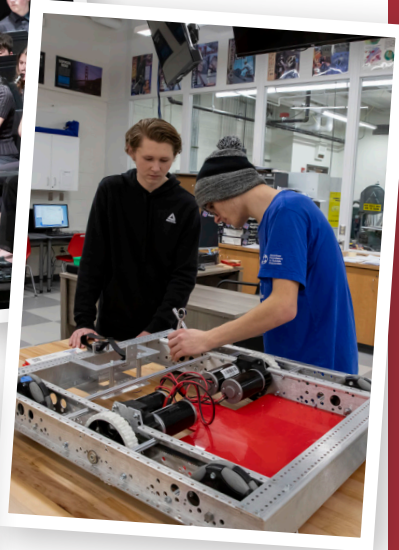


**MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BUDGET NEWSLETTER**

**May 2024**



**#RedJacketPride**

**EXCELLENCE**

Challenge and learning are the goals and the rewards

**INSIDE**

Superintendent's Message.....	2
Rebranding Update.....	2
Valedictorian & Salutatorian ..	3
Superintendent's Award .....	4
NYS Dairy Ambassador.....	4
Food Service Praised.....	5
Budget Information .....	6
Fostering Creativity .....	12
NYS Senate Award .....	12
Empowering Futures .....	13
Robotics Competition.....	14
NYSSED Visits RJ.....	15
RJ Hosts All County.....	16
Making Magical Memories.....	17
Prestigious Internship .....	18
American Legion State Rep... ..	18
Scholarships.....	19
Budding Readers .....	20

**OUR MISSION**

We will challenge all learners and work in partnership with students, parents and community to achieve high standards.

 [REDJACKET.ORG](http://REDJACKET.ORG)

 [@REDJACKETSCHOOLS](https://www.facebook.com/REDJACKETSCHOOLS)

 [@RJSCHOOLS](https://www.instagram.com/RJSCHOOLS)

# Message from the Superintendent



Dear Manchester-Shortsville School District Family,

As we prepare for another year of academic excellence and community engagement, I am pleased to present to you the annual school budget newsletter. At Red Jacket, we recognize the importance of being fiscally responsible stewards of our resources, not only for the benefit of our students but also for the well-being of our greater community.

Throughout the years, our District has prioritized building and maintaining programs that meet the diverse needs of our students in a responsible manner. We understand the impact that our budget decisions have on our community, and we are committed to ensuring that every dollar is spent wisely and efficiently.

In alignment with our core values of listening, learning, and making connections, we have taken a collaborative approach to the budgeting process. We have engaged in meaningful discussions and presentations within our District and around our community to gather input and feedback from all stakeholders. It is our priority to ensure that our budget is transparent and easily understood by all members of our school community.

As we navigate the ever-changing climate and landscape of education, we understand the importance of flexibility and adaptability in our budgeting process. We face various challenges and uncertainties, from fluctuating enrollment numbers to changes in state and federal funding. However, with strong fiscal planning and open communication, we are confident that we can make the necessary decisions to ensure the continued success of our District.

Moving forward, we remain committed to working in partnership with our students, parents, and community members to uphold our high standards of academic achievement and fiscal responsibility. Together, we will continue to prioritize the needs of our students while maintaining a strong financial foundation for our District.

Let us approach this annual budget season with a sense of optimism and determination, knowing that with each step we take, we are one step closer to realizing our collective vision for a brighter future. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Manchester-Shortsville CSD community.

With Red Jacket PRIDE,

Christopher J. Barnard  
Superintendent of Schools  
Manchester-Shortsville CSD

## Your Input Matters!

### Fill Out the Red Jacket Mascot Survey

Scan the QR Code or visit [RedJacket.org](http://RedJacket.org)



Paper Surveys Available Upon Request. Call (585) 289-2150



# Red Jacket Proudly Announces its 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

## Meet our Valedictorian, Katie Penird



My name is Katie Penird and I am honored to be the valedictorian of the class of 2024. I am the president of the National Honor Society, treasurer of both the Senior Class and Student Council, and a member of Masterminds. I play the saxophone in band and participate in soccer and indoor/outdoor track & field.

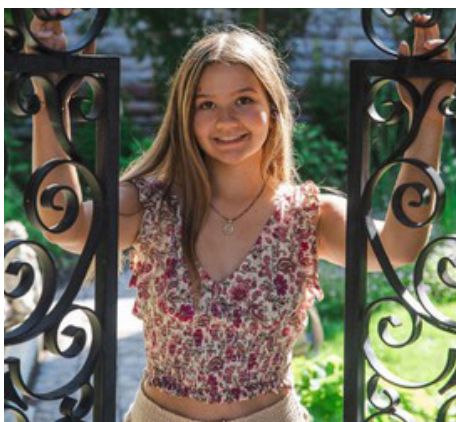
My life has always seemed to revolve around animals, from the shows I watched to the pets at home. I have owned a range of animals—dogs, fish, rabbits, parakeets, goats—and each one provided a unique experience. As I learned more about livestock and pets through my participation in 4-H, I knew I wanted to become a veterinarian. Next year, I plan to attend Binghamton University studying Biological Sciences on the pre-vet track. After college, I hope to attend veterinary school for mixed practice.

Throughout my entire life, I have always looked up to my sisters. As two of the most influential people in my life, I look to them for guidance and advice in just about everything. I constantly

strive to be as studious and intentional as Lilly, and as determined and independent as Anna. They helped shape me into the student and person I am by acting as role models and motivating me to be the best I can be.

Thank you to my teachers for your willingness to help outside of class and for the conversations that brighten my day. Thank you to my sisters for the (friendly) academic competition, which elevated my level of effort. Finally, thank you to my parents for supporting me in any decision I make in school, sports, or any other aspect of my life. You give me the encouragement to pursue my goals and the confidence to accomplish them.

## Meet our Salutatorian, Ella Lohr



My name is Ella Lohr, and I am grateful to be the class of 2024 Salutatorian. During my time here, I have been a three-sport athlete participating in soccer, basketball, and outdoor track. I am a member of the National Honor Society as well as choir and band, where I play the

baritone.

After high school, I plan to earn a degree in Social Work. Social work has always interested me as a result of the help that I can give back to others. Being able to fight for social justice and improve people's lives allows me to make a positive impact on many people. This major allows me to see people's struggles and understand different perspectives of life, giving me a more holistic view going forward.

Being named the Salutatorian is rewarding, considering the struggles it took to get here. Throughout my entire school career, I have always had a fear

of failing. This fear invaded my time during high school; something no one ever wants to experience. Through time, I have turned this overwhelming fear into new opportunities, the opportunity of trusting myself. Trusting myself has led me to the point I am today, thanks to many teachers.

I would like to thank all the teachers for pushing me forward and for not allowing my fears to consume or define me. I would also like to thank my parents for always having confidence in me and giving me many opportunities that have allowed me to thrive academically.

# RJ Senior, Briellea Commisso, Honored with Superintendent's Award



Red Jacket Senior Briellea Commisso was among 25 students from the Wayne-Finger Lakes region honored with a Superintendent's Award during a celebration at the Conference Center at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES.

Briellea was chosen to receive the award by the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District. Recipients must demonstrate leadership, citizenship, and outstanding scholarship by achieving a GPA of 80 or higher by the end of their junior year. All students selected with this honor are then eligible for Superintendent's Award Program scholarships, which are made possible through the generous support of five local businesses.

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES District Superintendent Lynne Rutnik announced the awards. "Congratulations to our outstanding

student award recipients! Your achievements are a testament to your hard work, dedication, and exceptional leadership qualities," Rutnik said during the celebration. "As we celebrate your success, we are filled with optimism for the bright future that lies ahead, knowing that it is in the hands of individuals like you."

After being announced, students were awarded their certificates, applauded, and posed for a photo with Rutnik, and guest speaker Drew Holohan, a graduate of Marion High School in his senior year at SUNY Binghamton.

---

# RJ Senior, Olivia Maslyn, Named NYS Dairy Ambassador



Red Jacket High School senior Olivia Maslyn has been selected as a New York State First Associate Dairy Ambassador. She was one of just three students selected for the position.

In this role, Olivia will represent and advocate for dairy farmers across the state, acting as a spokesperson at various events to educate consumers about the nutritional benefits of milk and dairy products. She will also highlight the sustainable practices employed by farmers to care for their cows and land, as well as underscore the

vital role of the dairy industry in the New York State economy.

Olivia will receive a \$1,500 scholarship in recognition of her dedication to promoting dairy farming and her potential to contribute significantly to the industry.



# Red Jacket School District's Food Services Praised in State Audit



The Red Jacket Central School District recently underwent a thorough review by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Food Service Auditor. This assessment looked into various aspects of the Food Service Department, including administrative procedures, adherence to Child Nutrition policies, and food procurement, with support from BOCES. The audit resulted in commendable outcomes for Red Jacket.



Of particular significance was the outstanding performance of Red Jacket's meal service operations. The district's strong commitment to

providing nutritious meals, exceeding USDA guidelines, was highlighted. Each meal is carefully balanced, comprising a fruit and vegetable, a protein source, and a grain component, ensuring high dietary standards.

Rachel Lockman, the Food Service Operations Director, and her team were acknowledged for their pivotal role in the department's success. Jil Swarthout, the Director of Food and Nutrition, remarked, "They relate extremely well to the students. Each team member has their strength and Rachel does a great job putting the right people in the right seats on the bus."

A noteworthy development for Red Jacket this academic year is the introduction of a no-cost breakfast and lunch program for all students, made possible through participation in

the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). This initiative underscores the district's commitment to ensuring equitable access to nutritious meals, alleviating financial burdens for families.



Red Jacket's exceptional performance in the state audit underscores its unwavering dedication to fostering a healthy and supportive learning environment. Through stringent adherence to nutritional standards, effective operational management, and inclusive initiatives such as the CEP, Red Jacket sets a commendable precedent for excellence in school food services.



MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2024-2025 BUDGET & VOTER INFORMATION

## 2024-2025 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

The following table provides a comparison by major components Of the 2024-2025 proposed budget with the current 2023-2024 budget.

The proposed 2024-2025 budget represents a 2.38% tax levy and a 2.90% budget increase.

Budget Category	Administrative	Program	Capital	Grand Total	2023-2024	\$ Inc./Dec	% Change
Board of Education	35,769			35,769	23,828	11,941	50.11%
District Meetings	5,428			5,428	5,177	251	4.85%
Central Administration	181,610			181,610	179,350	2,260	1.26%
Business Administration	470,677			470,677	434,472	36,205	8.33%
Business Operations	16,482			16,482	14,174	2,308	16.28%
Auditing	22,500			22,500	22,500	0	0.00%
Legal Services	37,230		17,500	54,730	73,711	-18,981	-25.75%
Operations		1,070,074		1,070,074	1,052,390	17,684	1.68%
Maintenance		429,916		429,916	514,917	-85,001	-16.51%
Insurance	65,000	15,000	35,000	115,000	115,000	0	0.00%
School Association Dues	8,500			8,500	7,000	1,500	21.43%
Refund for Taxes		56,000		56,000	750	55,250	7366.67%
BOCES Admin	212,016			212,016	173,632	38,384	22.11%
Supervision/Curriculum	548,768	53,670	160,000	762,438	546,244	216,194	39.58%
Instruction-General	540,639		5,830,434	6,371,073	6,060,985	310,088	5.12%
Teaching-Disabilities			3,665,286	3,665,286	3,587,358	77,928	2.17%
Library			189,725	189,725	185,556	4,169	2.25%
Computer Assisted Instruction			670,232	670,232	669,760	472	0.07%
Counseling/Social Work			329,154	329,154	312,714	16,440	5.26%
Health Services			131,155	131,155	131,016	139	0.11%
Psychological Services			145,540	145,540	66,771	78,769	117.97%
Co-Curricular			63,392	63,392	56,592	6,800	12.02%
Interscholastic Athletics			304,425	304,425	307,074	-2,649	-0.86%
District Transportation			1,060,452	1,060,452	1,072,770	-12,318	-1.15%
Employee Benefits	412,005	310,436	3,657,926	4,380,367	4,230,951	149,416	3.53%
Debt Service		2,228,090		2,228,090	2,487,700	-259,610	-10.44%
Dollar Total	2,556,624	4,163,186	16,260,221	22,980,031	22,332,392	647,639	2.90%
Percentage Total	11.12%	18.12%	70.76%	100.00%			



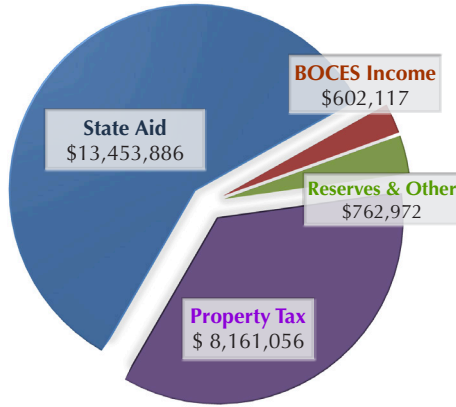
# 2024 - 2025 BUDGET

## At a Glance:

### 2024-25 BUDGET REVENUES Where our money comes from:

#### Explanation of Revenues

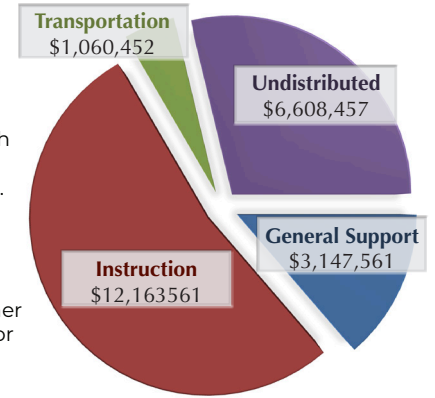
- State Sources for revenue account for 58.5% of the total revenues for the district. The District is expecting the same amount of State Aid due to the flat funding of Foundation Aid.
- Major items in Local Sources include rent and utility payments from Red Jacket Education Center, Interest and Earnings, and Reserves.
- A two percent (2.3%) increase is proposed for the local property tax.



### 2024-25 BUDGET EXPENDITURES Where our money goes:

#### Explanation of Expenditures

- The budget for the 2024-25 school year is \$22,980,031, which is an increase of \$647,639 or 2.90% from the current budget.
- The General Support section which includes Board of Education, Central Office, Buildings and Grounds and other Administration fees accounts for 13.7% of the overall budget and has increased \$307,801.
- The Instruction section, which includes items such as teacher salaries, classroom textbooks and supplies, programs for students with disabilities, and interscholastic athletics, accounts for 52.93% of the overall budget and has increased \$453,817.
- The Transportation section, which includes district transportation costs accounts for 4.61% of the overall budget and has decreased \$46,483.
- The Undistributed section of the budget accounts for 28.75% of the overall budget and includes such things as group health insurance, employee retirement system contributions, Social Security payments and debt service. The Undistributed section of the budget again includes a \$100,000 transfer to the Capital Fund for minor improvements to school district buildings in the form of a Capital Outlay Project. The Capital Outlay Project for 2024-2025 will include flooring replacement throughout the campus. It is important to note that approximately 88.6% of this expense will be returned to the district in the form of Building Aid in the following year.



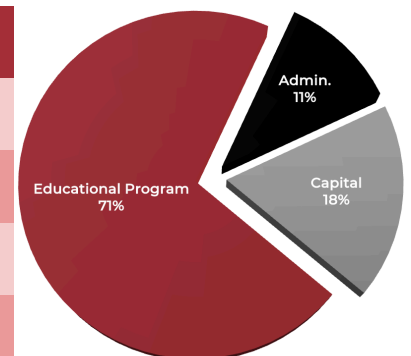
## Explanation of Components

**Educational Program Component** - includes expenses for teaching general and special education students, i.e., employee salaries, benefits, insurance, programs for students with disabilities, occupational education, in-service training, school library, attendance, guidance, health services, psychological services, pupil personnel services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic athletics, student transportation services, recreation/youth programs, civic activities, and special aid funds.

**Capital Component** - includes expenses for the operation and maintenance of school buildings, school bus purchases, principal and interest payments for debt service, transfers to capital and debt service funds, property tax refunds, and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in these functions.

**Administrative Component** - includes expenses for the Board of Education, central administration, instructional supervision, curriculum development, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing, storage, and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in these functions.

Component	Proposed Budget	Percent of Budget
Educational Program	\$16,260,221	70.76%
Administrative	\$2,556,624	11.12%
Capital	\$4,163,186	18.12%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$22,980,031</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# Contingent Budget

The State requires the District to report to the community the budget reductions that will be made to the proposed 2024-2025 budget if the budget is defeated by the community. Contingent budget regulations require the District to remove Non-State-Aided equipment and school supplies provided to students, and requires fees to be charged to the community for use of District facilities - such as the Red Jacket Hoops, adult education, CYO, AAU, Finger Lakes Youth Football, other local individual groups including adult basketball, volleyball, and summer youth recreation.

## Fiscal Responsibility at Red Jacket Schools

What is a tax levy? The total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to balance its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources, including state aid. The 2023-2024 tax levy increase was 1.99%. We are asking voters to vote on a 2.38% tax levy increase for the 2024-2025 school budget.

Fiscal Stress Score: Once again, Red Jacket's New York State Fiscal Stress Score is "No Designation," which is the BEST designation a district can achieve. The System analyzes the financial information against a set of uniform financial and environmental indicators. Based on this data, districts are designated the following 4 levels: Significant Fiscal Stress, Moderate Fiscal Stress, Susceptible to Fiscal Stress, or No Designation.

### Contingent Item Reductions:

Non-State-Aided Equipment Custodial & Maintenance.....	\$60,000
Reductions Attributed to Community Use of Facilities.....	\$12,000
District Equipment.....	\$117,718
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$189,718</b>

<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Contingent Budget Reductions</b>	<b>Contingent Budget</b>
\$22,980,031	\$189,718	22,790,313

## School Budget Notice

Budget Adopted for the Current Year:

**\$22,332,392**

Budget Proposed for 2023-2024:

**\$22,980,031**

Increase/Decrease with Current Year:

**\$647,639**

Tax Levy:

**2.38%**

Percent Change in the Budget:

**2.90%**

Percent Change in Consumer Price Index:

**4.12%**

Contingent Budget:

**\$22,790,313**

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-2025 by the qualified voters of the Manchester-Shortsville School District, Ontario County, New York, will be held at the High School Auditorium Lobby in said District on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time polls will be opened to vote by paper ballot.

## Voter Qualifications

Voters at the annual meeting or any special school district meeting must possess the following qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States.
- At least eighteen (18) years of age.
- A resident within the District for a period of at least thirty (30) days prior to the day of the vote.

## Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots for election of the members of the Board and the adoption of the annual budget may be applied for at the office of the Clerk of the District in the Business Office. Such applications must be received by the Clerk of the District or designee of the School Board at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.



# On the Ballot:

## PROPOSITION #1 Budget Approval

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, County of Ontario, New York, is hereby authorized to levy the necessary tax for and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$22,980,031 for the purpose of the General Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

## PROPOSITION #2 School Bus Purchase Approval

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, County of Ontario, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase two (2) 65-passenger full-size diesel buses and one (1) mini wheel-chair bus not to exceed \$500,000, during the 2024-2025 school year and expend payment from the bus reserve.

## PROPOSITION #3 Student Board Member Approval

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, County of Ontario, New York, be authorized to allow a student(s) to serve on the Board as an ex officio non-voting member.

### Board of Education Membership Election

One (1) vacancy on the Board of Education is up for election at this year's Annual Meeting/ Election. It is for one (1) five-year term beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2029. As per voter approval, seats for the Board of Education are elected on an at-large basis. This means that if one seat is vacant, the top vote getter will assume office. Two (2) candidates have filed nominating petitions for the one (1) vacancy: Jennifer Speers, and Abigail Marion.

### CANDIDATES

★ Vote for any ONE ★

<p><b>Jennifer Speers</b></p>	<p>One (1) vacant seat</p>
<p><b>Abigail Marion</b></p>	<p>Term ending June 30, 2029</p>

# Meet the Candidates:

## Jennifer Speers



### Personal History:

I have lived in Shortsville for 25 years. My husband, Dennis, has roots that extend four generations deep in Shortsville. We have been married for 20 years, and we have two sons, Connor and Jake. Connor is in 11th grade and attends Red Jacket High School, and Jake is in 8th grade in the BOCES program at Midlakes.

### Occupation:

In addition to being a wife and mother of boys, I also work full-time for an Insurtech company, Next Insurance, as the Head of Retention.

### Community Activities:

I am very passionate about Autism Awareness and advocacy for children and adults with special needs. In the past, I have enjoyed volunteering for the local youth football and cheer league.

### What experience do you have that makes you qualified to be a Board Member?

I have had the privilege of previously serving on the Board of Education for 8 years. I am running for the board again this year because I am dedicated to being a productive member who advocates diligently for the students, staff, parents, and community members. During my time on the board, I was determined to increase opportunities for students and supported initiatives such as adding an afternoon Pre-K program, expanding elective course offerings, improving educational equity by providing Chromebooks for all students K-12, maintaining small class sizes, hiring literacy-certified experts, and establishing four new clubs for students. I dedicated time to shadowing in the middle school and high school during the school day, following a student's schedule to gain insight into the culture from the students' perspective. Additionally, I assisted in developing and updating the district's strategic plan, including mission, vision, core beliefs, values, and annual goal setting. I have a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of a board member.

### Reasons you want to become a Board of Education member and/or goals you have if you become a member?

I believe in making decisions that align with the district's mission, vision, core beliefs, and values. I am committed to placing students first and advocating for staff, parents, and community members while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

## Abigail Marion



### Personal History:

I moved to Shortsville in 2017, where I live with my husband, Eric Keller, and 17-year-old stepson, Chase. I am originally from Lima and attended school at Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District.

### Occupation:

Homemaker since 2022; previously worked in electrical and optical engineering.

### Educational Background:

I graduated from Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District in 2006, spent a year studying abroad in Japan, then enrolled at SUNY Geneseo. I graduated with a BA in Physics in 2014.

### Community Activities:

Board member of the Friends of the Red Jacket Community Center, community garden volunteer, election inspector, attend many local school and government meetings.

### What experience do you have that makes you qualified to be a Board Member?

I am a parent and a voting community member.

### Reasons you want to become a Board of Education member and/or goals you have if you become a member?

I care deeply about the health, happiness, and flourishing of our community's children. I am interested in finding and cutting unnecessary spending, getting back to basics to improve academic achievement, discussing nutrition, improving the board of education's responsiveness to community questions and concerns, examining administrative bloat, empowering teachers, and ensuring the Board of Education learns the basics of Robert's Rules of Order.



# 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	\$22,332,392	\$22,980,031	\$22,790,313
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$656,639	\$466,921
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.90%	2.09%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$7,971,338	\$8,161,056	
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)	\$7,971,338	\$8,161,056	\$7,971,338
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,156,831	\$8,311,726	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,971,338	\$8,156,831	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$204,867	\$154,895	
Administrative Component	\$2,274,501	\$2,556,624	\$2,456,624
Program Component	\$15,763,125	\$16,260,221	\$16,206,221
Capital Component	\$4,294,766	\$4,163,186	\$4,127,468

\* 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.

\*\* 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)

Description	Amount
Bus Purchases-2 Full Size Buses, 1 Mini Wheel Char Bus	\$500,000

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 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$613

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Manchester-Shortsville Central school district, Ontario County, New York, will be held at Red Jacket High School school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the auditorium lobby, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

## 3D Printing Club Fostering Creativity



The Red Jacket 3D Printing Club launched in October, thanks to 8th grader Jacob Garling and teacher Mr. Christopher Hall. With a newly acquired 3D printer, students at Red Jacket Middle School could finally turn their ideas into reality.

Using TinkerCad, a computer program, students design and create their projects before printing them. The club isn't just about making things; it's about building computer skills and unleashing creativity.

Jacob Garling, one of the club's leaders, reflects on his growth: "This club has helped me become a better leader. I've learned a lot about running a successful club."

Meeting weekly, the club provides a space for students to explore and innovate. As they continue to experiment, they inspire their peers and create a culture of creativity within the school community.

## RJ Junior, Jenna North, Receives NYS Senate's Youth Leadership Recognition Award



Junior Jenna North was recognized with the prestigious New York State Senate's Youth Leadership Recognition Award, a program designed to honor outstanding students across the state. Jenna was chosen for her exceptional academic achievements and her demonstrated leadership in extracurricular and volunteer activities.

The award, which highlights nominees who excel both academically and in their contributions to their communities, is a testament to Jenna's dedication and commitment. Her recognition as one of the recipients in the 54th Senate District underscores

her remarkable accomplishments.

"Our young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today," said NY Senator Pam Helming. "Our region is home to so many outstanding students who serve as role models to their peers. These young people are raising the bar and are an inspiration to all of us."

Jenna's achievement not only reflects her personal success but also brings pride to our local community. We congratulate Jenna on this well-deserved honor and look forward to witnessing her continued growth and success.

# Empowering Futures: Red Jacket Students Thrive in FLTCC Educational Programs



aligned with their career aspirations. This underscores the school's dedication to student development and highlights the importance of staying informed about the dynamic educational landscape.

At the Finger Lakes Technical Career Center (FLTCC), students are actively developing an impressive array of trades and skills, creating opportunities for promising careers across various fields.

The Manchester-Shortsville Central School District takes pride in the active involvement of 19 seniors and 14 juniors in FLTCC and other BOCES programs. BOCES offers diverse programs tailored to students' interests, including animal science, criminal justice, auto body, and electrician trades. The commitment to a well-rounded educational experience is evident, encouraging students to explore numerous opportunities.

FLTCC serves as a hub for practical learning, enabling students to engage in hands-on experiences

The district's investment in FLTCC and BOCES programs reflects a broader commitment to preparing students for the challenges of the professional world. Participation in these programs not only equips students with valuable skills but also provides insights into potential career paths.

In an ever-evolving job market, the district



prioritizes providing students with choices and exposure to various disciplines. The pride in the high number of students actively participating in these programs reflects the district's dedication to empowering the next generation with the tools needed to thrive in their chosen fields.



As the academic year progresses, the district remains steadfast in supporting programs like FLTCC and BOCES, recognizing them as integral components of a comprehensive educational strategy. Through these initiatives, students not only gain technical skills but also develop a sense of purpose and direction as they chart their course toward future success.



# Red Jacket Robotics Competes at Finger Lakes Regional Competition



The excitement was palpable at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) as the Finger Lakes Regional Competition for robotics unfolded from March 14th to March 16th. Among the more than 50 teams hailing from various corners of the globe, was the Red Jacket Robotics Team.



Each year presents a new challenge for these robotics enthusiasts, and this year was no exception. The task at hand was to design a robot capable of flinging a styrofoam ring, symbolizing a "note," into a speaker, a large box with a small slot.

Additionally, there were several other mini-tasks within the arena where teams could accumulate points.



For the Red Jacket team, composed of 10 student members, the road to competition was paved with hard work and determination. With over 100 hours invested in preparation, the team convened weekly, often sacrificing weekends to fine-tune their creation. The final iteration of their robot was completed mere hours before the commencement of the competition, a testament

to their commitment and perseverance.

Junior John Button, a member of the team, expressed his optimism about their progress, "I feel really good about the direction of our team. I joined in 9th grade, and even over the course of two years, I've seen great improvement. We have great people on the team, capable people on the team, and everyone is willing to learn."

Their efforts did not go unnoticed. Throughout the competition, the Red Jacket Robotics Team showcased not only their technical skills but also their collaborative spirit. The Red Jacket Robotics Team has already emerged as champions in their own right, embodying the true essence of innovation and teamwork.



# Red Jacket Showcases Innovative Reading Program to NYSED



The Manchester-Shortsville Central School District recently hosted New York State Education Department Board of Regents, Adrian Hale. Red Jacket was just one of three schools Mr. Hale visited as part of his tour of the Finger Lakes region.



During his visit, Mr. Hale met with Superintendent Christopher Barnard to delve into the district's mission and the strategies in place to actualize that vision. A highlight of the visit was a presentation by Elementary School Principal Jeff McCarthy, who outlined Red Jacket's innovative reading program based on the Science of Reading theory.

Red Jacket started the

brainstorming process for the reading program four years ago. It implemented a pilot program two years ago. Integral to the success of the initiative was the LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)

training undergone by teachers. This professional development focused on understanding the intricate workings of the brain concerning reading, proving to be transformative for educators.

Mr. McCarthy emphasized that the impact of the reading program extends far beyond statistical achievements. He noted, "The reading program we've implemented is more than just the positive stats we've seen on paper. Our students really enjoy learning through this program and our teachers love teaching it. We've had teachers tell us they've benefited more from their LETRS training than their master's degrees."

Eager to showcase the application of teachers' professional learning, Mr. Hale embarked on a tour of Red Jacket Elementary School, immersing himself

in classrooms where students were actively engaged in learning about phoneme-grapheme mapping—a fundamental aspect of the science behind how children learn to read. Superintendent Barnard expressed pride in the district's achievements with the program. "We have seen great success with the initial implementation of this program at the elementary level. We hope that our district can continue to be a model for the value that a balanced literacy approach can have on the success of our students."



The visit from Mr. Hale affirmed Red Jacket's commitment to evidence-based education. By prioritizing literacy and investing in teacher professional development, the district sets a standard for academic excellence and joyful learning. Red Jacket's innovative approach serves as a model for other schools seeking educational success.



# Red Jacket Hosts FLMEA All-County For First Time in 15 Years



It's an event that a school district gets to host only once every 15 years. No, it's not a total eclipse viewing party. For hundreds of students, it's much more special than that. Red Jacket hosted the Finger Lakes Music Educators Association (FLMEA) All-County performance on January 27th.



More than 250 young musicians from 15 school districts in the Finger Lakes region participated. The annual showcase featured the Junior High Band, Senior High Jazz Band, Senior High Chorus, and Senior High Orchestra.

Twelve talented students from Red Jacket earned

their place in the spotlight, a testament to the school's commitment to musical excellence. Additionally, over 20 Red Jacket students volunteered their time to help set up for the event, showcasing the strong sense of community and pride at the school.



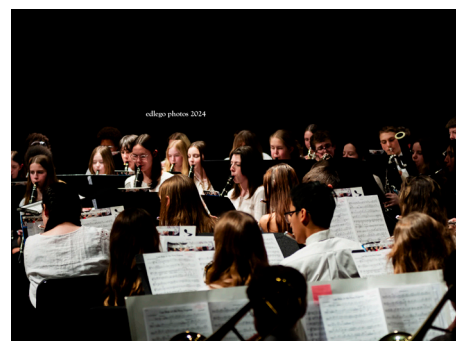
Chris Knapp, the Red Jacket Middle School and High School Chorus Teacher, has witnessed the excitement firsthand. "While talking about this event with our choir, almost every one of my students told me they wanted to be a part of this; how could they help," said Mr. Knapp. "Our students have put in so much work, meeting every other day for months now. It's been a full line of dedication."

Andy Wight, who has taught band at Red Jacket for more than two decades, reflected on the joy of hosting the All-County performance, emphasizing the positive



impact on both students and the community. "It's always nice to host other districts so they can see Red Jacket and how awesome our community is," said Mr. Wight. "I also love seeing my kids get to play with these big groups. It's a new kind of feeling."

The event also provided an opportunity to showcase Red Jacket's new atrium, completed over the summer. As the curtain falls on this year's All-County Performance, Red Jacket is already gearing up for the next opportunity to host the event in 2039. Mark your calendars now for another unforgettable showcase of musical talent and community spirit.





# Red Jacket Band and Chorus Make Magical Memories at Disney World



The Red Jacket Band and Chorus recently took a trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, marking the 7th Music Department trip to the magical destination since 2011. With a total of 68 kids, 12 chaperones, and two dedicated drivers hauling instruments, concert clothes, and food donations, the journey was nothing short of epic.



After arriving, Friday night was all about soaking in the vibrant atmosphere of Disney Springs, with dinner

and a bit of shopping to kick off the adventure.

The real magic happened on Saturday when the Band and Chorus took to the waterside stage for exhilarating performances. The rest of the day was spent exploring the wonders of EPCOT Center, making the most of every moment together.



Beyond the performances and theme park thrills, the trip was a chance for the students to bond, share

laughter, and create lasting memories that will be cherished for years to come.



Now back home, the Red Jacket Band and Chorus are basking in the glow of their unforgettable journey, proud to have represented their school with excellence, and leaving a lasting mark on Disney World.



The Red Jacket Band and Chorus carry with them not only the thrill of performing at Disney World, but also the pride of representing their school with excellence. Their journey to Orlando will forever be etched in their hearts as a testament to the incredible things that can be achieved through dedication, passion, and the pursuit of dreams.

# RJ Junior, Johnny Piermarini, Secures Prestigious Univ. of Rochester Internship



Junior Johnny Piermarini of Red Jacket High School has been selected for a coveted paid internship at the University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser Energetics. This opportunity will see Piermarini conducting experiments with cutting-edge technology, including the world's second-largest omega laser. Guided by an experienced engineer, he will undertake a research project, leading

to published reports and presentations to scientific communities.

Motivated by his passion for science and a desire to enhance his transcript, Piermarini seized the opportunity after learning about it from Mrs. Jessica Hemenway, his science teacher. Expressing his excitement, Piermarini emphasized the internship's potential to equip him with practical skills for future career endeavors, particularly in biomedical engineering.

"Every day, scientific advancements are shaping our future, and I want to be part of that journey," said Johnny. "This internship will not only provide me with practical skills but also give me a glimpse into the

real-world application of science."

Reflecting on Piermarini's growth, Mrs. Hemenway remarked, "He has grown significantly since sophomore year. He is very passionate, intellectual, and humble, and the Science Department is very proud of him and all that he's going to accomplish."

As Piermarini prepares for this transformative experience, his journey exemplifies the importance of mentorship and seizing opportunities to nurture the next generation of scientific innovators. With determination and ambition, Piermarini is poised to make significant contributions to the field of science and engineering.

---

## American Legion Boys State Representative



The American Legion Post 34 has selected Red Jacket Junior Hasen Wetherbee to participate in the 2024 Boys State at SUNY Morrisville. Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. This program is meant to teach students about rights, responsibilities and their roles in government. Hasen plays Varsity football, wrestling and outdoor track. Outside of sports, he helps coach youth wrestling and football. Hasen also participates in the band, playing the saxophone. Over the summer, Hasen works at the Winged Pheasant Golf Course. He also helps with summer recreational activities and Special Education programs. After high school, he plans to go to college for Special Education and wrestling.



# Scholarships

The Manchester-Shortsville Central School District would like to thank the following organizations, individuals, and scholarship providers who contribute to the list of scholarships below. Your generosity is helping our graduates pursue their continued education in post-secondary institutions of learning.

Amanda Peck Nursing Scholarship	Joshua Herendeen Memorial Scholarship	Red Jacket Faculty Association Scholarship
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 34 Scholarship	Joshua Lewis Memorial Scholarship	Red Jacket Memorial Scholarship
Bob Goodell Memorial Scholarship	JRLON, INC Scholarship	Red Jacket PTSA Scholarship
Bridget Brown Memorial Scholarship	JS Goodnow Scholarship	Red Jacket Rotary Club Award
Cindy Coffey Memorial Scholarship	Judith Macri Memorial Scholarship	Richard "Dick Southard" Memorial Scholarship
Citizens Hose Company / Shortsville Fire Department	Lehigh Valley Snow Riders Snowmobile Club Scholarship	RJ Adult Athletic Association Sportsmanship and Leadership Award
Clara Johnson Scholarship	Leon & Ruth Malter Cooley Scholarship	Robert Hulbert Memorial Scholarship
Class of 1994 Memorial Scholarship	Madge & Ward Preston Scholarship	Shortsville Rod & Gun Club Scholarship
Dale Bardun Citizenship Award	Manchester Shortsville Ladies Lions Club	Sons of the American Legion Americanism Award
Dominic Carra Memorial Scholarship	Margaret Vienna Memorial Scholarship	Stewart Matthews Memorial Scholarship
Ellen McWilliams Scholarship	Mary Ann King Memorial Scholarship	Sue Dorscheid Memorial Scholarship
Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack Scholarship	Mary C. D'Arduini Memorial Scholarship	Timothy & Elaine Benjamin Scholarship
First Baptist Church of Manchester Scholarship	Mary Sassone Nursing Scholarship	Turner Schrader American Legion Scholarship - John Gardner
Fred "Soot" Record Scholarship	Michael D. Misleany Memorial Scholarship	Turner Schrader American Legion Scholarship - Dorothy & Melvin Nessinger
Gary H. Bliss Memorial Scholarship	Monica B. and James E. Romeiser Scholarship	Twin Cities Lions Club Scholarship
Grape Lakes Family Dental Scholarship	Neil Harkenrider Memorial Scholarship	Twin Cities Lions Club Vocational Scholarship
Herendeen Trade/Technical Scholarship	NYS Academic Excellence Scholarship	
James McNinch Scholarship	Philip J. D'Arduini Memorial Scholarship	
James Weed Scholarship	Philip N. Bredesen Jr. Scholarship	
Jane Cunion Scholarship	Red Jacket Community Scholarship	
John Volpe Memorial Award		

## THE 31ST ANNUAL MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE COMMUNITY



# WALK-A-THON

A benefit to help fund 100+ scholarships awarded to Red Jacket seniors

## SATURDAY, MAY 18

Red Jacket High School | 1506 Rt. 21 in Shortsville



 /rjwalkathon



# Budding Readers Program

## Free Books for Babies

Is your baby 36 months of age or younger? Do you know a baby of this age in our school district? Budding Readers has free "bundles of books" with tips for parents about reading to babies and toddlers ready to deliver. To request a free "bundle of books", you can call, email, place a request on our website, or scan the QR code. One of our volunteers will contact the parent to arrange a mutually convenient time to deliver the bundle of books.



Email: [books@buddingreaders.org](mailto:books@buddingreaders.org)  
Website: [www.books@buddingreaders.org](http://www.books@buddingreaders.org)  
Phone: (585) 900 – 1725

Thank you for helping us provide books for babies.

Budding Readers offers free bundles of books in the following school district communities: Bloomfield, Canandaigua, Honeoye, Marcus Whitman, Midlakes, Naples, Red Jacket & Victor.

# Join the Red Jacket Transportation Team!



## Drivers Wanted!

- Full Time Position
- \$21.50/ hour (Minimum Salary)
- Paid Training
- Paid Time off
- Health, Dental and Retirement Benefits

Apply Online



**MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
1506 ROUTE 21  
SHORTSVILLE, NY 14548**

[www.redjacket.org](http://www.redjacket.org)

### Board of Education

Mr. James Simmons, President  
Mrs. Amy Walton, Vice President  
Mrs. Lisa Lombardi, Member  
Mrs. Barbara Gardner, Member  
Mr. Scott Van Aken, Member  
Mr. Matt Schaertl, Member  
Ms. Chelsea Carter, Member

### Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Christopher J. Barnard

### Business Administrator

Mr. Tim Burns

Non-Profit  
U.S. Paid Postage  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Permit #161

## Current Resident