MAY 2024

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

@NYMillsUFSD

newyorkmills.org

Message from the Superintendent Dear New York Mills UFSD Families and Community,

I hope this issue of our newsletter finds you well and enjoying all that the spring season has to offer. This is the time during the school year where we not only prepare for many end-of-year activities, including commencement ceremonies, but also plan for the upcoming school year through the annual budget development process. One challenge for any school district, regardless of size, is to provide the very best educational program for its students within the means of the local taxpayers and state aid revenues. Under the leadership of the Board of Education and through careful fiscal management, the proposed 2024-2025 New York Mills Union Free School District budget reflects our commitment to supporting viable and vibrant programming for our children while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

The proposed 2024-2025 school budget is \$16,900,275 with a 1.9% increase to the tax levy. The tax levy limit requires school districts in New York State to apply a multi-step formula to determine the tax levy a district can propose. We will once again stay within this tax levy limit. The \$16,900,275 spending plan results in a levy below the district maximum levy limit while supporting student programming and services. This budget also includes a capital outlay project with safety and security upgrades, including replacement of our fire hydrants, interior corridor doors, and other building infrastructure, as well as the purchase of a new bus which allows us to maintain and support district-operated transportation services. This spending plan aims to provide the best opportunities possible for our students in the most fiscally responsible way.

IN THIS ISSUE

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OPTIMIST STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

STUDENTS PERFORM AT OCMEA ALL-COUNTY

Don't have internet access?

Join our mailing list for paper updates! To sign up, contact District Clerk Mandy Mroz at mmroz@ nymills.org or by calling 315.768.8127 (option #2, option #1).

The New York Mills Union Free School District is committed to protecting the community's investments and providing our families with the necessary budget information to make an informed decision on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Please review the budget information in this newsletter.

We invite all residents to attend the public hearing in the high school library of New York Mills Union Free School on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

The budget vote will be held at Beekman Gymnasium on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. The polls will be open from 12:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. The May 21st vote also includes the election of members to fill two vacancies on the New York Mills Board of Education.

Your consideration of the 2024-2025 school budget is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of our district and our students!

Sincerely,

nichele D. Lagare

Michele D. LaGase Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING & PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024 5:30 P.M., HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 NOON - 8:00 P.M., BEEKMAN GYMNASIUM



2024-2025 BUDGET INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

The administrative component consists of overall management activities including Board of Education, superintendent's office, business office operations such as central data processing, payroll, purchasing, BOCES administrative expenses, insurance, printing, mailing, personnel, legal and auditing services, and building administrative costs.

Function or Account	Budget 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	Increase or (Decrease)	
Board of Education	\$33,950	\$31,950	\$(2,000)	
Central Administration	\$223,500	\$236,586	\$13,086	
Finance	\$204,025	\$213,558	\$9,533	
Legal Services	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$-	
Personnel	\$35,000	\$45,000	\$10,000	
Records Management	\$6,000	\$6,800	\$800	
Public Information	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$(5,000)	
Other Central Services	\$75,500	\$85,000	\$9,500	Administrative
Other Special Items	\$206,850	\$204,350	\$(2,500)	Component
Curr. Dev. & Sup.	\$128,000	\$133,000	\$5,000	is 10.36% of Budget
Supervision - Regular Sch.	\$296,335	\$296,335	\$-	of budget
Employee Benefits	\$418,005	\$418,005	\$-	
Total	\$1,712,165	\$1,750,584	\$38,419	

PROGRAM COMPONENT

The program component consists of funding the instruction of and educational support services for the district's 560 students. Transportation of students, athletics and co-curricular activities are also included in this budget component.

Function or Account	2023-24	2024-25	Increase or (De	crease)
Legal Services Instruction Other Dist. Transportation Garage Building Employee Benefits Other Transfers	\$ - \$8,962,870 \$479,715 \$62,450 \$2,870,627 \$13,350	\$ - \$9,350,536 \$517,055 \$62,450 \$2,888,335 \$8,500	\$ - \$387,666 \$37,340 \$ - \$17,708 \$(4,850)	Program Component is 75.90%
Total	\$12,389,012	\$12,826,876	\$437,864	of Budget

CAPITAL COMPONENT

The capital component consists of maintenance of buildings, upkeep of grounds, and electricity, heat, water and sewer and telephone services. Funds are also included for the lease of school buses, payments on the capital project and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

Function or Account Operation of Plant	2023-24 \$428,158	2024-25 \$451,362	Increase or (Dec \$23,204	crease)
Maintenance of Plant Refund of Taxes Lease of Buses/Purchase Employee Benefits	\$428,738 \$382,738 \$10,000 \$145,995 \$166,299	\$361,290 \$10,000 \$152,256 \$166,299	\$23,204 \$(21,448) \$ - \$6,261 \$ -	Capital Component is 13.74% of Budget
Debt Service Transfer to Capital	\$1,081,608 \$100,000	\$1,081,608 \$100,000	\$ - \$ -	
Total	\$2,314,798	\$2,322,815	\$8,017	Total Budget Increase 2.95%
Total Budget	\$16,415,975	\$16,900,275	\$484,300	



2024-2025 BUDGET INFORMATION

THIS NOTICE IS MANDATED BY NEW YORK STATE New York Mills Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$16,415,975	\$16,900,275	\$16,633,019
Increase/Decrease for 2024-2025 School Year		\$484,300	\$217,044
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.95%	1.32%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,117,286	\$8,271,515	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$8,117,286	\$8,271,515	\$8,117,286
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$254,061	\$269,885	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,863,225	\$8,001,630	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,863,225	\$8,001,630	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,712,165	\$1,750,584	\$1,750,584
Program Component	\$12,389,012	\$12,826,876	\$12,811,876
Capital Component	\$2,314,798	\$2,322,815	\$2,070,559

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

	Description	Amount
** 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)		

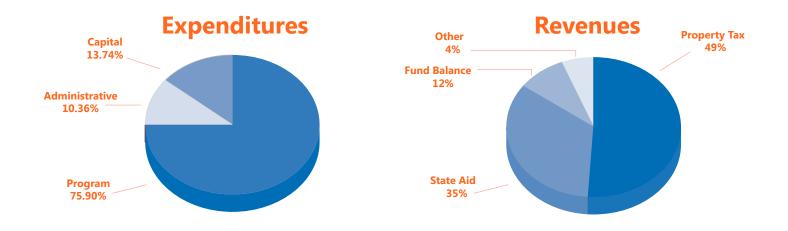
	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$560

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the New York Mills School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Beekman Gymnasium in said District on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Beekman Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



2024-2025 BUDGET INFORMATION



BUDGET PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 1 - RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$16,900,275 as a general fund appropriation for the 2024-2025 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

Tax Levy Increase

The tax levy increase for 2024-25 is projected to be 1.9%.

Tax on True

The tax on true value for the district in 2024-25 will be approximately \$16.71.

Note: Rates are estimated based on current information available. Final equalization rates will not be set by the State of New York until August. In the two previous years, the final tax on true was actually lower than projected at the time of budget development.

Absentee Ballots

Ballot Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk on or before May 14, 2024, if the ballot is to be delivered by mail, or on or before May 20, 2024, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voters. Absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the date of the election, May 21, 2024 .

Voter Eligibility Requirements

A voter must meet the following eligibility requirements to vote in school elections:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have been a resident of the school district for a minimum of 30 days prior to the vote, including those who rent. Section 2018-C of the Education Law may require all persons who vote to provide one form of identification or proof of residency.
- Be at least 18 years of age.



NYM ELEMENTARY

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

This school year, the elementary school staff decided it was time to celebrate students with family and friends. We have invited family members to surprise their children at each Student of the Month Assembly, where we honor Kids of Character, Principal's Award winners and staff.

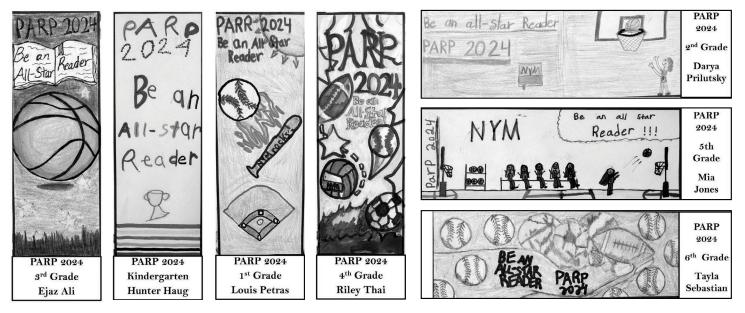
Skits representing what the traits "look like" in school, at home and in the community are created and performed by our students each month. Since October, we have recognized over 245 students for displaying many of the Positivity Project traits. Each teacher has awarded their students for their love of learning, optimism, bravery, humor, appreciation of others, respect, perseverance, creativity and kindness.

We also honor seven students each month as Principal's Award winners. These students exemplify the qualities of a NYM Marauder! All staff have an opportunity to choose one student to represent each grade level in recognition of their work ethic, character, attendance, behavior and leadership. These students get to have pizza with the principal! The auditorium "rocks" during each assembly, as excitement fills the air and students cheer on their classmates. It's a great day to be a Marauder! We are so proud of all of our award winners!





WINNING BOOKMARKS - Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) 2024







On April 11th, Twelve students were inducted into the New York Mills Union Free School District's Phi Delta Chapter of National Honor Society; our nation's oldest, largest and most prestigious student recognition program. Membership was based on scholarship, leadership, service and character.

In addition, two awards funded by donations from the Miga family and friends, were presented. Emily Pavlus received the Tutor of the Year Award in recognition of the time and commitment she has given to the Miga Mentoring Program. Similarly, Lamanh Nguyen was the recipient of the Walter Miga Memorial Award for her embodiment of the characteristics that defined Mr. Miga, including honesty, generosity and perseverance.

Furthermore, Ten members of the class of 2028 were inducted into the Phi Delta Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society on April 4th. Selection was based upon the effective demonstration of the qualities held in high esteem by the society: leadership, character, citizenship, service and scholarship.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

- Inductees		
Selen Bilal	Rose Jeff	
Frank Calhoun	Abigail Pavlus	
Emily Cognetti	Danielle Pereira	
Gabriella Dietz	Arianna Piazza	
Kaylee Frank	Jaden Roback	
Alexa Grande	Kathryn Williams	

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Inductees

Ryan Cognetti Isabella DeCicco Alexander Duymaz Keira Dzwonkowski Bryce Grande Eljas Kacic Adriana Karakalchu Ali Suhail Nick Tan Nevaeh-Rose Vivacqua

NHS TAPPING

This year, our National Honor Society members "tapped" the new inductees to notify them that they were being accepted into the NHS. The current members shared the good news with and invited inductees during school.



Congratulations to all of the new Inductees!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY Induction Ceremony April 11th, 2024



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY Induction Ceremony



Optimist STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER - Lenna Comenale

Lenna Comenale was named the September 2023 Optimist Youth of the Month. She is the daughter of Daniel Commenale and Kimberly DiPippo of Yorkville.

Lenna is a high achieving student who is a member of numerous clubs and organizations, including National Honor Society, Student Council and Varsity Club. She participates in field hockey, volleyball and softball and assists with the modified and JV volleyball teams. Outside of school, Lenna has helped with both the fall and spring cleanup each year that she was in high school.

Lenna plans to attend the University of Alabama to pursue a degree in finance.

OCTOBER - Cardin Chau

Cardin Chau was selected as the October 2023 Optimist Youth of the Month. He is the son of Thanh Chau and Trang Tran of New York Mills.

Cardin is a member of the New York Mills track and field, cross country and indoor track teams. Cardin is also an enthusiastic member of the community teaching Taekwondo. He earned a Presidential Volunteer Service Award for his work with students in his Taekwondo class.

Cardin plans on attending SUNY Brockport to study biology.

NOVEMBER - Frank Calhoun

Frank Calhoun was chosen as the Optimist Youth of the Month for November 2023. He is the son of Frank and Laura Calhoun of New York Mills.

Frank is a member of the New York Mills chapter of National Honor Society. He is a member of numerous organizations and sports teams at New York Mills, including cross country and baseball. He is also the president of his class.

Frank plans on attending SUNY Brockport to study kinesiology.







DECEMBER - Abigail Evans

Abigail Evans was named the December 2023 Optimist Youth of the Month. She is the daughter of Thomas and Kathryn Evans of New York Mills.

Abigail is an honor roll student and a current member of the New York Mills chapter of National Honor Society. She has been involved in cheerleading, chorus and Prom Committee. In addition to her involvement in school activities, Abigail is also an avid member of a local dance studio.

Abigail plans on attending SUNY Brockport to major in nursing.

JANUARY - Emily Zeun

Emily Zeun was selected as the January 2024 New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month. She is the daughter of Martin Zeun of New York Mills.

Emily is involved in many extracurricular activities that include competing on the track and field and cross country teams. She is also a member of the New York Mills chapter of National Honor Society.

Emily plans to attend Stony Brook University to study environmental design.

FEBRUARY - Talan Marchese

Talan Marchese was chosen as the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for February 2024. She is the daughter of Ryan Marchese of Marcy and Jenny Jordan of Yorkville.

Talan is very involved in the school community. She has been an important part of the field hockey, volleyball and softball teams at New York Mills. She is also the secretary of her class and a member of Student Council. Talen's true passion is in the musical arts. She has been a part of chorus and each musical since entering high school.

Talan plans on pursuing a career in either musical theater or cosmetology.

MARCH - Lauren Kulpa

Lauren Kulpa was chosen as the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for March 2024. She is the daughter of Mark Kulpa and Dina Keator of New York Mills.

Lauren is involved in many extracurricular activities that include AAU and Notre Dame basketball. She is also the president of the Varsity Club, National Honor Society and Student Council. Lauren is dedicated to having a positive impact on her school and community.

Lauren plans to either attend Dartmouth College or SUNY Geneseo to study biochemistry and hopes to enter the medical field.











It was a battle of brains instead of brawn at the regional Battle of the Books competition on March 25th. The event is a collaborative affair, made possible by the efforts of Mrs. Danielle Howe and other area book club advisors. Ten area schools participated in the event, which was held at Mohawk Valley Community College.

Students from Clinton, Holland Patent, Little Falls, New Hartford, New York Mills, Richfield Springs, Sauquoit Valley, Utica, Waterville and West Canada school districts participated in the day's events. Students in the middle school Battle of the Books Club were competing on their knowledge of a list of 17 books. Our high school Book Club had a list of 14 books to study. Judges read quotes from the books and students "buzzed in" ("Jeopardy" style) to answer with the correct book title and author's name.

We held a local Battle of the Books competition in our high school library earlier in the month to determine the top four students that would go on to represent our District at the regional competition. Our middle school team included Isabella DeCicco, Keira Dzwonkowski, Anthony Rewkowski and Emma Spellman; alternates were Eljas Kacic and Nick Tan. Due to illness, our alternates were called up to play at regionals. Isabella, Anthony, Eljas and Nick placed fifth in the competition.

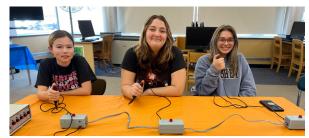
Our high school team of Skylar DesMarais, Austin Exton, Kaylee Frank and Jaden Roback faced fierce competition at regionals. After their performance in the morning rounds of competition, they earned a spot in the finals in the afternoon. Congratulations to these students on their second place finish!

The collegiate environment was a great culminating experience for the students, as a reward for all of their hard work this year in the Battle of the Books Club.













Danielle Pereira

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARD WINNER



The Art Department is proud to announce this year's Scholastic Art Award winner; Danielle Pereira who is a junior at NYM. The Scholastic Art competition judges over 4,500 pieces of art and showcases them at Onondaga Community College. Danielle Pereira submitted an acrylic painting titled "Fantasy Dragon." She went up against 340 paintings and came in 56th place, earning her an Honorable Mention Award.

Congratulations Danielle, your hard work in the NYM's art studio has made us proud. Keep being a creative and excellent role model student.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION A W A R D S



Students Hailey Mahardy and Emily Cognetti were honored at the 2024 Women of Distinction Awards, hosted by Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon in partnership with The Genesis Group. The event took place on March 8th, in celebration of International Women's Day, at Hart's Hill Inn.

Hailey is a senior and was nominated for her service to her school as well as the greater community through her involvement in Girl Scouts, of which she has been a member since she was five years old. In addition, Hailey is an excellent student, a member of the Valley Gymnastics Excel Platinum Team, participates in track and field and has held a lead role in the spring drama production at New York Mills for the past five years.

Emily is a junior and was nominated because of her positive attitude and giving spirit. Emily excels academically, and is a leader in many areas of school life. She serves as president of the Yearbook Club, president of the junior class and Student Council treasurer at-large. In addition, she plays on the varsity volleyball team and assists the junior varsity team as scorekeeper.





Grades 7-12 Drama Club presented



"Mame" is the story of a woman who becomes a mother after her late brother's passing. She finds that life is more fulfilling when she focuses on raising her nephew and sharing her life with others. "Mame" takes you through the times of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and leaves you wanting more as the production finishes with multiple love stories.

The performance showcased the school's five senior actors in their final performance on the New York Mills stage. Seniors Talan Marchese as Mame; Siddalee Daniels as Vera; Hailey Mahardy as Gooch, Madame Branislowski, Sally Cato and Cousin Fan; Emily Pavlus as Gooch and Madame Branislowski; and Samuel Greene-Spradley as Beauregard.

New York Mills has a long standing tradition of musical theater. Thank you to the entire community for their support of the New York Mills Drama Club. The cast and crew look forward to next year!







In January, Oneida County held auditions for Jr. High All-County. Students are accepted into the chorus, band or orchestra based on successful auditions. Accepted students worked from March 15-16, creating melodious music that rang through the concert space. All members of the festival worked with guest conductors and showcased a stellar performance to the entire community at Whitesboro High School.

Congratulations to our New York Mills students on their superb performance!

Chorus: Nevaeh-Rose Vivacqua, Madison Krupa, Sophia Rauscher-Canty, Carter Lovecchio, Peyton Corsino, Yocheved Portillo

Band: Keira Dzwonkowski (trombone), Lukas Dziuba (trumpet)







On April 12-13, selected elementary band, chorus and orchestra students from all around Oneida County met in Remsen to participate in the annual OCMEA Elementary All-County Music Festival. Congratulations to our New York Mills students for being selected to play in the elementary band!

Saxophone: Myles Costello, Carson Spost Percussion: Tayla Sebastian





May 14th – Elementary Spring Concert, 6:00 p.m.

May 16th – Grades 7-12 Band and Chorus Concert with the Elementary Band, 7:00 p.m.

May 27th – Memorial Day Parade, New York Mills Marching Band, 11:00 a.m.

Turn to page 16 for more important dates





New York Mills Athletes Compete at States

Rose Jeff and Cardin Chau represented New York Mills in the 2024 NYSPHSAA Indoor Track and Field Championship Meet at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island on March 2nd. Rose competed in the pole vault and Cardin competed in the high jump. Cardin placed 12th in the state with a jump of six feet, two inches.

Gabriella Dietz, Jayla Jordan and Ava Clark represented Section III at the NYSPHSAA Gymnastics Championships at Clarence High School on March 2nd. Gabriella competed on the balance beam and Jayla completed a floor routine. The Section III team finished second overall.





Tim Kirilko Receives Basketball Honors



Senior basketball player Tim Kirilko was named to the Class D All-Tournament Team. Tim scored an impressive 42 points in the team's final game of the tournament. He was honored at Onondaga Community College on March 3rd.

Tim also played in the Center State Conference All-Star Game on March 7th at Herkimer College. The All-Star team was coached by NYM Coach Ryan Sharpe.





Girls Indoor Track Team Wins Center State Conference and Sectional Championships

The New York Mills girls varsity indoor track team won the Center State Conference Championship held on February 2nd at Onondaga Community College (OCC).

On February 8th, the team returned to OCC where they secured the Class D Sectional Championship. The team included Selen Bilal, Brooke Coffin, Rose Jeff, Nevaeh Kimble, Arianna Piazza, Chelsy Plows, Kathryn Williams and Emily Zeun, and is coached by Andrea Dziekan and Mike Keating.



Student-Athlete Leadership Conference



Varsity athletes Ryan Komnick, Tim Kirilko, Lauren Kulpa and Emily Cognetti attended the Ninth Annual Leadership Conference on March 1st in Cooperstown. The focus of the conference was "Sportsmanship: What Makes a Good Athlete GREAT." The program was hosted by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS AHPERD).

The conference fee was generously paid for by the New York Mills Athletic Boosters.







BOARD OF EDUCATION

Steve King, *President* Kristin Hubley, *Vice President* Jacqueline Edwards Jeremy Fennell Kimberly Gyore Robert Mahardy Jr.

ADMINISTRATION

Michele D. LaGase, *Superintendent of Schools* Mary Facci, *K-12 Executive Principal* Denise DiSpirito, *Interim K-12 Principal*

VISIT US ON THE WEB

newyorkmills.org

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IMPORTANT DATES

- MAY 7th Board of Education Meeting and Public Budget Hearing, 5:30 p.m., High School Library
- **MAY 14th** Elementary Spring Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- **MAY 16th** Grades 7-12 Band and Chorus Concert with the Elementary Band, 7:00 p.m.
- MAY 21st Budget Vote and Board of Education Election, 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Beekman Gymnasium

MAY 27th – Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

JUNE 19th – Juneteenth - NO SCHOOL

JUNE 21st – High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m.

JUNE 26th – Last Day of School for Students

OUR MISSION:

Through combined efforts of students, staff, parents and community members, our mission is to foster the confidence, knowledge, cognition and character necessary to instill a strong work ethic, to create an environment of tolerance and respect and to ignite an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning that will enable students to become productive, responsible citizens.

DID YOU KNOW?

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit **newyorkmills.org**