



**Budget 2023-2024**  
[www.AmherstSchools.org](http://www.AmherstSchools.org)

## Our Schools in Action

# Full Restoration of Foundation Aid in 2023-24 Budget

The Amherst Central School District presents a fiscally responsible, tax cap compliant budget proposal to our community that includes full funding of state Foundation Aid. The district has received significant increases in foundation aid over the past two years with another projected increase for the 2023-24 school year. The district worked hard for many years advocating for full funding. We are grateful to state elected officials for their commitment to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula. We look forward to their ongoing support so we can continue to enhance the services provided to our students and families.



*Paul Steimle  
Board of Education  
President*

With the full foundation aid we are able to accomplish several goals to best support our students and families, including:

- Maintaining the additions and increases we implemented over the past two years of partial foundation aid increases.
- Restoring key positions cut over the years to enhance programs and maintain ideal class sizes.
- Adding new positions based on the ever-changing needs of our students.

The 2023-24 budget includes:

- A tax cap levy increase of \$781,596. For 2023-24, the calculated tax levy limit for Amherst Central School District is 2.02%.
- An estimated tax rate increase of \$0.43 per thousand of assessed valuation.
- A budget-to-budget increase of 10.6% mostly due to the fully restored state aid totals.

We present this budget proposal to the community with confidence that it meets the school district's mission to prepare all students to excel in a dynamic world while being responsive to the needs of our taxpayers. Stay informed at [amherstschoools.org/budget](http://amherstschoools.org/budget). Please take the time to visit the high school on May 16 and vote.

Respectfully,

Paul Steimle, Board of Education President

### NEW! Electronic Poll Books

The Erie County Board of Elections has provided tablet-style electronic poll books for use at the polls on May 16, 2023. Voters may visit any table to sign in with a poll worker. Voters will provide their full name to the poll worker who will locate it on the iPad and flip the screen to the voter for a signature. A stylus will be available to use for signature.

**BUDGET  
VOTE**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE: RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

*Amherst Central School District is grateful for the community's continued support. Your return on investment can be measured by the broad range of opportunities afforded to our students and their successes. Throughout this issue, you will find many examples of how your support is reaping great returns for our students.*

**Budget Vote: Amherst Central High School**  
 4301 Main Street • May 16 from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

# Amherst Central School District BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
**7 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

at the Amherst Central High School  
South Gymnasium

Please enter through the doorway off the driveway to the far left of the school (not the front entrance of the school).

## Budget At A Glance

**2023-2024 Proposed Budget**  
\$75,538,000

**Budget-to-Budget Increase**  
\$7,238,000

**Tax Levy Increase**  
2.02%

**Estimated Tax Rate Increase**  
\$0.43 per thousand assessed valuation

## What's on the Ballot?

Residents will vote on the following propositions:

### Proposition 1 – School Budget

The Amherst Central School District budget of \$75,538,000 for the 2023-2024 school year.

### Board of Education Candidates

The election of two members to the Board of Education to serve three-year terms.

Read the candidate bios on page 5.



Collin Bishop



Jessica McLaughlin



Maryjane Metzen

## Capital Outlay Project

The 2023-24 budget includes \$100,000 for an Amherst CSD Capital Outlay project. The scope of the outlay project will be security enhancements and window film on District buildings.

## Three Part Summary & Definition

All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital.

|                             | 2022-2023           | 2023-2024           | DOLLAR CHANGE      | % Change      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Administrative Expenditures | \$6,479,673         | \$7,091,610         | \$611,937          | 9.44%         |
| Capital Expenditures        | \$10,278,755        | \$10,744,037        | \$465,282          | 4.53%         |
| Program Expenditures        | \$51,541,572        | \$57,702,353        | \$6,160,781        | 11.95%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$68,300,000</b> | <b>\$75,538,000</b> | <b>\$7,238,000</b> | <b>10.60%</b> |

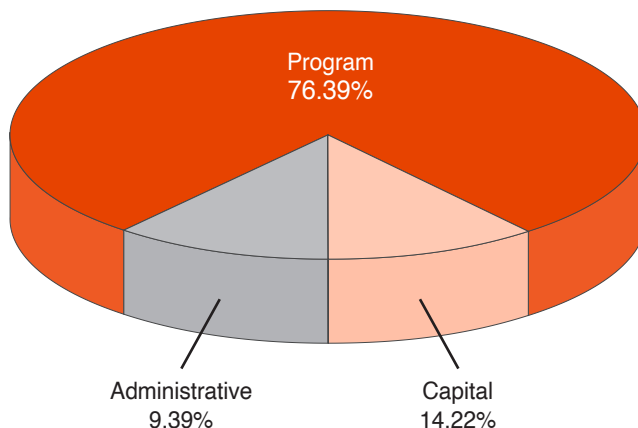
### Three-Part Budget Definitions

**Administrative Budget Component:** Includes expenses for office and administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified school administrators who spend 50 percent or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; public information; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

**Capital Budget Component:** This covers debt service on buildings and leasing costs; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; and all facility costs, including salaries and benefits of the custodial staff; service contracts, maintenance supplies and equipment; and utilities.

**Program Budget Component:** This portion includes salaries and benefits of teachers and supervisors who spend the majority of their time teaching; such instructional costs as supplies, equipment and textbooks; co-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics; staff development; and transportation operating costs.

### Proposed 2023-24 Three-Part Budget



## Where Does the Money Come From?

| REVENUE SUMMARY           | 2022-2023           | 2023-2024           | CHANGE             |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Property Tax              | \$38,684,432        | \$39,466,028        | \$781,596          |
| In Lieu of Tax            | \$750,000           | \$695,000           | -\$55,000          |
| County Sales Tax          | \$3,928,000         | \$4,300,000         | \$372,000          |
| Community Ed              | \$78,500            | \$78,500            | \$0                |
| Interest Earning          | \$16,300            | \$257,500           | \$241,200          |
| State Aid                 | \$17,333,925        | \$22,467,454        | \$5,133,529        |
| Building Aid              | \$5,026,080         | \$4,927,744         | -\$98,336          |
| Other Revenues            | \$1,402,763         | \$2,146,274         | \$743,511          |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$1,000,000         | \$1,000,000         | \$0                |
| Use of Reserves           | \$80,000            | \$199,500           | \$119,500          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>\$68,300,000</b> | <b>\$75,538,000</b> | <b>\$7,238,000</b> |

## Where Does the Money Go?

| EXPENDITURE SUMMARY | 2022-2023           | 2023-2024           | CHANGE             |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel           | \$31,998,341        | \$34,613,928        | \$2,615,587        |
| Benefits            | \$13,580,224        | \$15,233,220        | \$1,652,996        |
| General Support     | \$2,652,094         | \$3,029,315         | \$377,221          |
| Instruction         | \$4,719,074         | \$5,858,596         | \$1,139,522        |
| BOCES               | \$4,982,658         | \$5,090,958         | \$108,300          |
| Transportation      | \$3,671,134         | \$4,009,258         | \$338,124          |
| Debt Service        | \$5,696,475         | \$5,702,725         | \$6,250            |
| Contingency         | \$1,000,000         | \$2,000,000         | \$1,000,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>\$68,300,000</b> | <b>\$75,538,000</b> | <b>\$7,238,000</b> |

## Contingency Budget

Should the board declare a contingency budget the following would be implemented by law: no change in levy, no new equipment, must charge for all building use by community, no change in salary for non-instructional, non-unionized employees, no non-essential maintenance.

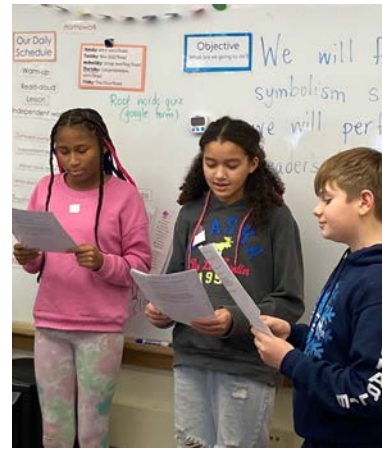
## Five Year Budget History

| YEAR           | BUDGET       | LEVY         |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2018-19        | 2.18%        | 2.54%        |
| 2019-20        | 2.72%        | 3.01%        |
| 2020-21        | 3.79%        | 2.39%        |
| 2021-22        | 3.03%        | 3.14%        |
| 2022-23        | 6.19%        | -0.69%       |
| <b>AVERAGE</b> | <b>3.58%</b> | <b>2.08%</b> |

## Tax Levy & Rate

|                       | 2022-2023       | 2023-2024       | CHANGE    |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Property Tax Levy     | \$38,684,432    | \$39,466,028    | \$781,596 |
| Assessment            | \$1,808,617,356 | \$1,808,617,356 | \$0       |
| Tax Rate per \$1,000* | \$21.388953     | \$21.821104     | \$0.43    |

\*Rate based on prior year assessed value.



Learn more at [amherstschools.org/budget](http://amherstschools.org/budget)

**PROPOSED BUDGET INFORMATION**



Amherst Central School District  
Budget Notice

**OVERALL BUDGET  
PROPOSAL**

|                                                                                                                              | <b>Budget<br/>Adopted<br/>for the<br/>2022-23<br/>School Year</b> | <b>Budget<br/>Proposed<br/>for the<br/>2023-24<br/>School Year</b> | <b>Contingency<br/>Budget<br/>for the<br/>2023-24<br/>School Year</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions                                                                   | \$68,300,000                                                      | \$75,538,000                                                       | \$74,902,591                                                          |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year                                                                                |                                                                   | \$7,238,000                                                        | \$6,602,591                                                           |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget                                                                              |                                                                   | 10.60%                                                             | 9.67%                                                                 |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index                                                                                           |                                                                   | 8.00%                                                              |                                                                       |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount                                                                        | \$38,684,432                                                      | \$39,466,028                                                       |                                                                       |
| 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)                                                                       | \$38,684,432                                                      | \$39,466,028                                                       | \$38,952,886                                                          |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions                                                                                              | \$979,147                                                         | \$881,396                                                          |                                                                       |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions                                                          | \$37,705,285                                                      | \$38,584,632                                                       |                                                                       |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$37,705,285                                                      | \$38,584,632                                                       |                                                                       |
| I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **      | \$0                                                               | \$0                                                                |                                                                       |
| Administrative Component                                                                                                     | \$6,479,673                                                       | \$7,091,610                                                        | \$7,012,732                                                           |
| Program Component                                                                                                            | \$51,541,572                                                      | \$57,702,353                                                       | \$57,320,798                                                          |
| Capital Component                                                                                                            | \$10,278,755                                                      | \$10,744,037                                                       | \$10,569,061                                                          |

\*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.

A contingent budget would require the elimination of all equipment purchases, no community use of District facilities without payment of full operating costs, no Community Education Programming, no salary increases for non unionized employees, an additional fund balance and reserves appropriation of \$224,687, and no increase to the 2023-24 tax levy.

Note: The District has agreed to a two year extension of our current contract with our contract transportation provider, First Student. 2023-24 is the second year of that two year extension.

|                                                     | <b>Under the Budget Proposed for the<br/>2023-24 School Year</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> | \$565                                                            |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Amherst Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Amherst Central High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Amherst Central High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

# School Board Candidates

## Collin Bishop

Collin is the Chief Communications Officer at FeedMore WNY. Before joining FeedMore, Collin was the Assistant News Director at WGRZ Channel 2 and the proud recipient of a New York State Emmy, multiple regional Edward R. Murrow awards, and a local PromaxBDA Gold Award for his work in journalism.



While not a native to Western New York, Collin moved to Amherst more than 20 years ago for work and has never wanted to leave.

Collin and his wife Robin, a Western New York native, have lived in the Amherst Central School District for nearly 17 years and have three children in Amherst Central Schools. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, they will have students at Amherst Central High School, Amherst Middle School, and Windermere Blvd. Elementary School. Some of their favorite school events include the Windermere Blvd. Elementary School International Festival and attending school musicals and band and orchestra concerts. Their children are also involved in dance, gymnastics, and speed skating.

## Jessica McLaughlin

Jessica McLaughlin and her husband, Shawn, a graduate of Amherst Central High School, have resided in Amherst since 2003. They have three children attending Amherst Middle School and Amherst Central High School. Mrs. McLaughlin has served six years as a Board of Education member for the Amherst Central School District. She is a member of the district's Transportation Committee, Policy Committee, and Safety Committee. In 2018, she was the voting delegate for the New York State School Board Association. Most recently, Mrs. McLaughlin served on the Districtwide Strategic Planning Committee that reconvened in 2023 to update the District Strategic Plan.



Mrs. McLaughlin currently serves as the President of the Middle School/High School PTSA and previously held the position of Membership Chairperson. She served in volunteer leadership positions with the Smallwood Drive PTA as the VP Membership, VP of Programs, and President. She has served five years on the board for Amherst Nursery School; three as its chairperson.

Mrs. McLaughlin served on the original ACSD Strategic Planning Committee and as a member of the Smallwood Drive Elementary School Strategic Plan Implementation Committee for three years. Mrs. McLaughlin was also a committee member that helped win the awards for Smallwood Drive School as a State and National School of Character. During the Covid 19 pandemic, Mrs. McLaughlin served as a member of the Safety Planning team that served to plan for the safety of students and staff at Smallwood Drive Elementary School.

Prior to devoting her time to raising her children, Mrs. McLaughlin was a sales manager for the Hyatt Regency Hotel. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Russell Sage College. Mrs. McLaughlin enjoys volunteering for school related activities including the High School Operetta, Middle School Musical, and various other events or committees that serve our community. Mrs. McLaughlin is currently a teacher of two-year-old students at Amherst Nursery School.

## Maryjane Metzen

Maryjane Metzen and her husband, Greg, were both born and raised in the Western New York area and have resided in the Amherst district since 2014. They have two children, Jack and Juliette, who attend Smallwood Drive Elementary School in third grade and kindergarten respectively.

A 2008 graduate of NYU with a degree in finance from the Stern School of Business, she has held various management roles within Target Corporation over the course of the last 14 years. With a focus in talent management, process optimization and operational growth, she has led multi-unit teams spanning across the Buffalo/Rochester area. Prior to joining Target, Mrs. Metzen lived in New York City and worked for Franklin Templeton Investments, where she specialized in asset management.



Mrs. Metzen has been an active and involved parent over the years, most recently serving on the board of Amherst Nursery School, holding the position of Treasury Officer. She has decided to run for her first term on the Amherst School Board of Education to help implement change as needed while continuing to uphold the long-standing tradition that is Amherst Schools. As a recent inductee to the Pop Warner Sports Hall of Fame, she also has a passion for pushing programs forward and fostering an environment where student-athletes have exposure to athletics regardless of skill or background.

## RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT



### Facilities

- The Facilities Department that comprises the Custodial department along with Grounds and Maintenance maintains more than 625,000 square feet of building space and approximately 77 acres of land.
- Additionally they maintain 17 tennis courts, 1 basketball court and over 20 athletic fields from soccer to field hockey that are used by students and the community.

### District

- We serve approximately 3,000 students and 560 staff each day.

### Grades K-5

- Smallwood Drive students in kindergarten to fifth grade are fully engaged in "Lending a PAW" to cultivate intrinsic motivation. The theme promotes kind actions to pay it forward and make connections at SDS each day.
- Windermere Boulevard Elementary Cub Club, a high energy assembly held monthly, strengthens students' sense of belonging and recognizes students who exhibit good character.

### Grades 6-8

- Amherst Middle School began a Student-to-Student Mentoring Program pairing middle schoolers with high school students where each week they would meet to have one-on-one and group conversations, share a meal and do group activities.
- A New Teacher Coffee Club meets monthly to give newer teachers a place to build community, discuss best practices and grow as an AMS teacher.
- A Tigers Treasures project focused on providing pre-vocational skills directly to the students in the 8:1:3 and 12:1:1 program by developing, running, and managing a clothing closet. This project also includes students from the service club to help promote the clothing closet and to gather clothing donations.



## Grades 9-12

- *The Business/Career, Art and Technology Departments have continued to collaborate directly with the Henry Ford Learning Institute. Our Amherst School of Design and Innovation is an HFLI Design Thinking school. To reinforce and deepen the model, all business/career and art classes participated in a rapid cycle design challenge to create a vehicle to get to school in Buffalo snow.*
- *A new social studies elective, Leaders & Changemakers: Civics in Action, is the Seal of Civic Readiness capstone course where students will investigate modern civic issues.*
- **Class of 2022**
  - *83% of seniors continued their education at post-secondary institutions.*
  - *18 seniors entered the workplace; 2 entered the military.*
  - *65% of students graduated with Advanced Regents designation; 45% with Advanced Regents with Honors.*
  - *1 National Merit Finalist; 2 National Merit Commended Students.*
  - *14 Advanced Placement courses offered.*
  - *Over \$22 million in scholarships awarded.*

## Family Support Center

- *Our Family Support Center counselors help students who struggle with issues such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem/self-image, substance use, family conflicts, peer relationships or serious school academic or behavior concerns.*
- *The Center will assist parents with getting their children and family the most appropriate, affordable support in a timely manner.*
- *The Family Support Center offers a newsletter for parents, as well as informational and activity-based events for families throughout the year.*

# Dispensing a Good Story, Book Vending Machines are a Hit at Smallwood and Windermere

At Smallwood Drive Elementary, a huge cardboard box sat just outside the library for a week and no one told students what was inside it. The box was decorated with hand drawn question marks, paw prints, hearts, and rainbows. It also had several signs that said: Watch announcements on Friday to find out the secret. There were also two hints on the box: It's taller than Mr. Crozier (principal of the school) and It's shiny and smooth.

During morning announcements, the big reveal took place as Mr. Crozier and School Librarian Rebecca Cummiskey moved the cardboard to reveal a book vending machine.

Similar fun and excitement had already happened at Windermere Boulevard Elementary as they unveiled their new book vending machine to staff and students. The vending machine sits in the front hallway at Windermere so students see it as they walk the main hallway to lunch each day.

The purchase of the book vending machines was made possible by the Parent Teacher Association at each building. Creating another way to promote literacy and to give each child a free book to take home was the goal of the fundraising.

The vending machines work just like a snack vending machine, but they dispense a good book. A golden token gets put in and students punch in the number for the book they want and it drops down. They reach in a big door at the bottom and take it out. The PTA restocks the books so there are always a variety of books for every grade level, but students can pick whatever book they want. It's theirs to keep and take home.

At Smallwood, students earn a token by showing great character and having their teacher nominate them for being Student of the Month. At Windermere, students get a token on their birthday (summer birthdays are celebrated during the school year).

At each school, the vending machines are decorated with the school name, pictures of the tiger mascot and the school colors of orange and black.



# Amherst Receives Grant Money to Purchase Fresh Veggies, Unprocessed Foods from Small, Local Farmers

Our Nutrition Services Department received \$26,739 under the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed foods for the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. Allowable foods that are considered minimally processed are milk (flavored & unflavored), dairy items such as cheese and yogurt, fruits and vegetables, grain and meat alternatives such as beans. Allowable food purchases are to be made from local, small and/or socially disadvantaged farmers/producers. To be considered a local vendor, they must be headquartered in the same state or within 400 miles of the delivery destination. Amherst will also use an additional produce vendor, Produce Peddlers. The fresh vegetables offered through Produce Peddlers are prepared the day before delivery by farmers mainly in Niagara County, picked up early in the morning and delivered by lunchtime by Produce Peddlers.

The grant money cannot be used to purchase processed foods such as pre-made pizza, chicken nuggets, breads, muffins, crackers, or prepackaged meals. The funds must be used by February 1, 2025.

## Teacher Aide Staff Spotlight

Meet Hannah Burns, a teacher aide who has worked for the district for three years and whose favorite part of the day is greeting the kids at breakfast in the cafeteria. She currently works at Windermere Boulevard Elementary School spending the majority of her day helping in two prekindergarten classes. When she started with the district, she worked at Smallwood Drive Elementary in the district's after school program.

She also occasionally fills in for various classrooms and in the lunchroom supporting all students. Last summer she worked in the summer school program supporting third grade. She found the job listing on the district website available jobs section at [amherstschools.org/employment](http://amherstschools.org/employment).

The best part of her job? "Getting to know so many children in my community! I have been so lucky to be able to support multiple classes and get to know so many names and faces," she said.

"I love working breakfast in the cafeteria. My favorite part is warmly greeting everyone as they walk in and start their day! It's a great atmosphere to get to know the kids and check in with them about how they are doing."

She is lucky that she gets to see two very familiar faces at work - her two children, who attend Windermere.

If you are looking for work, the district has openings for teaching assistants, teacher aides and other positions throughout the year. All applications are online at [amherstschools.org/employment](http://amherstschools.org/employment).



## RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT



### English as a New Language (ENL)

- Our district has over 40 different languages spoken by our families; some students speak up to 4 languages in their homes.
- There are currently 165 students districtwide receiving ENL services.
- There are 10 ENL staff members.
- ENL teachers do so much more than teach English. They also help students through culture shock, teach about American culture and customs, help with translation and interpretation services for families, host parent orientation to teach about American school expectations, move-in interviews, help with paperwork, make connections with services both inside the district and outside, facilitate students' sharing of their cultures with classmates, and build bridges between our families and the school.

### Tech Integration

- New wireless access points and switches will be deployed this summer for faster speeds and more reliable coverage.
- A new phone system was deployed in the fall of 2022.
- The district is increasing bandwidth which will prepare us for upcoming computer-based testing.
- New hardware is being deployed to refresh our staff and student workplaces.

## Are You Looking for Work? We are Hiring!

Many of our employment opportunities offer flexible schedules that align with the 10-month school year from September through June. We also have opportunities to work year-round as a 12-month employee. ACSD employees qualify for New York State pension, may enroll in health benefits and get paid vacation, sick days and holidays. Job openings are posted at [www.amherstschools.org/employment](http://www.amherstschools.org/employment).

## Creating Opportunities to Learn Outside the Classroom

At Amherst School, there are opportunities for students to develop their interests beyond the classroom. Whether it's recreation, music, literature or volunteerism, there are clubs, school-based initiatives and special events for students during the day or after school. We call this Student Life and it is one of the three pillars in our District Strategic Plan.

Our district recently reconvened our Strategic Plan council and reconnected with the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester to revise our plan as several initiatives had stalled due to the pandemic. Over the next two years, there will be more opportunities under the Student Life pillar that include extra-curricular offerings, student-teacher relationships, character education, career exploration and readiness and service to community. Here's a sampling of some activities that fall within the Student Life pillar.

At the high school, a few students built upon the popular clothes thrifting trend to start a free thrift store for students. They collected, sorted, advertised and it was a huge hit.

Students are able to start new clubs if there is enough interest. A cheese club was started this year and its members all have an interest in knowing more about that dairy culinary delight. Our mental health awareness club was started by several students who realized there was a need to connect with others. They recently held a successful morning coffee talk. The high school Youth Activation Committee Club hosted our second annual Spread the Word Inclusion campaign where students and staff pledged their commitment to promoting inclusion in our school.

In the spirit of service to community, our high school and middle school hold Bald for Bucks campaigns to raise money for Roswell Park Cancer Institute. While most of the participants fundraise as individuals, our middle school used its annual penny wars fundraiser to collectively raise more than \$4,000 for Bald for Bucks. At Smallwood Drive Elementary students and staff raised \$17,286 to contribute to the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser. Three students were recognized for being the top fundraisers.

At Windermere, a new after school tennis club was hugely popular and students got a chance to play at a local tennis center as a capstone activity. Tennis is a sport where age is no barrier. Other after school club opportunities for students are in musical theater, fiddle, Girls on the Run, zumba, Spanish, chess and art.

A new adult-to-student mentoring program was created at the middle school to build engaging student-teacher relationships. Teachers, staff, counselors, and administrators are paired with recommended students and meetings take place before school, during a study hall, lunch or after school. They start each meeting with some meditation or mindfulness exercises and then spend the time together playing games or sharing a meal, all while working in one-on-one conversations about what's going on in a student's life.



Amherst Central School District  
55 Kings Highway  
Amherst, NY 14226-4330

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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BUFFALO, NY  
PERMIT NO. 3075

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*

District Resident

## Community Education This Summer

Registration is open for 2023 summer camps in Basketball, Wrestling, Tennis and PE Games for boys and girls. All registration is done online at [amherstschoools.org/communityed](http://amherstschoools.org/communityed). If you have questions, please contact Lori Sosenko in the community education office at (716) 362-3031 or email at [lsosenko@amherstschoools.org](mailto:lsosenko@amherstschoools.org).



## Krolick's Chicken Barbecue



**Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
3-6 p.m.**

at Amherst Central High School

Pickup in Washington Highway parking lot.  
Dinner includes two sides, dessert and roll.

**Cost \$15**

Pre-order by Friday, May 12  
by email to Laurie LeGoff at  
[llegoff@amherstschoools.org](mailto:llegoff@amherstschoools.org)  
or call 716-362-8174.

## School Registration for 2023-24

**Kindergarten Registration:** If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2023, and live within the boundaries of the Amherst CSD, they are eligible for kindergarten.

We also offer a free Pre-K program that offers a creative and fun curriculum that is taught by certified teachers. This high-quality program is open to any 4-year-old child residing in the district. The child must be four by Dec. 1, 2023.

Instructions for the online registration process is available on the district website at [www.amherstschoools.org/registration](http://www.amherstschoools.org/registration).

## BUDGET VOTE May 16, 2023

**Amherst Central High School  
South Gymnasium  
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

## Budget Feedback

The Amherst CSD Board of Education will not conduct an exit survey this year, but the board values insight from the community and has set up an online feedback form. Find the form on the budget webpage, [amherstschoools.org/budget](http://amherstschoools.org/budget).

## Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available for the Amherst Central School District vote.

The completed ballot must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 16, the day of the vote.

A qualified voter in the district may use an absentee ballot if, on voting day, he or she is a patient in a hospital or unable to appear personally because of illness or physical disability; is required to be outside the country because of duties, occupation or studies; is on vacation outside the country; or is detained in jail awaiting action conviction of an offense other than a felony.

For more information, contact the District Clerk at 362-3051 or visit the office at 55 Kings Highway, Amherst, NY.

## Voter Eligibility

To qualify as a voter, a person must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- at least 18 years old
- a resident of Amherst Central School District for at least 30 days prior to May 16, 2023. (Education Law § 2012)

Apartment dwellers who meet these qualifications are eligible. No prior registration is required and residents do not have to be registered voters. (Education Law § 2012)



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