the program and thought this would be a perfect opportunity for the district. They reached out to Jennifer DeVinney, the Director of Grants and Community Schools, who was able to find a grant to fund the entire program.

"Most districts, when they implement the program, have to do a fundraising campaign to raise the money," said Jennifer DeVinney. "Given that this program is focused on teaching all young people to ride by kindergarten, the purchase of these bikes falls perfectly within our UPK Grant."

Thanks to the availability of these grant funds, the district was able to get this program up and running right away without having to wait. Red Creek is currently the only school district in the Wayne-Finger Lakes Region to offer this program.

Back in December, students began their first lesson, slowly walking on their bikes in a large circle around the gym. This allows them to get comfortable with their bike and surroundings, especially those who may have never ridden on a bike before. By April, students were nearly sprinting on



the bikes, riding around obstacles, over bumps and through tunnels.

"To see the student's growth in not only riding the bike, but in awareness of technique, safety and personal responsibility, speaks to how powerful this program has been for our district," said Mrs. Ashlaw and Mr. Briggs. "We are excited for the next steps which would be to transition students to using pedals."



class. At Red Creek, we expanded the program to cover all grades at Cuyler Elementary School. The program provides helmets and special balance-to-pedal conversion bikes, which allows students to easily learn how to control the bike by just walking, before



Moving Forward, the district has some great ideas for how to grow this experience for all our students. Specifically, the district is hoping to work with Wayne County Public Health to bring their annual bike helmet giveaways to our community.



Top Five Graduates

Valedictorian: **Kendra Prosser**



Kendra Prosser, daughter of Kim and Daryl Prosser of Red Creek, has applied and been accepted to SUNY Oneota, Penn State Behrend, SUNY Albany, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Stony Brook and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Kendra has been active in National Honor Society - President, Spanish Honor Society - President, Senior Class Secretary, Science Honor Society, Envirothon, Select Choir and Track.

Kendra plans to attend SUNY Oneonta in the fall and will major in Biology.

Salutatorian: **Mackenzie Morrisette**



Mackenzie Morrisette, daughter of Gary and Laurie Morrisette of Red Creek has applied and been accepted to Alfred University and Monroe Community College.

Mackenzie has been active in National Honor Society, Girl Scouts, Class Marshal - Grades 9th-12th, Varsity Track, and Spanish Honor Society.

Mackenzie plans to attend Monroe Community College in the fall with the goal of transferring to RIT after two years. She plans to pursue a degree in engineering.

David Southwick,

son of Mark and Angel Southwick of Red Creek, has applied and been accepted to D'Youville, University at Buffalo, University at Rochester, University at Albany, Hobart & William Smith, and SUNY Geneseo.



David has been active in Student Council - President, Class President, Costa Rica 2023 President, Band President, National Honors Society Secretary, Spanish Honors Society Secretary, Treasurer of Yearbook Club. Three Season Athlete- Varsity Cross Country, Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field

David plans to attend D'Youville in the fall and study Exercise Sports Science and Doctor of Chiropractic.

Hannah MacArthur,

daughter of Ian and Genne MacArthur of Sterling, has applied and been accepted to SUNY Oswego, SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Albany, and SUNY Canton.

Hannah has been active in Varsity Bowling, Varsity Softball and National Honor Society.

Hannah plans to attend SUNY Oswego in the fall and pursue a Bachelors in Art and a Masters for Teaching.



Aleita Mercer,

daughter of Shawn and Courtney Mercer of Cato, has applied and been accepted to SUNY Brockport, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Geneseo and Keuka College.

Aleita has been active in Student Council, School Officer 9th-12th Grades, Varsity Soccer, Varsity Track, Varsity Wrestling, Varsity Softball - Captain, Select Choir, Area All-State Choir, All County Chorus, Scholastic Art Silver and Gold Key Awards, Girl Scouts - 4th-12th Grades, Art Club, Feats of Clay, and Student Representative Strategic Planning Meetings.

Aleita plans to attend Keuka College in the fall and will pursue Biology, Psychology and Pre-Med.



Congratulations!

“It Was Like I Was in a Dream”: RCCSD Unveils Book Vending Machine for Students



There are no lack of books within the walls of the Red Creek Central School District. There are thousands in the schools two libraries that can be checked out and enjoyed. However, there's nothing like cracking open a brand new book that students can keep forever. That's now an option for students, and it's completely free.



In March, the Red Creek Central School District unveiled its book vending machine inside Cuyler Elementary. “There was a post floating around on Facebook and several people had tagged our school librarians and our PTA representatives,” said Jennifer DeVinney, Director of Grants and Community Schools. “We all agreed ‘wouldn’t this be amazing to have in Red Creek.’”

From February 27th thru March 3rd, Cuyler Elementary celebrated Read Across America Week. Students were asked to watch four mystery readers throughout the week and wrote down a mystery word that was given at the end of the video. Every student completed this task, allowing them to earn a special token specifically for the vending machine.

“It’s more of an incentive to get the students to read and enjoy books while rewarding them for positive behavior,” said Tina Johnson the Cuyler Elementary Librarian.

Those tokens can be earned by completing certain tasks, being named



a RAMS Reader, or just by following the school’s RAMS Values; being Respectful, Accountable, Mindful and Safe. Once a student earns a token, they can take it to the vending machine, put it in the slot, and select the number that corresponds with the book they want.

“It’s really good because some kids can’t afford books and now kids can get free books,” said Skylar Stevens, a third grader at Cuyler Elementary.

A vending machine was also placed inside the atrium of Red Creek High School, which is filled with books aimed towards high schoolers and middle schoolers.

Both vending machines were purchased using federal stimulus money from the pandemic. The first round of books also came from those funds as well as from a supply that Cuyler Library already had on hand.



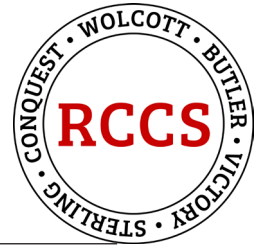
Going forward, the books will be restocked using grant funds, community partners like the Wayne County Literacy Volunteers and through the Red Creek PTA using either Scholastic Book Points or from in-school book fairs.

“It was like I was in a dream,” said third grader Jayce Williams after getting his book from the vending machine. “I wanted to get a good book that I wanted to keep forever.”

If you would like to donate money or new books for the vending machines in both Cuyler Library and the Middle School/High School Library, please email Jennifer DeVinney at jennifer.devinyne@rccsd.org. ■



Red Creek Central School District 2023-2024 BUDGET & VOTER INFORMATION



On the Ballot:

PROPOSITION #1 Budget Approval

Voters of the Red Creek Central School District are requested to adopt a budget for the 2023-24 school year in the amount of \$24,881,413 in General Fund expenditures and to expend such funds as may be authorized by the Board of Education beginning July 1, 2023.

PROPOSITION #2 School Bus Purchase Approval

Voter approval is requested for the purchase and/or lease of one (1) 64-passenger school bus with wheelchair unit and one (1) 66-passenger bus with diesel engine for a total amount not to exceed \$370,000. Eighty-five to ninety percent of the monies for such purchases will come from the State in the form of Transportation Aid.

Board of Education Membership Election

Two (2) vacancies on the Board of Education are up for election at this year's Annual Meeting/Election. They are for two (2) three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2026. As per voter approval in May 1994, seats for the Board of Education are elected on an at-large basis. This means that if two seats are vacant, the top two vote getters will assume office. Four (4) candidates have filed nominating petitions for the two (2) vacancies: **Larry E. Curtis**, Wolcott Road, Red Creek; **Elizabeth V. Decker**, Shafer Road, Sterling; incumbent **Brad H. Dates**, Curtis Co-Op Road, Sterling; and **Stephanie I. Folds**, Red Creek Road, Red Creek.

CANDIDATES

★ Vote for any TWO ★

Larry E. Curtis	Two (2) vacant seats Both ending June 30, 2026 * Denotes incumbent
Elizabeth V. Decker	
Brad H. Dates *	
Stephanie I. Folds	

The vacant seats will be filled by the two (2) candidates with the most votes (including write-ins).

What you need to know:

Were there any staff additions or reductions in this budget?

There are no planned staff reductions based on the 2023-24 budget. All vacated positions will be evaluated based on the district's needs.

Will Red Creek get additional State Aid in the 2023-24 School Year?

In the 2023-24 school year Red Creek will be receiving a 4.84% increase in State Aid, which translates to an amount equal to \$714,796.

How much is the projected tax levy increase for 2023-24?

The tax levy will increase by 2.00%, or \$96,544, in 2023-24 as allowed by the tax cap law formula. Assuming no change in assessment or equalization rates, on average a person that paid \$1,000 in school taxes in 2022 will pay approximately \$20.00 more in 2023.

2022-2023 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

RED CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SOUTH STREET, PO BOX 190
RED CREEK, NEW YORK 13143

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-24

-----SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS-----

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2022-23	% TOTAL BUDGET 2022-23	PROPOSED * BUDGET 2023-24	% TOTAL BUDGET 2023-24
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>				
General Support	\$ 2,591,059	10.4%	\$ 3,048,480	12.3%
Instruction	\$ 11,401,647	47.2%	\$ 11,843,498	47.2%
Transportation	\$ 1,333,490	5.4%	\$ 1,435,025	5.8%
Undistributed	\$ 8,855,618	35.6%	\$ 8,554,410	34.4%
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 24,181,814	100.0%	\$ 24,881,413	100.0%

-----SUMMARY OF REVENUES-----

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2022-23	% TOTAL BUDGET 2022-23	PROPOSED * BUDGET 2023-24	% TOTAL BUDGET 2023-24
<u>LOCAL SOURCES:</u>				
Property Tax	\$ 4,827,214	20.0%	\$ 4,923,758 **	19.9%
Planned Balance	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%
Sales Tax	\$ 160,000	0.7%	\$ 160,000	0.6%
Interest and Earnings	\$ 4,000	0.0%	\$ 4,000	0.0%
Rentals		0.0%	\$ -	0.0%
Other Sources	\$ 520,650	2.2%	\$ 530,589	2.1%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 817,672	3.4%	\$ 817,672	3.3%
Reserves (Unemployment, Retirement, Bus Purchase, Liability)	\$ 445,000	1.9%	\$ 445,000	1.8%
SUB TOTAL	\$ 6,774,536	25.9%	\$ 6,881,019	27.8%
<u>STATE SOURCES:</u>				
Foundation Aid	\$ 11,417,785	47.2%	\$ 12,650,404	50.8%
Other State Aid	\$ 4,388,274	18.1%	\$ 3,985,685	16.0%
BOCES Aid	\$ 1,538,907	6.4%	\$ 1,300,000	5.2%
Textbook Aid	\$ 62,312	0.3%	\$ 64,305	0.3%
SUB TOTAL	\$ 17,407,278	74.1%	\$ 18,000,394	72.3%
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 24,181,814	100.0%	\$ 24,881,413	100.0%

* Estimate

** Estimated Tax Levy INCREASE = 2%

Tax Rate on True Valuation

2022-23 Actual Tax Rate on True Value	\$12.61
2023-24 Tax Rate on True Value (Estimate based on 2022 assessments and equalization rates)	\$12.16*

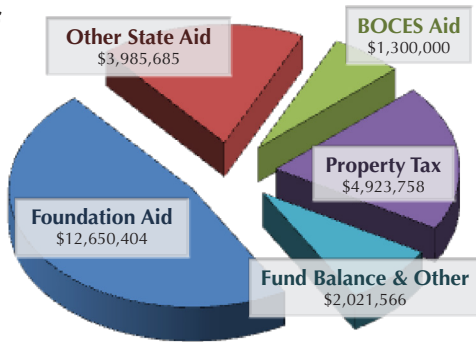
* The Tax Rate on True Valuation and the final Local Tax Levy will be determined as soon as the certified tax rolls (assessments) and equalization rates (as set by the State) are finalized.

At a Glance:

2023-24 BUDGET REVENUES Where our money comes from:

Explanation of Revenues

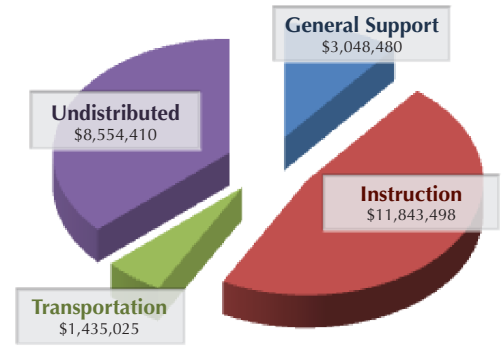
- State Sources for revenue account for 72.3% of the total revenues for the district. The District is expecting an increase in State Aid due to the fully funding of Foundation Aid.
- Students with Disabilities, Transportation, and Building Aid make up the major portion of the "Other State Aid" category and are paid by the State on prior year expenditures.
- Major items in Local Sources include sales tax received from Wayne County, Interest and Earnings, and Appropriated Fund Balance from the prior year's budget.
- A two percent (2%) increase is proposed for the local property tax.



2023-24 BUDGET EXPENDITURES Where our money goes:

Explanation of Expenditures

- The budget for the 2023-24 school year is \$24,881,413, which is an increase of \$699,599 or 2.89% from the current budget.
- The Instruction section, which includes items such as teacher salaries, classroom textbooks and supplies, programs for students with disabilities, and interscholastic athletics, accounts for 70.8% of the overall budget and has increased \$334,232, or 2% from the current year.
- The Undistributed section of the budget accounts for 34.4% of the overall budget and includes such things as group health insurance, employee retirement system contributions, Social Security payments and debt service.
- The Undistributed section of the budget again includes a \$100,000 transfer to the Capital Fund for minor improvements to school district buildings in the form of a Capital Outlay Project. It is important to note that approximately 92.6% of this expense will be returned to the district in the form of Building Aid in the following year.



Red Creek Math-A-Thon Raises More Than \$6,000



Red Creek students came up big once again for this year's Math-A-Thon. Now in the 22nd year of participating, the students teamed up to raise a total of \$6,177.

For the fundraiser, students are given a booklet with math problems or problems to solve online over February break. Students raise money through pledges per problem solved, or flat donations. All proceeds go to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

This year, the Red Creek National Junior Honor Society helped kick off the Math-A-Thon by promoting the event. Student Officers also helped count the checks and cash and sent the funds to St. Jude's. Over the 22-years Red Creek has participated in the Math-A-Thon, the school has raised a grand total of \$119,257.

Fundraisers like the Math-A-Thon has helped hundreds of families across the country, including the family of Callin Mack. Callin, now a third-grader at M.W. Cuyler Elementary School, was diagnosed with a rare cancer called Craniopharyngioma back in 2018. Callin still visits St. Jude's for checkups.

A portion of the money raised helps families, pay for flights, meals and housing as their child undergoes treatment. In some cases, St. Jude will also cover a portion of the treatment that insurance companies don't cover. The

hospital also accepts anyone, regardless of the family's income or insurance coverage.

The top individual fundraiser was Logan Corteux, a junior at Red Creek High School. He raised a total of \$1,147. Team Callin Strong, which was formed by Callin's older brother Cooper Hadcock, was the top team, raising more than \$2,100.

Colloca Winery and the Red Creek Laundry Mat and Car Wash also supported the Math-A-Thon this year.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital treats children with more than 200 forms of cancer and other catastrophic diseases. St. Jude's mission has remained the same for decades, to find a cure through research and treatment. ■



Leaving Her Mark: Senior Maddie Jones Selected for Wayne-Finger Lakes Superintendents Award



The Red Creek Central School District was represented very well at the Second Annual Wayne-Finger Lakes Superintendent Awards. Senior Maddie Jones was this year's recipient for Red Creek.

On Thursday, March 2nd, Maddie, along with 24 students from other school districts, were celebrated for this achievement.

Students selected for this prestigious award had to meet certain criteria such as having demonstrated outstanding scholarship (earning an 80% GPA or higher at the end of their Junior year), and showing exceptional leadership and

citizenship. Maddie shined in all areas.

Maddie's role in her community both inside and outside of school is nothing short of spectacular. She has spearheaded many positive changes, which speak to her leadership. One of her accomplishments; a push for the district to stock feminine products in the girl's bathroom.

Prior, girls would have to visit the counseling office to get what they needed. "It's just better for everyone," said Maddie. "Especially for those younger women who are going through those stressful times."

Maddie has made a positive impact outside of school as well. Maddie's birthday is just a few days before Christmas. Two years in a row, instead of asking for gifts for herself, Maddie had other plans. She donated toys and books to Golisano's Children Hospital. "I know when parents have the stress of paying off medical bills, it's hard for them to give their children the gifts they deserve," said Maddie. "That was the proudest

moment of my life." Maddie also donated necessities to the Helping Hounds Dog Rescue.

Although she's a senior, Maddie's work at Red Creek is far from over. She's planning to make a positive impact on the school's band program, which she plays both the flute and saxophone for. Maddie is also preparing to help with the school's art program as well as play softball in the Spring. On top of all that, Maddie also works a part time job.

"The way that Maddie has chosen to be involved in our district and community made her the perfect candidate for this award," said High School Principal Raina Hinman. "She has taken advantage of all the opportunities Red Creek has offered her which will contribute to her success at Roberts Wesleyan."

Next year, Maddie will attend Roberts Wesleyan College in North Chili. She's studying to become a physician assistant in the sports medicine field. Maddie, who has been a pivotal member of the Red Creek Girls Bowling team, will be a Redhawk on the Women's Bowling team.

"It feels great to win this award," Maddie said. "It makes me know that I am heard and that I am making an impact." ■



Scan the QR Code to Check Out the 2023 District Concert & Art Show Photo Gallery or visit rccsd.org/photo-gallery



Mr. Matthew VanOrman Appointed as New Red Creek Central School District Superintendent



The Red Creek Central School District Board of Education has selected Mr. Matthew VanOrman as their next Superintendent of Schools. Mr. VanOrman was appointed at the Board of Education meeting on April 19, 2023.

As the next Superintendent, Mr. VanOrman will continue his work with the Red Creek Central School District, with over 21 years of commitment to the school community. During this time, Mr. VanOrman has

served as Middle School Principal, Interim Middle/High School Principal, Assistant Principal/Dean of Students, Athletic Director and Physical Education Instructor.

Throughout his career, Mr. VanOrman has demonstrated his dedication to Red

Creek and has supported student achievement.

"We are very excited to congratulate Mr. VanOrman on his new role within the Red Creek Central School District as our new Superintendent," says Board of Education President Katherine Madigan. "Through the search process, it was clear that Mr. VanOrman's dedication aligns with the District's vision and that he has the ability to support our District's

commitment to all students. We thank Mr. VanOrman for his dedication as our Middle School Principal and look forward to our continued work."

"I am incredibly honored and excited for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of the Red Creek Central School District," says VanOrman. "I look forward to working alongside our educators, students, families, and community as we build on our successful practices and plan strategically for the future. Working together, we will build on the district's tradition of excellence, and we will move forward by being innovative, student-centered, and steadfast in our belief that all students deserve a high-quality educational program. I am thrilled to be continuing my journey here at Red Creek."

Mr. VanOrman will continue in his current position for the remainder of the year. He will assume the responsibilities of the Red Creek Central School District Superintendent position on July 1, 2023.

Budget Vote — Tuesday, May 16th Noon-8pm

RED CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL
SOUTH STREET, P.O. BOX 190
RED CREEK, NEW YORK 13143
www.rccsd.org

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