



HAT'S HAPPENING

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

MARCH 2011



High School High Honor Roll



High School Improvement/Sustained Improvement Roll



Middle School High Honor Roll



Middle School Improvement Roll

**High School
High Honor Roll**

Grade 9

Thomas Ferland
James Foisia
Ali Henderson
Matthew Lindsay
Anderson Luke
Kira McCall
Hunter Secor
Nicholas Vitalone

Grade 10

Christopher Allard
Ariana Allman
Catherine Bonke
Christine Dobie
Paul Sperr

Grade 11

Laura Allard
Christian Baker
Carly Bean
Trena DeMarree

Brandon DeRue
Angelle Flores
Efrosyni Kostakis
Emily Lindsay
Rayanne Luke
Ashley Neal
Tricia Phillips
Kyle Robinson
Douglas Smith
Gregory Stitt
Shane Walker
Richard Yackel

Grade 12

Charity Baker
Hannah Barrett
Natali Bogart
Cody Chelini
Nicole Darling
Cortney Dodge
Nicholas Frawley
Cody Garrod
Luke Moll
Kierstyn Palmer

Brian Redder
Christopher Timmerman
Mary William
Zachery Willis

**Middle School
High Honor Roll**

Grade 6

Joseph Allman
Clayton Belmont
Jessica Brandt
Bailey DiSanto
Claire Donovan
Hannah Ferland
Sharayah Fisher
Jacob Haase
Matthew Kuhl
Martha Liddle
Nathanael Niles
Nathaniel Palmer
Chantel Smith

Grade 7

Angelena Barclay
Naomi Cobbs
Leanna Hess
Tylea McCarthy-Walker
Autumn Pollock
Alyssa Williams
Brianna Wilson

Grade 8

Reilly Carlson
Ciara Chelini
Elizabeth DeFisher
Elizabeth Kuhl
Samuel Kuhl
Mark Saile
Matthew Sperr

**High School
Improvement/
Sustained Roll**

Grade 10

Kevin Bertolone
Tyler Bureau

Grade 11

Haelee Catchpole
Alysha Hyman
Ashley Volpe

Grade 12

Haley Appleby
Natali Bogart
Justin Butler
Zachary Cappon
Jessica Cook
Paul Fillmore
Joseph Gnage
Jeffrey Kommer
Margarita Marquez
Macenzie Peters
Jay Seyna
Shannon Tozier
Tyler Vanderbilt
William Verno
Adam Wood

**Middle School
Improvement Roll**

Grade 6

Desiree Bresett

Grade 7

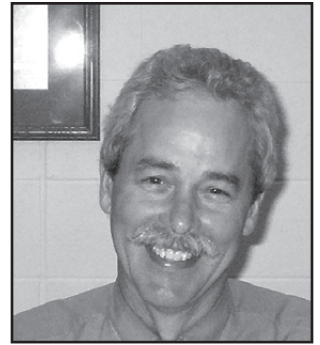
Noah Eaton
Shania Fonda
Malik Jones

Grade 8

Griffin Lange
Amy LaVare
Sean Lorah

Message from the BOE President...

*"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."
- Diogenes*



*Michael Collins
Board of Education President*

Williamson has always had a proud and enviable tradition of supporting education. Through hard won experience, we know that a solid education is the bedrock for building skills that will last a lifetime. We're justifiably proud when our students succeed; both academically and in extra-curricular activities. Just as important, we are there for them when they need a little help. It's simply what we do as a community. Recent remarks made by some NY political leaders portray the statewide educational system as a lumbering, inefficient behemoth that is failing our youth and driving our state economy to its knees. They cite broad stroke talking points like "the highest per pupil spending rate in the nation and only a 33 percent average high school graduation rate" as justification for excessive cuts. They often overlook Albany's penchant for spending and partisan gridlock. To be fair, in any organization there is always room for continuous improvement and many issues are being addressed.

To be clear, Williamson is not failing our children. Our graduation rates are well above the state average. We have programs in place to meet the unique needs of a rural district. We have a dedicated, qualified and caring team that consistently goes the extra mile every day. As a district, we have worked diligently to maintain high standards while creating an environment that encourages teamwork and fosters respect for individuals. We are acutely aware of our financial responsibilities. We have kept our budget virtually flat for the last three years. Since 2006, the tax rate per thousand assessed has actually decreased by 8 percent. A recent study by the Center for American Progress evaluated almost every major school district in the nation to determine a Return on Educational Investment: how much learning a district produces for every dollar spent. Williamson was identified as one of the best high-achieving, low spending school districts. Keep in mind that we are a rural district competing against districts with more wealth and resources. We have always had to do more with less. It's part of our rural heritage. This year we are faced with unprecedented budget challenges. The outdated formula for distributing state aid is fundamentally inequitable. However, the political will to alleviate state mandates and truly address complex funding issues has not been evident. Broad stroke statements about tax caps and 10-second sound bites may satisfy the media and advance political agendas, but they do not get the job done. In the coming months, the entire district team will be working together to look at ways to mitigate the implications of the proposed education budget. We will be conducting presentations, meeting with legislators and keeping the community informed as we move forward.

Be sure to visit the Williamson Central website for more information and links to contact your state representatives to let them know you want action. Our children are the future. We are committed to providing them with a quality education to help them meet the challenges they will face. We could use your help.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your support. Please stay engaged, informed and in touch.

Message from the Superintendent . . .

Due to New York State's budget deficit, the new administration is facing serious challenges to keep New York State fiscally healthy for future generations. As a concerned New Yorker, I support efforts to ensure NYS is fiscally healthy and on a sustainable path. As such, I expected and prepared for further cuts to our school budget for the 2011-2012 school year. Unfortunately, the cut that the governor proposed on February 1st was much deeper than expected for Williamson and many other rural upstate school districts. In a recent budget speech, Governor Cuomo communicated the intent to cut state education spending by 2%. On the whole, the proposed budget seems to agree with his proposals; however the 2% cut was not applied evenly across all of New York State's school districts. For example, in the governor's proposal, Nassau County schools would lose 1.7% of last year's state aid while Williamson's cut would be 16%.



Maria Ehresman
Superintendent of Schools

The current budget proposal means a \$1.4 million dollar loss of basic operating aid for Williamson. This is a cut of 16% over the 2010-11 aid amount, which itself was reduced by \$1.2 million over the previous year. Cumulatively, this is a 2.5 million dollar loss of revenue in a 20 million dollar budget in two years time.

The governor also stated that the result of spending on education has not been a good return on investment. That is not true. Williamson's school budget has remained flat for the last three years, while our state aid has decreased. During that time period I had to eliminate fourteen positions within the district to keep the budget flat. Despite the cuts we have been able to keep our graduation rate at 90%, well above the state average. Last week, a study was released that showed that the return on investment for Williamson Central Schools was great. It showed that we spend less and have great results. I invite you to take a look at this study at www.americanprogress.org.

During the campaign, the governor communicated that he supported state mandate relief to help towns and schools manage costs. Two areas for mandate relief that would help are health care and retirement costs, areas outside our control. Our projected increase in health care costs for next year is 14% above last year's cost and retirement costs are projected to increase 33%. Enacting a state mandate to address one of these areas would help school districts deal with the significant cuts in state aid. At this point, there is no mandate relief in site. The committee assigned to investigate state mandate relief is not prepared to present their proposals until the beginning of March. Our budget needs to be finalized at the April 13th Board meeting. I hope that mandate relief happens, but at this point I remain skeptical. The governor has been quoted recently as saying that mandate relief may not happen until after the budget is completed.

As a district we know that our state aid needs to be reduced, we understand that the state can not continue on its previous path. I am asking that you write your legislators in Albany and ask them to stand up for upstate. Please take a look at the charts and graphs on the back of this newsletter and see the inequity of the cuts across the state. Let's make the burden of budget cuts across the state be shared by all in a more equal manner, whether you are a rural, suburban or urban district.

There has been much said about the plight of upstate. If the cuts continue as they are now, the plight of upstate will be worsened. The quality of upstate education is at risk.

There is much more about this issue on our district web site (www.williamsoncentral.org). Included there is a letter you can download, along with the addresses of the state legislators for our town.

In closing, please consider contacting your local legislators and ask them to stand up for upstate education.

High School . . .

It's incredible to think that more than half the 2010-11 school year is complete! Williamson High School continues to offer a variety of activities and opportunities that inspire character, service, knowledge, and wisdom in our students. Our goal continues to center on students being well-rounded and achieving their very best! Some highlights from the 2nd marking period include:

- 186 or more than 49% of the student body achieved one of the academic achievement rolls (Merit, Honor, or High Honor Roll) during the 2nd marking period while another 22 students achieved Improvement Roll or Sustained Improvement Roll.
- Nicole Darling, Charity Baker, Emily Lindsay, Tricia Phillips, Tori Mason, Catherine Bonke, Rex Fisher, Christian Baker, Zach Sewilo, and Jamison Brooks all earned seats in All-County Band.
- We had 11 students make All-County Choir; Nicole Darling, Ashley DeNardo, Katy Kolyer, Mary William, Catherine Bonke, Michaela Bristol, Emily Morlock, Ashton Bortle, George Verno, Adam Johnson, and Ricky Yackel.
- The French Club, Spanish Club, and Student Council sponsored and participated in our 25th annual gift giving and caroling event at Blossom View Nursing Home.
- Our Volunteer Club took approximately 30 students to Eastview Mall to "ring the bells" for the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle event.
- Almost 70 students are participating in our Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pre-engineering program, either taking Design and Drawing for Production, Principles of Engineering, or Digital Electronics. We hope to add the 4th course in the PLTW sequence, Civil Engineering/Architecture, next year.



*Douglas Lauf
High School Principal*



DON'T MISS THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL EVENTS...



High School Prism Concert & Art Showcase • March 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

District Vocal Music Concert at the High School • March 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**Williamson High School Musical Production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie"
April 1 & 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**



Intergenerational Dance

Middle School . . .

Over one-half of the 2010-2011 school year is complete and the Williamson Middle School continues to have a number of activities that highlight the integration of instruction and scholarship.

Curriculum Highlights

Grade 5 In Social Studies, the students are studying the western expansion. Students are working on persuasive writing; spelling; writing short essays (with detail) and reading Bud, not Buddy in ELA. In Science, students are working on a research project regarding invertebrates. The Math Department is working with students' understanding of equivalent fractions and order of operations. The students are also focused on reviewing for the New York State test coming this spring.

Grade 6 In Math, students are focusing on proportional reasoning, solving proportions and percent of value. In Science, they are learning about plate tectonics and finishing up the rock cycle. In Social Studies, the students are studying ancient Greece and Rome. In ELA, students are reading Maniac MaGee, a book that examines racism and cultural differences. Students will also begin studying the medieval cultures as they prepare for Medieval Day at the end of March. The History Bowl is part of the Learning Fair this year.

Our students are also involved in Home and Careers; Health; Art; Music; Chorus; Band; Spanish; French; Physical Education; Academic Intervention Services and Reading courses.

Other activities in the Middle School:

- 17 students participated in the oral round of the spelling bee after qualifying in the written round.
- Students judged our staff "Chocolate Chip Cookie Baking Challenge".
- A "Celebration of Diversity Day" is scheduled for March 31st to bring about greater understanding of the world around us.
- The Learning Fair is scheduled for March 12th from 1-4 pm in the Middle School.
- Medieval Day will take place March 25th for the 6th grade.
- On March 24th 6th and 7th graders are going to Sodus to see "I Never Saw Another Butterfly", a Holocaust awareness play.
- 7th grade students are preparing for the Gettysburg trip.
- Travel Club is going to Montreal, Canada at the end of March for three days.
- "Gathering at the Core" Brown Bag seasonal evening activities have taken place, with more to follow.
- The building wide "Olweus" anti-bullying program has been very successful in curbing bullying behavior.
- 5th and 8th graders have been working together developing Learning Fair projects.



*John E. Fulmer
Middle School Principal*

Grade 7 In ELA, the students are reading and analyzing Hey, Little Ant and writing reflective sentences. In Social Studies, students are finishing colonial craftsman presentations and the American Revolution unit. In Math, students are advancing their understanding of geometry and probability and statistics. In Science, students are studying the states of matter. Project Lead the Way is our Technology program that incorporates computer design in a variety of ways.

Grade 8 In Math, students are completing a geometry unit, material that used to be taught in 10th grade. Students taking Integrated Algebra are working on graphs and equalization. In Social Studies, students are learning about the Great Depression and World War I. In ELA class, students are studying literary elements and completing a poetry unit. In Science, they are beginning their unit on ecology and human impact.



Olweus student group working together

With the continued support of the community, our Middle School students have opportunities to learn and develop into productive and healthy individuals.

High School**Honor Roll****Grade 9**

Christian Barrett
Jacqueline Bouvier
Marcella DelPlato
Jamie Dodge
Joshua Faulks
Katelyn Gilbert
Courtney Hill
Kathryn Kolyer
Victoria Mason
Joshua McIntosh
Katherine McKay
Mickayla Miller
Joseph Montondo
Megan Noger
Alexandra Prater
Zachary Sewilo

Grade 10

Jamison Brooks
Karly Byron
Carly Catchpole
Alex DeMay
Amanda Farrington
Megan Fitzgerald
Yaneczka Flores
Alexis Ginther
Alison Hassett
Kathryn Hodgson
Adam Johnson
Andrew Kruger
Nicole LaVancha
Alexander Monachino
Kelsey Stitt
Stephen Thomson
Benjamin Yackel

Grade 11

Tiffany Bloss
Neil Campbell
Heidi DeCann
Ashley DeNardo
Alysha Hyman
Dannie Joram
Alexander Kopicki
Nicole Krauth
Colin Lange
Brandon Martinez
Emily Mogray
Erik Rangel
Andrew Stohr
Ashley Volpe
Meghan Willis
Matthew Wright

Grade 12

Hayley Ameele
Haley Appleby
Michaela Bristol
Zachary Cappon
Jessica Cook
Kimberly DeFisher

Brian Doran
Jessica Gillis
Joseph Gnage
Connor Hannan
Joshua Havranek
Alexandra Intini
Allison Liddle
Evangeline McClure
Jason Miller
Emily Morlock
Jacob Paquette
Tyler Picotte
Samantha Scott
Jay Seyna
Joniece Smith
Shannon Tozier
William Verno
Adam Wood

High School
Merit Roll**Grade 9**

Shane Blauvelt
Keanu Buda
Diana Cervantes
Amanda Graban
Carissa Havranek
Daniel Inman
Emileigh Johnson
Axel Joram
William Krombach
Votie LaFave-Boughton
Angelina Metcalfe
Gerard Moran
Bailey Musclow
Cory Neild
Bennett Schoonerman
Ross Tesch
Abram VanHoover

Grade 10

Zackery Bushart
Mackenzie Cuvelier
Casey DeMay
Taylor Flanders
Jeanette Homman
Colby Kephart
Micalah Klejment
Heather Kramberg
Taylor Kuter
Sean Mannix
Kimberly Marchionda
Oona Quinn
Nicholas Smith
Emily Strobel
Katelynn White
Kristian Wilson
Ian Youngs

Grade 11

Sarah Anne
Nicole Barron
Jonathan Beiswanger
Bradley Blauvelt

Corrin Bogart
Melanie Cahill
Haelee Catchpole
Devon Cristales
Daphne Croop
Megan DeFisher
Rexford Fisher III
Amanda Grevell
Rory Hubbard
Randi Ray
Joseph Sewilo
Trevor Thayer
Jeffery Timmerman

Grade 12

Heather Ameele
Miranda Jean Auten
Brittany Barres
Nicholas Bigelow
Ashton Bortle
Robert Brown
Britny Cole
Paul Fillmore
Lia Hollenbeck
Jeffrey Kommer
Alexander Longo
Margarita Marquez
Michael Monachino
Macenzie Peters
Caitlyn Pilc
Jason Raymond
Brian Storrs
Cheyenne Torres
Tyler Vanderbilt

Middle School
Honor Roll**Grade 6**

Connor Allman
Westley Burlee
Austin Cayea
Abram Collier
Joseph DelPlato
Madison Dunning
Noah Follette
Anna Forget
Abigail Fox
Samantha Graban
Sarah Haak
Hannah Henderson
Nathan Henner
Gary Immesoete
Adriannah Klejment
Mikaila Lang
Benjamin Ledain
Cole Mascle
Autumn Miller
Rylee Mohr
Samantha Neild
Michelle Post
Aaryn Schmitt
Kamryn Schoonerman
Lauren Smith
Stephanie Stevenson

Alexander Traas
Emilee VanDemortel
Ryan VanDemortel
Ana Vargas

Grade 7

Jacob Bailey
Logan DeRue
Leaha Eidman
Stephanie Fisk
Andrew Fitzgerald
Nicholas Hordin
Malik Jones
Dakota Kolyer
Brianna McCall
Cassie McCall
Emma McLymond
Rebecca Moran
Mason Prater
Amber Raymer
Jagger Secor
Emelia Sonnevill
Alexander Steurys
Kendal Ulmer
Lyndsey Yackel

Grade 8

Corey Cristales
Megan Dildine
Katelyn Flanders
Michelle Forget
Anna Kostakis
Sean Lorah
Samantha Mayo
Taylor McCall
Joseph Mohr
Dennis Mowers
Arianna Palmer
William Sackett
Thomas Saile
Jonah Sharp
Spencer Smith
Justin Villnave

Middle School
Merit Roll**Grade 6**

Eddie Bickom
Deseriee Bresett
Bayana Burnell
Jeffrey Cantwell
Grace Caternolo
Kyle Durst
Alivia Ginther
Jake Aaron Ginther
Adam Grevell
Camryn Hamel
Julie Kommer
Cameron LaBarr
Amber Lorah
Cooper Markko
Joshua Mayo
Ian McKay
Anthony Plyter

Zachary Reid
Lindsey Sharp
Gideon Smith
Chelsea Snell
William Sponable
Mikala Steinmann
Colton Weber
Anton Wendler

Grade 7

Alisa Jade Abrams
Maria Aguilera
Karley Beck
Chelsea Brennessel
Sean Campbell
Claudia Cooney
Sarah Decker
Taylor DeNeef
John Devendorf
Benjamin Dodge
Shania Fonda
Silver Fox
Clayton Hamm
Haley Haws
Kaylee Howitt
Garrick Immesoete
Jacob Kommer
Ashley Lang
Tyler Ledsome
Brandon Longo
Reilly Melville
Rachael Niles
Thomas Page
Ashley Raymer
Brooke Ruffell
Emily Thompson
Taylor Walker
Adam Wangler
Austin Whitcomb
Mackenzie Whitmore

Grade 8

Jacob Brandt
Richard Cantwell
Schae Clark
Alexander Cook
Jena Eaton
Benjamin Henner
Daniel Kruger
Griffin Lange
Zoey Lee
Alec McCall
Liam Miller
Emily Piazza
Benjamin Reid
Tessa Robinson
Hannah Seniuk
Destiny Sharrow
Sarah Swingly
Madison Thomson
Rayven Turner
Cody VanKouwenberg
Guadalupe Vargas
Samantha Walton
Kendrick Wang

Elementary School . . .

Williamson Elementary School Loves Music and Musicians!



Josh and Gavin

We have all had the experience of hearing a song on the radio that begins a flood of memories that transport us to another place and time; or the shared experience of being able to easily memorize and recall factual information with the assistance of putting the facts into a little jingle. Music is a part of the fabric of our society and the culture of all peoples throughout time. When I think about the resurgence and overwhelming popularity of television programs that showcase musical talent like American Idol, I am even more convinced of the importance of music in our society. Music has been shown to help shape individual abilities, character and success in our society. Therefore, we are extremely proud of the rich music education program that our vocal and instrumental teachers provide our students. All students at the Elementary School participate in formal music classes from Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. When students reach the Fourth Grade they can elect to begin vocal music and instrumental music

lessons. Recently, two of our instrumental music students, Joshua Bailey (snare drum) and Gavin Buehler (alto saxophone) participated in a formal competition at the Wayne County Solo Festival in Newark, N.Y. Each of these music students received the highest ranking possible. Congratulations to both of these students and their teacher, Mrs. Erica Hernandez.

Music education naturally supports the efforts of our classroom teachers. Numerous research studies have proven the benefits of music on a person's health, their success in society, success in school, the development of their intelligence and success in life. I have included just a few of the research findings that support music in our schools and why at the Williamson Elementary School we love music and we love musicians.



*Anne Ressler
Elementary School Principal*

* Secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances (alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs). *Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Report. Reported in Houston Chronicle, January 1998*

* "Music is a magical gift we must nourish and cultivate in our children, especially now as scientific evidence proves that an education in the arts makes better math and science students, enhances spatial intelligence in newborns, and let's not forget that the arts are a compelling solution to teen violence, certainly not the cause of it!" *Michael Greene, Recording Academy President and CEO at the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards, February 2000.*

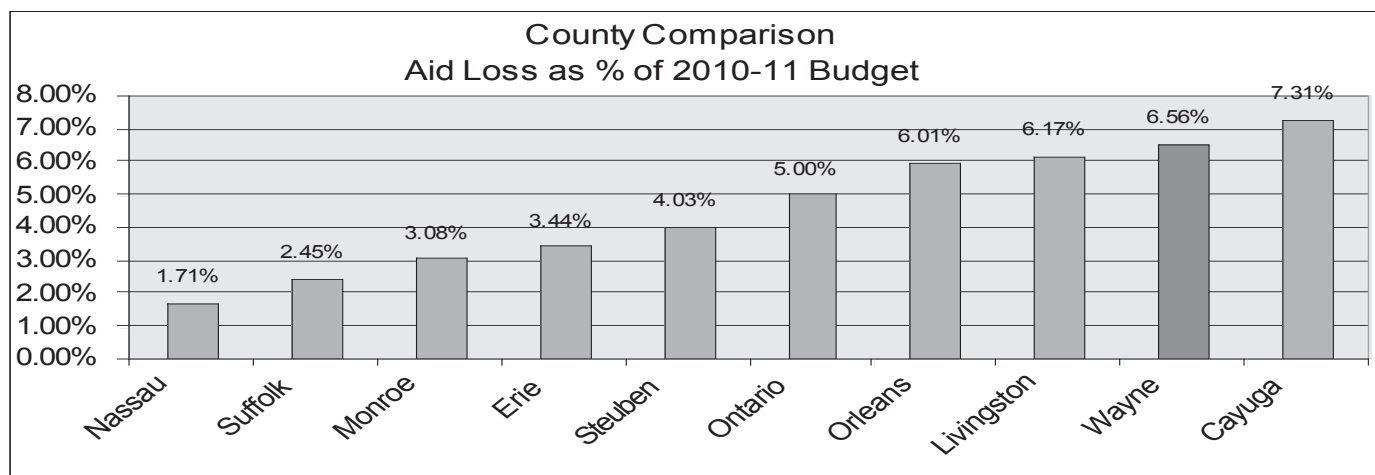
* The U.S. Department of Education lists the arts as subjects that college-bound middle and junior high school students should take, stating "Many colleges view participation in the arts and music as a valuable experience that broadens students' understanding and appreciation of the world around them. It is also well known and widely recognized that the arts contribute significantly to children's intellectual development." In addition, one year of Visual and Performing Arts is recommended for college-bound high school students. *Getting Ready for College Early: A Handbook for Parents of Students in the Middle and Junior High School Years, U.S. Department of Education, 1997*

* The College Board identifies the arts as one of the six basic academic subject areas students should study in order to succeed in college. *Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need to Know and Be Able to Do, 1983 [still in use], The College Board, New York*

* The arts create jobs, increase the local tax base, boost tourism, spur growth in related businesses (hotels, restaurants, printing, etc.) and improve the overall quality of life for our cities and towns. On a national level, nonprofit arts institutions and organizations generate an estimated \$37 billion in economic activity and return \$3.4 billion in federal income taxes to the U.S. Treasury each year. *American Arts Alliance Fact Sheet, October 1996*

* The very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians. *Grant Venerable, "The Paradox of the Silicon Savior," as reported in "The Case for Sequential Music Education in the Core Curriculum of the Public Schools," The Center for the Arts in the Basic Curriculum, New York, 1989*

Are the education cuts across the state fair?



District to District Comparisons Paint a Clearer Picture

District	County	Student Population	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Cut as % of Budget	Cut per student
Williamson	Wayne	1200	20,678,583	-10.8	(\$1,926)
North Salem	Westchester	1331	38,088,703	-1.4	(\$393)
Rye Neck	Westchester	1500	34,880,460	-1	(\$238)
Bellmore	Nassau	1120	30,802,649	-2.5	(\$697)
Carle Place	Nassau	1451	44,646,051	-2.1	(\$622)

See the articles inside from the Superintendent and Board President.

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