



# Ardsley Union Free School District

Challenging Minds. Building Character. Inspiring Excellence.

## SPECIAL BUDGET NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

### A FOCUS ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, CLASS SIZE AND STUDENT WELLNESS

**VOTE ON  
MAY 15, 2018**

**POLLS OPEN  
6 A.M. TO 10 A.M.  
AND  
2 P.M. TO 9 P.M.  
ARDSLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
CAFETERIA**

Dear Ardsley Union Free School District (AUFSD) Residents,  
It has been a unique year for our school district. Overall enrollment in grades 1-12 increased by 84 students and kindergarten enrollment increased by 31 students from the prior school year, four additional faculty positions were added to our staff, 339 new homes were built within our school district, and two new members joined our Board of Education. Our students enjoyed great success with several receiving regional and national academic awards and competing in international competitions. Many of our athletic teams also successfully competed at the regional and state levels.

As we look ahead to next year, you will be voting on a school budget to support our increased enrollment and the goals we have established for the district. The recent growth in student enrollment, fueled by the record number of new housing developments, presents our taxpayers with a unique set of circumstances.

AUFSD student population has grown by 203 students over the last five years

More teachers, classrooms and sections are required to ensure class sizes and maximize learning

New housing developments have added 339 new homes to our district

More people are paying school district taxes

Total assessed value in AUFSD has gone up due to both new properties and changes in assessment

For the **FIRST TIME** in recent history the tax rate for each homeowner will go **DOWN .49%** from \$22.54 to \$22.43 per \$1,000 assessed value

We are proposing a year-to-year budget increase of 3.39% which will reduce class sizes in all schools and allow us to increase our focus on social and emotional wellness resources and programs.

**Because of the unique situation of the tax rate going down, we are able to propose a tax levy of 4.7% that falls BELOW the allowable tax levy cap of 5.15%.**

**THE TAX RATE IS GOING DOWN AND THE PROPOSED BUDGET IS BELOW THE TAX CAP.** This year's maximum allowable Tax Levy Cap based on the New York State formula is 5.15%. The Board of Education has determined that we can reduce this rate to 4.7%. This will minimize the tax impact on our residents while funding a proposed budget that includes seven new full time positions across all three schools, plus additional part-time staffing in our middle and high schools.

Since the total taxable assessed value in AUFSD has gone up due to the record breaking number of new homes contributing to our revenue and the town's recent reassessments, **the tax rate for homeowners has come DOWN for the first time in recent history.**

**For this reason, a 4.7% Tax Levy DOES NOT mean a 4.7% increase in your school taxes. Why?** The estimated tax rate of \$22.43 per \$1000 of assessed value is actually .49% less than last year. It is this tax rate which is used to calculate what each property owner will pay in school taxes. This reduced tax rate will be applied to the assessed value of your home.

**WE THANK YOU, OUR COMMUNITY!** As part of our search effort to replace Dr. Allan, we fielded a survey that asked the community to identify challenges facing the district and we thank you for responding. You told us that managing class sizes, maximizing learning opportunities for all our students, and increasing the focus on our students' social and emotional wellness are priorities for our community. This budget supports these needs for the coming school year. We will continue to explore additional district priorities as we finalize our next strategic plan with our new superintendent.

We thank you for your continued support of the district and wish everyone a successful end to the school year.

Sincerely,

The Ardsley Board of Education

Matthew Bonney, Nicole Minore, Pamela Epstein, Frank Hariton, and Hrishi Karthikeyan

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**HOW DOES THIS BUDGET ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF INCREASED ENROLLMENT?** Resources are being ADDED in all three schools:

- Concord Road Elementary School: two full-time teachers, one special education teacher, one psychologist shared with AMS, additional sections in physical education, science, and art, and equipping two new classrooms;
- Ardsley Middle School: two full-time teachers for fifth and sixth grades, one special education teacher, and one psychologist shared with CRS;
- Ardsley High School: additional sections in English, science and social studies to manage class sizes.

**SINCE THE TAX RATE IS LESS THAN LAST YEAR, WILL MY TAXES ALSO BE LESS?** It depends on the result of the Town of Greenburgh's reassessment of your property. Your individual taxes are calculated by multiplying the value of your property by the tax rate (\$22.43 per \$1000 of assessed value).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT APPROVE THE SCHOOL BUDGET ON MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> WITH A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE?** State law provides that the Board of Education can re-submit the same or a different budget to the community for approval one more time by funding a second vote. If the second budget is also rejected or if the Board of Education decides not to re-submit the budget for a second vote, the school will operate on a contingency budget.

This budget proposes the addition of seven full-time positions across our schools. It also addresses class size concerns by adding sections in various subjects in the middle and high schools. A contingency budget would eliminate all of these additions.

**HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUDGET?** Visit the district website ([www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org)) and click on the District Info tab and scroll to Budget Information for detailed PowerPoint and video presentations. If you have specific questions, contact Kelly Seibert, Assistant Superintendent for Business Finance, Facilities and Operations at 914-295-5530.

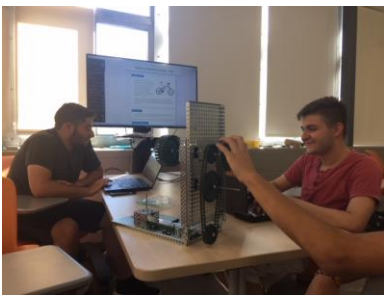
## SCIENCE



## DRAMA



## TECHNOLOGY



## VISUAL ARTS



## ATHLETICS



## SHARING SUCCESSES

- Three students were selected as semi-finalists in the **Siemens Competition** and one placed second in the national finals;
- Two students were selected as scholars in the **Regeneron Science Talent Search**;
- Seventy-seven AHS juniors were inducted into the **National Honor Society**;
- **AMS Math Counts** team placed second at the regional competition and eighth in the states;
- **AMS Science Olympiad** teams won medals in the regional tournament;
- Twenty-eight participants from AHS attended the **National High School Model United Nations Conference**;
- **AHS DECA** club members earned over twenty-five top place medals and six trophies at the state level;
- **AHS Science Olympiad** placed first at the Lower Hudson Regional and went onto the states;
- **AHS math team** finished in the top ten in the Westchester-Putnam Interscholastic Mathematics League;
- **AHS Science Research** program competed at WESEF earning eight medals. Two students were advanced to the Intel International Science Fair;
- Over thirty students' **artwork** was shown at Pace University, the Atria Woodlands, Concordia College, and the Katonah Museum;
- Over forty students from all three schools have participated in **NYSSMA All-State Band, Orchestra and Chorus Festivals**;
- Two AHS students earned Gold and Silver Key Awards in Journalism and Poetry respectively in the **Scholastic Writing Competition**;
- **AHS Select Chorus** sang at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and at Rockefeller Plaza;
- Our **AHS Varsity Basketball** team “shocked the section” and competed in the state finals.

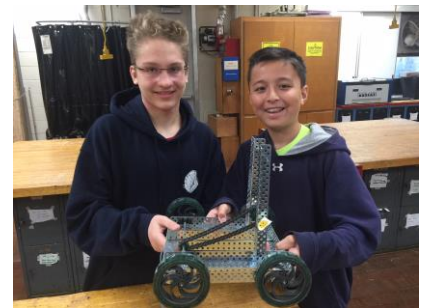


## COMMUNITY



## HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR AEF AND PTA

Our district's partnership with the community is an important cornerstone of our success and we want to thank the AEF, PTA, and their tireless volunteers for all the ongoing support. With their help we continue to offer new programs and provide our students with technologies and classroom environments that enrich learning. Throughout the district, for example, you will see AEF funded resources such as iPads, Chromebooks, Vernier science probes, and voice recorders. Without the PTA's support, programs like the International Fair, Model UN, Science Olympiad, One School, One Book, Peaceful Playground, and the Wellness Fairs could not be offered. In addition, the PTA provides valuable supplies to teachers and clubs. They offer scholarship funding for students in need and they honor many high school seniors with college scholarships.



## GO PANTHERS!

School spirit and team pride abound in our district! Join us in giving a big "shout out" to the Ardsley Panther Booster Club (APBC) for all the support they provide to our student athletes, our modified teams, and our junior varsity and varsity programs.

The Ardsley interscholastic athletic program is an integral part of our secondary schools' culture. Over 60% of our students participate on varsity, junior varsity, and modified sports teams. APBC's invaluable support of our coaches, faculty, parents, and alumni enhance our offerings, strengthen our traditions, and build our spirit. They also support special projects such as improving our facilities with new banners and supporting students directly with scholarships, grants, and recognition events.



## SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 67,505,261	\$69,792,272	\$67,296,574										
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$2,287,011	\$-208,687										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.39 %	-0.31%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$52,832,610	\$55,315,743											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable													
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **													
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy													
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$52,832,610	\$55,315,743	\$52,832,610										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,295,297	\$2,595,917											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$50,537,313	\$52,959,968											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$50,537,313	\$52,719,826											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$240,142											
Administrative Component	\$5,907,704	\$5,803,469	\$5,790,904										
Program Component	\$50,455,652	\$55,071,106	\$52,587,973										
Capital Component	\$9,980,348	\$8,917,697	\$8,917,697										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2018-19 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>If the District goes to a contingency budget, all equipment expenses, additional programs and proposed staffing would not be included in the budget in the amount of \$2,495,698.</p> <p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NONE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	NONE							
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NONE													

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$2,113
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Ardsley Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Ardsley High School in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between 6:00 am and 10:00 am and between 2:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

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

## ARDSLEY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

500 Farm Road  
Ardsley, NY 10502

Phone: 914-295-5500  
[www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org)

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### THE BUDGET VOTE IN PLAIN ENGLISH

The proposed budget:

- Reduces class sizes in all buildings;
- Increases funding for programs and staff to support our students social and emotional wellness;
- Maintains all current programs and offerings;
- Preserves a fiscally responsible fund balance for our District's future.

The budget proposes a tax levy **below** the Tax Levy Cap.

Your taxes are determined by the tax rate, which is going down for the first time in recent history. The tax rate of \$22.43 per \$1000 of assessed value is .49% less than last year.



### DON'T BE LATE FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

To our newest residents, we welcome you to the Ardsley School District. Please visit our district website

([www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org)) and click on the Parents Tab and scroll to the New Student Registration page. There you will find the New Student Registration Packet and additional information on the district. If you have any questions, or wish to schedule an appointment to begin the registration process, please contact Fran Monteleone at 914-295-5564 or [fmonteleone@ardsleyschools.org](mailto:fmonteleone@ardsleyschools.org). We look forward to meeting you in the fall!

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS

In order to vote, you must be a registered voter who is at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the US and a resident of the Ardsley School District for a period of 30 days or more prior to the election date. If you are not available to vote in person, you can complete an absentee ballot application by coming to the District Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, or by downloading a copy from our website ([www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org)). In order for your absentee ballot to be counted, it must be received by the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on May 15<sup>th</sup>, so please account for mailing time or bring it to the District Office in person.