



THE QUOTE

West Irondequoit Central School District Newsletter

westirondequoit.org

#AllMeansAll

May 2024

Key Dates

- May 9 Budget Hearing, 7 p.m.
- May 13 Candidates' Night, 6:30 p.m. at IHS
- May 21 Budget Vote & Board of Education election

**VOTE FROM 6 A.M. – 9 P.M.
ST. PAUL BLVD. FIRE DEPT.**

Special District Budget Edition



From Superintendent, Aaron Johnson

As members of our wonderful community, you probably were not surprised to hear that this year Realtor.com declared Irondequoit the best market in the nation for first-time homebuyers. The article cites short commutes, things to do and return on investment as the benefits of living here. But it overlooks what families seek most: Our schools. This reputation of excellence reflects a deep investment by you, our community, our students and our current and past employees. Families seek out West Irondequoit because they know their children will be safe, loved and cared for just as they have been for generations. As caretakers of our schools, let's ensure that tradition continues.

POST-PANDEMIC STUDENT NEEDS

Preparing the annual school district budget is one of our Board of Education's most significant tasks because it drives everything else. It takes months of planning to present a comprehensive and supportive program that delivers on our commitment to the importance of our children. To balance our fiduciary responsibilities to our taxpaying residents, it requires input from our community, staff and most important, our students. This year's extra hurdle: How to off-ramp \$9,082,141 from COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Funds that were used to hire more than 20 support positions. These staff members addressed the learning gaps and social, emotional and mental health needs brought on by the pandemic. Thankfully, our Board had the wisdom last year to incorporate \$1,805,703 in one-time expenditures into the budget to provide the room to work. Because of that, we can carry

16 of those positions forward to address the ongoing needs of our students. The pandemic might be in our rearview mirror, but our children will feel the impact for years to come. We must plan accordingly.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPOSITION 1
See page 5

Research confirms that a welcoming, safe and engaging learning environment where all students feel valued is vital to promoting the success of all children. Our neighborhood school model is unique and highly effective in boosting the achievement and well-being of our children. Thanks to input from a broad base of people, our Strategic Plan defines

QUICK FACTS:

- Budget Increase: **5.74%**
- Tax Levy Increase: **2.24%**
- Estimated Tax Rate: **\$0.47** increase per \$1,000 assessed value

PROPOSED BUDGET:

\$93,783,857

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT:

2024-25 School Budget:

The district will be authorized to expend the sum set forth in its estimate of expenditures for the 2024-25 school year in the amount of \$93,783,857 and levy the necessary taxes therefore.

Maintenance Capital Project:

Proposition #1 will spend up to \$1.62 million for a new roof, HVAC rooftop unit and boiler at Brookview Elementary.

Board of Education election:

There are four candidates for three seats. Read more on pages 6-7.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Expanded Budget Section 2-4
- Capital Project Updates 5
- Board of Education Candidates .. 6-7
- District Snapshot 9

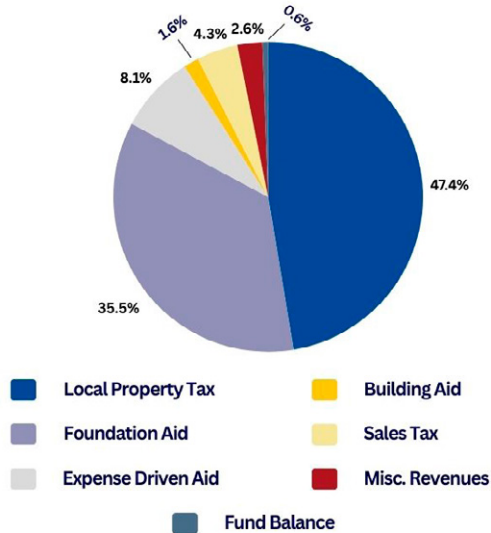
Pictured above: Rhea Meeks and Eloise Tortora, second-graders at Seneca Elementary.

continued on page 4

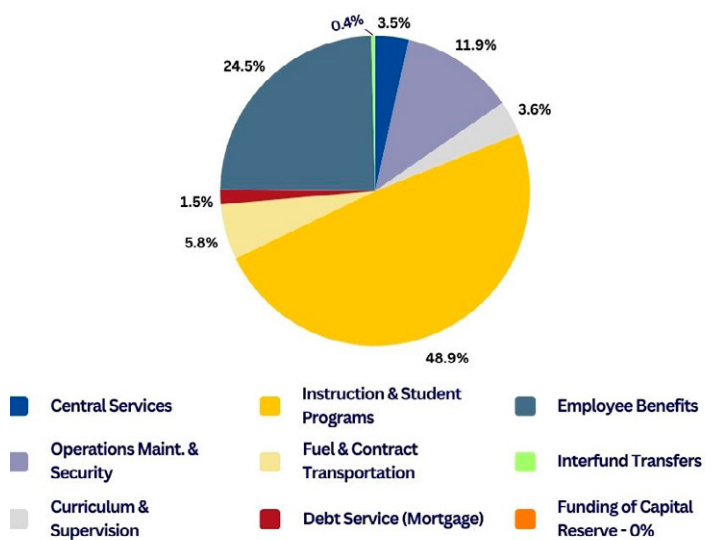
Proposed 2024-25 Revenue Budget

Revenue	2023-24	2024-25 (est.)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Local Property Tax	\$43,479,852	\$44,454,364	\$974,512	2.2%	47.4%
Foundation Aid	\$31,780,312	\$33,282,427	\$1,502,115	4.7%	35.5%
Expense Driven Aid	\$5,457,218	\$7,595,789	\$2,138,571	39.2%	8.1%
Building Aid	\$2,471,442	\$1,502,724	(\$968,718)	-39.2%	1.6%
Sales Tax	\$3,800,000	\$4,000,000	\$200,000	5.3%	4.3%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$1,401,147	\$2,414,172	\$1,013,025	72.3%	2.6%
Interfund Transfer	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Fund Balance	\$300,000	\$534,381	\$234,381	78.1%	0.6%
Reserve: Unemployment	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Reserve: Worker's Comp	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Reserve: Retirement	-	-	-	-	0.0%
TOTAL	\$88,689,971	\$93,783,857	\$5,093,886	5.7%	100.0%

Revenue 2024 - 25 (proposed)



Expense 2024 - 25 (proposed)



Proposed 2024-25 Expense Budget

Expenses	2023-24	2024-25 (proposed)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Central Services	\$3,030,927	\$3,321,993	\$291,066	9.6%	3.5%
Operations, Maint. & Security	\$9,705,739	\$11,166,522	\$1,460,783	15.1%	11.9%
Curriculum and Supervision	\$3,293,352	\$3,408,432	\$115,080	3.5%	3.6%
Instruction and Student Programs	\$43,375,293	\$45,820,641	\$2,445,348	5.6%	48.9%
Fuel and Contract Transportation	\$4,054,346	\$5,410,547	\$1,356,201	33.5%	5.8%
Debt Service (Mortgage)	\$1,564,600	\$1,363,175	-\$201,425	-12.9%	1.5%
Employee Benefits (Health, Retirement, FICA, Disability)	\$22,555,714	\$22,957,547	\$401,833	1.8%	24.5%
Interfund Transfers	\$410,000	\$335,000	-\$75,000	-18.3%	0.4%
Funding of Capital Reserve	700,000	-	-\$700,000	-	0.0%
TOTAL	\$88,689,971	\$93,783,857	\$5,093,886	5.7%	100.0%

Expenditures in Three Components

TOTAL BUDGET = \$93,783,857

11.6%
OF BUDGET

Administrative
\$10,832,812

Provides general support and management for the District

- Board of Education and Superintendent's Office
- Finance, Personnel and Public Information
- Technology infrastructure
- Legal services and liability insurance
- Auditing services
- Curriculum development
- Supervision of the schools by principals and assistant principals

13.6%
OF BUDGET

Capital
\$12,971,356

Maintaining the infrastructure and facilities for the District

- Upkeep of 134 acres of District property
- Maintenance of 10 schools and 8 additional buildings
- Utility bills (natural gas, electric, fuel, telephone)
- Refund of property tax claims
- Principal and interest payments on District debt for previous capital improvements

74.8%
OF BUDGET

Program
\$70,159,689

Provides instruction and support services to schools

- General education faculty and staff
- Special education faculty and staff
- Co-curricular and extra-curricular programs
- Transportation
- Health services
- Guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists
- School supplies, textbooks, library books, software, instructional computers

Facts and Information

Tax Levy

The amount of money needed to balance the budget between expenditures and all other revenue. It is the total amount of revenue raised through property taxes.

Proposed Tax Levy Increase

The proposed tax levy increase to support the District Budget for the 2024-25 school year is 2.24%.

Projected Tax Levy \$44,454,364
Projected Rate per \$1000 Assessed Value \$21.28

STAR Savings
Basic\$707
Enhanced\$1,789

The estimated basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. The numbers listed above come from the NYS Office of Real Property Services website: www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/max-savings/school-district/sd26.htm

What if the district budget is not approved by voters?

A simple majority vote is required for the proposed budget to be approved, as the proposal meets the acceptable tax levy threshold for West Irondequoit with a 2.24% tax levy increase. The Board of Education could propose one more budget for voter approval, or it could elect to adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget cannot contain a tax levy that is greater than the levy of the previous year.

School District Budget Notice

You will find the School District Budget Notice, as required by state law, on page 8 of this newsletter. School districts must present their costs in three prescribed components, as defined above. A more detailed breakdown of expenses and revenues is provided on page 2.

Budget Details

Budget information is on our website, www.westirondequoit.org. Look for the "May 2024 Budget and School Vote Information" box on the main page. For more information, call (585) 342-5500.

2024-25 Budget Objectives

Development of the budget centered on these objectives:

- Balance grade-level enrollment changes to maintain class sizes.
- Continue to follow Special Education mandates.
- Align curriculum and instruction resources as stated in the district's Strategic Plan.
- Restore elements of the budget that had been reduced in the past or included in Federal Stimulus funding.
- Maintain a sustainable 5-year Financial Plan while staying within the Tax Levy Cap.

The restoration of Foundation Aid and its promise to provide a predictable and sustained revenue source for the district has allowed for the right sizing of budget elements and meeting targeted staffing objectives identified in our department functional reviews. Careful planning has allowed for 16 positions that had been paid for with the

Federal Stimulus funds. For the Instructional Technology, the budget includes a Network Technician. This important position will enhance the cyber security of our networks and maintain a high level of satisfaction with our 1:1 computer initiative. For facilities, the budget also includes a laborer and a grounds worker to maintain our facilities and grounds. The budget also includes adding up to three special educators for our ICT program for grades 7-12 to meet students' needs and further develop our special ed. continuum. Finally, a K-3 nurse is being added to ensure every school has a full-time nurse.

The budget also includes \$100,000 for a Capital Outlay Exclusion Project to make improvements to Seneca School. The proposed project will primarily address the replacement of 40-year old sprinkler heads located in the attic. Additionally, other interior renovations will be made as funds allow. We anticipate receiving more than \$80,000 in state aid on this project, for the following budget year. **”**

Superintendent's Message *continued from cover*



Dr. Aaron Johnson

annual targets to improve our model even more. Through the process, people strongly voiced the need to achieve more equity in this model while preserving the close-knit relationships our neighborhood schools foster. This includes expanding services for special education and English language learner programs and providing more substantial options for students with complex post-pandemic needs. Children with these needs are largely displaced from their neighborhoods until junior-high school, preventing them from reaping the benefits we champion.

MAINTAINING OUR ASSETS

This year, we are launching a new annual initiative – a Maintenance Capital Project (see Page 5). It will be Proposition #1 on the 2024-25 ballot. The MCP will address smaller projects, such as new roofs or heating, cooling and electrical needs for schools, and be limited in scope and cost so it has no impact on your tax rate. These will address, in particular, the needs of our elementary schools. Five of them are 20 years old (Seneca recently turned 100). Like our homes, if we don't maintain our schools, they deteriorate, and repair work could result in higher costs down the road. It's wiser to be proactive and address their issues. Proposition #1 will allow the district to spend up to \$1.62 million for a new roof, HVAC rooftop unit and boiler at Brookview Elementary School. The roof is out of warranty and leaks in classrooms have created issues with daily instruction.

The challenges our children face today are vastly different than the ones we did, and many spill over into school. Rapid technological



Each year right before opening night of the Irondequoit High School musical, we host a Senior Citizen Dinner Theatre. For \$12, local seniors get dinner and a showing of the first live performance of the musical. Above, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Aaron Johnson, enjoys dinner with two seniors at the March 19 event.

advancements, the economy, social media and many other issues add significant hurdles to growing up, graduating and being prepared to tackle life. I know we raise, teach and develop resilient children in West Irondequoit. The pride we share in our people and programs always bring a smile to my face. Thanks to a collective effort, our community IS the place to be!

In partnership,

Aaron R. Johnson, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Proposition 1 on ballot – Maintenance Capital Project

WHAT:

Starting with the 2024-25 District Vote on May 21, 2024, West Irondequoit is launching a new initiative – an annual **Maintenance Capital Project (MCP)**. It will be a proposition on the ballot each year. The MCP is targeted for smaller projects, such as new roofs or heating/cooling upgrades, for our schools. They will be limited in scope and cost to ensure **no impact on your tax rate**.

WHY:

By proactively addressing maintenance issues and not allowing our buildings to deteriorate, we avoid higher costs of future repairs. At Brookview Elementary, for example, we have already engaged in extensive roof repairs to prevent leaks and more damage. These smaller projects will allow us to address maintenance projects that are too large for the Capital Outlay Exclusion Projects (limited to \$100,000) and better position the larger project, such as the R.I.S.E. (approved by voters last May) to be more focused on improving our instructional spaces, facilities and programs.

HOW / 2024-25 PROPOSITION:

The MCP proposal for 2024-25 will help fortify Brookview Elementary School. The cost of \$1,620,000 will fund a:

- New roof
- New HVAC unit (heating, ventilation & air conditioning)
- New boiler

Twenty years ago, five of our elementary schools - Briarwood, Brookview, Colebrook, Listwood and Southlawn - were sparkling, new buildings. Now they need new roofs and more. Recent issues at Brookview caused roof leaks and disruptions to instruction from inadequate heating or cooling. Contractor Elmer Davis Roofing reports that the roof is in “extremely poor” condition. “The TPO membrane is weathered away and there are numerous areas of exposed polyester scrim. This condition is present throughout the entire (roof). This is a serious condition,” and should be addressed as soon as possible.

**\$1.62 million
Capital
Project
No tax
impact!**

“A new roof and HVAC system at Brookview demonstrates a commitment to providing students and staff with a safe and comfortable environment conducive to learning.”

– Alicia Spitz, Principal



Portions of the roof on Brookview Elementary School have needed to be patched to prevent leaks into the building.



Kickball kids!

Last spring some of “Brookview’s Best” enjoyed a kickball game on the playground at Brookview Elementary! (Above, left to right) Bilal Beshir and Brayden Crane are now fourth graders at Rogers Middle School!

R.I.S.E. Capital Project Update

Due to a backlog of statewide school submissions, as of late April we are still awaiting approval from the NYS Education Dept. on the \$19 million R.I.S.E. Capital Project (approved May 2023). Here’s an updated and approximate work timeline:

Summer 2024:

- Install playgrounds at Rogers and Iroquois
- Replace HVAC at Rogers

Fall 2024:

- Begin Dept. of Environmental Services Lakeview site renovations at 330 Pattonwood Drive
- Begin bridge between Dake Jr. HS and IHS

Winter 2024-25:

- Begin Dake interior door replacement
- Begin Iroquois Library Renovation

Spring 2025:

- Begin Rogers Library Renovation
- Complete Dake interior door replacement

Summer 2025:

- Begin IHS Auditorium rigging/lighting replacement
- Replace HVAC equipment at Dake, IHS & Iroquois
- Complete Bridge between Dake Jr. HS & IHS
- Complete D.O.E.S. work at Lakeview
- Complete Iroquois Library renovation

For a complete list and project updates, go to westirondequoit.org

Board of Education Candidates

Four candidates are running for three seats on the Board of Education. The seven-member board is made up of community volunteers who serve three-year terms. All candidate biographical information appears in *The Quote* as it was submitted by each candidate. Names will appear on the ballot in the following order as drawn by lottery.



Gary Adams

135 Glenmont Drive
315-576-8772
Garyadams6278@gmail.com

Age: 44

Family:

Son - Isaac, 8th grade, Dake Jr. HS;
Daughter - Elle, 6th grade, Iroquois MS;
Son - Eli, 3rd grade, Colebrook;
Son - Ari, 1st grade, Colebrook.

Occupation:

Engineering Manager, Baldwin Richardson Foods

Education:

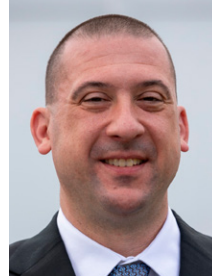
B.S., Mechanical Engineering, RIT
M.B.A., Master of Business Admin. with leadership focus, RIT

Community Involvement:

- Town of Irondequoit Audit Committee member (2017-present)
- Genesee Conservation Foundation Board member (2024-present)
- Asst. Cubmaster, Irondequoit Cub Scouts Pack 420 (2024-present)
- NYS Wedding Officiant (2015-present)
- Various school activities/events
- Volunteer for Sunset House 5K & Johnny's 5K races
- Volunteer at Open Door Mission
- Town of Irondequoit Conservation Board member (2018-2020)

Candidate Statement:

"My name is Gary Adams, and I am running for the school board because I believe that our children deserve the best possible education. As a parent of four children in the district, I'm aware of the challenges that our students and teachers face. I believe that providing a comprehensive education that includes both academic and real-world skills is critical. I'm committed to promoting innovative programs that promote creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will prepare students for a rapidly changing world. I plan on leveraging my experiences as a technical leader in business to be a good steward of the district's finances, which includes identifying, prioritizing and executing Capital Projects, including long- and short-term maintenance plans for the buildings. I believe it's important for members of the school board to collaborate with others, ask tough questions, listen and learn. This will allow us to make decisions that benefit all the children in the district. I appreciate you considering me for school board, and I look forward to earning your vote."



Kevin Schoepfel

12 Brentfield Circle
585-330-4267
kevinschoepfel@yahoo.com

Age: 45

Family:

Wife - Joni, Teaching Assistant at Rogers Middle School; Son - Landon, 8th grade, Dake Jr. HS; Daughter - MacKenzie, 6th grade, Rogers MS

Occupation:

Captain, Monroe County Sherriff's Office

Education:

Graduate, Monroe Community College Public Safety Training Police Academy class (2006)

Community Involvement:

- Former volunteer firefighter, St. Paul Boulevard FD (10 years)

Candidate Statement:

"As a 1997 graduate of Irondequoit High School, and a parent of current students there, I feel it's important to have Board members who are dedicated to helping keep the proud tradition of education, performing arts and athletics that West Irondequoit schools have come to be known for. This can only be done through cooperative efforts of the board members and the district administration, and good stewardship of the tax dollars that keep these programs alive."



WELCOME. NURTURE. INSPIRE.

WICPTSA CANDIDATES' NIGHT IS MAY 13

Candidates' Night is Monday, May 13 at 6:30 PM in the Campus Center (small cafeteria at Irondequoit High School). To watch a video replay of the 2024 West Irondequoit Central PTSA Candidates' Night after May 13, go to the district YouTube channel at bit.ly/WICSD_YouTube.



Kathryn (Kate) Copeland

55 Sunflower Dr.
585-857-7649
kathryncopeland@gmail.com

Age: 42

Family:

Husband – David Copeland; Son – Daniel, 5th grade, Rogers Middle School; Daughter – Hannah, 1st grade, Southlawn School

Occupation:

Manager, Editorial (U.S. Legal Commentary)

Education:

B.A., English and American Literature, Brandeis University
J.D. (Juris Doctor), Northeastern University School of Law

Community Involvement:

- West Irondequoit Central PTSA (President)
- WICPTSA representative for Rogers MS and Southlawn
- WICSD Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Coalition Member (Family Engagement Subcommittee)
- West Irondequoit Shared Decision-making Coordinating Council
- West Irondequoit Report Card Committee (K-4 Homework Policy Subcommittee)
- West Irondequoit Strategic Planning Committee
- Girl Scouts (Troop Co-leader and Irondequoit Service Unit)
- Odyssey of the Mind (Co-coach)
- Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute

Candidate Statement:

“Like so many families, we chose West Irondequoit as our home because of the high quality of our schools and our resilient and diverse community. Our children have had outstanding teachers and benefitted from remarkable educational experiences. As the president of WICPTSA and in other volunteer roles, I have worked to give back to our community, particularly through advocacy for meaningful family engagement. Ensuring that families are actively involved in experiences and decisions affecting their children is vital to achieving equity, belonging, and access to the resources children need to succeed. As a former practicing attorney and current manager of an editorial team at a legal information company, I bring a powerful professional skillset to support my work on the Board. I’m a public-school graduate with a family history of working in and serving public schools, and I am deeply committed to the long-term fiscal health and success of our public schools for all children. I would be honored to serve our students and our community as a member of the Board of Education.”



Tamara Wall

134 Shorewood Drive
585-490-8286
Tamarawall7@gmail.com

Age: 38

Family:

Daughter – Eliana-Renee, 1st grade, Southlawn School; Son – Sage, Age 2, Beautiful Beginnings Childcare Center

Occupation:

Manager, Product Support – Culture Amp

Education:

ITIL Certification, Axelos
Problem Management Certification, HDI
Change & Transition Management Certification, ATD
Women in Leadership Certification, Cornell University
Pharmacy Technician Certification, Rochester Educational Opportunity Center

Community Involvement:

- Building Representative, Southlawn PTSA
- Advocacy Chair & Member, WICPTSA
- School-Based Planning Team, Southlawn Elementary
- 2023-24 WICSD Coalition for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Graduate, Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute
- Parent Leader, Greater Rochester PLTI Teacher Diversity Core Team
- Family Peer Advocate (pending certification), BIPOC PEEEEEEK

Candidate Statement:

“As a graduate of the WICSD, I have seen the importance of quality education and advocacy. I aspire to become a member of the West Irondequoit School Board because I am passionate about ensuring that every child in the district receives an equitable, high-quality education and that they have the support they need – both within our district and our community – to be successful, both academically and professionally. As a single mother to two young children, it is also important to me that our board reflects the diverse experiences and perspectives of all families that it serves. I look forward to partnering with local and State legislators to advocate for funding for our district and commit to ensuring our district budget finances are stewarded well. As a Parent Leader, my goal is to leverage both my professional leadership experience and my experiences with DEI-B work to represent, advocate for, and support all children in this district. I would be honored to serve on the school board and am asking for support during the upcoming district vote.”

WICSD Senior Citizen Gold Card Program

West Irondequoit residents who are at least 62 years old are invited to join our Gold Card Program. The card is free and entitles holders to:

- Discounted fees for select Community Education courses
- The opportunity to participate in the Senior Lap Swim Program at a discounted rate
- A special invitation and free admission to select student theater performances

- A special invitation to our Senior Citizen Dinner Theatre
- Free admission to regular-season home sports events

Please call the Public Information Office at 585-336-3067 with questions about events or the Community Education Office at 336-3014 with questions about adult classes and opportunities.

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	\$ 88,689,971	\$ 93,783,857	\$ 92,809,345
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$ 5,093,886	\$ 4,119,373
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.74%	4.64%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 43,479,852	\$ 44,454,364	
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)	\$ 43,479,852	\$ 44,454,364	\$ 43,479,852
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 7,663	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 43,479,852	\$ 44,446,701	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 43,479,852	\$ 44,446,701	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 10,586,952	\$ 10,832,812	\$ 10,720,248
Program Component	\$ 65,714,586	\$ 70,159,689	\$ 69,430,657
Capital Component	\$ 12,388,433	\$ 12,971,356	\$ 12,658,440
<p>* 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.</p> <p>A contingency budget would be one developed with zero levy increase from the prior year, the administrative component being an equal percentage as the prior year and elimination of all equipment not required for health and safety needs.</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>	Description		Amount
	2024 Capital Improvement Project		\$ 1,620,000
			\$
			\$

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year

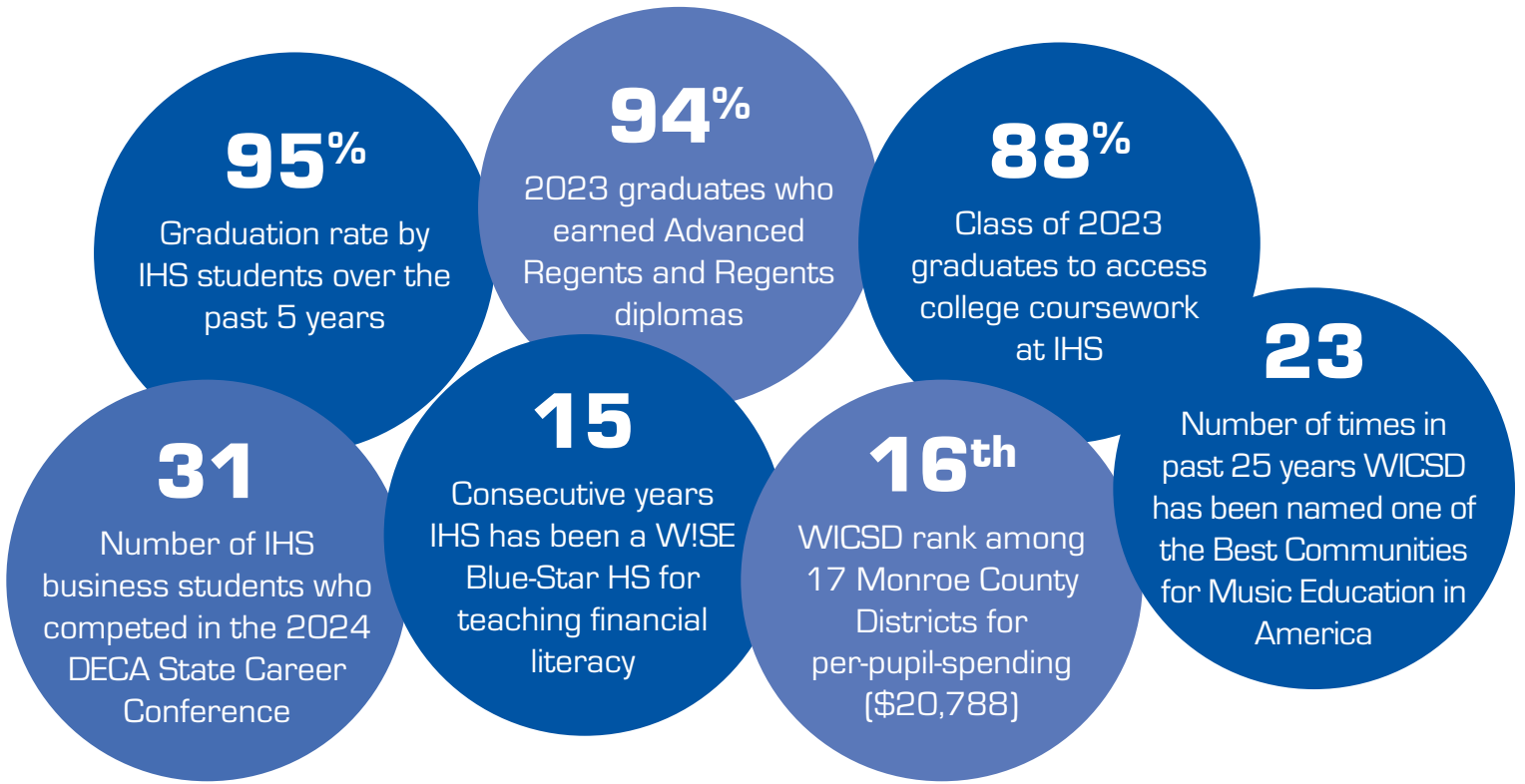
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$707

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the West Irondequoit school district, Monroe County, New York, will be held at the St. Paul Fire Department in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, 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.

District Snapshot



Achieving Peak Performance!

Comprehensive education: We offer one of the area’s most comprehensive high schools with programs in art, building trades, business, music, performing arts, technology and vocational automotive.

Neighborhood schools: Average enrollment of 168 among our six K-3 schools.

Career Connections Program: Helps students thrive in work-study jobs, internships & career shadowing.

Fine arts: Offer 16 courses in art; students regularly have work displayed in local exhibits.

Performing arts: Four major dramatic presentations annually by IHS and Dake Jr. High students.

1:1 technology: Laptop computers for grades K-12, a first, for the 2020-21 school year.

Professional Development: For 35-plus years we have provided a teacher learning center.

Athletics: Varsity teams in 27 sports, including girls flag football.

Unified Sports: Inclusive co-ed basketball/bowling teams that unite students with and without disabilities.

Helmer Nature Center: Our District-owned 45-acre “outdoor classroom” teaches environmental awareness to our students and is a widely used community asset offering exposure to woods and wetlands. HNC celebrated its 50th anniversary and Eclipse Fest in the 2023-24 school year.

West Irondequoit Foundation: Has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to the District for educational programs and equipment.

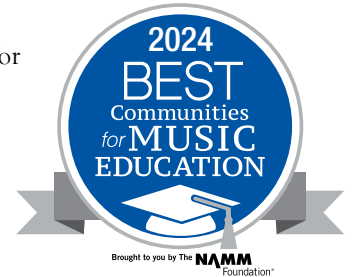
Welcome. Nurture. Inspire.

WE ARE ... WEST IRONDEQUOIT!



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

For the 17th straight year and 23rd time in the past 25 years, West Irondequoit earned the distinction as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America. The designation is from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. Pictured to the left are the “Three Little Pigs,” or Alex Friedel, Olivia Croll and Samantha Dominguez. They were in the cast for this year’s IHS musical, “Into the Woods.” The IHS spring comedy, “The Alibis,” is June 7-9 at the Irwin Center for the Performing Arts.



Last summer, we learned about a traditional greeting used by the Masai warriors, a tribe in Africa. When returning to the village, they ask, “And how are all the children?” By centering themselves on this question, the Masai convey the importance of their children as a constant reminder. This year, our district chose to do this as well.

Are the children well emotionally? Are they well socially and physically? If the answers are yes, it puts children in the best position to be good learners. That is just one reason you see our staff greeting students at arrival, as they exit the school bus or step out of a vehicle onto the sidewalk. We want to develop strong connections and start a student’s day with a smile.

Our schools are responsible for creating warm and welcoming environments that establish routines to nurture and inspire. “How are all the children?” We want the answer to be, “The children are well.”



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Senior TeJon Tejada was a freshman in 2019 when he and former Irondequoit High School Teaching Assistant, David Brannigan, brainstormed the idea of starting a Black Student Union at IHS. After being approved by the administration the following year, the BSU was born and now has 35 members. Its mission is much like the IHS Mosaics Club: Discover and celebrate differences within our schools and community. This school year a Mosaics Club was started at Dake Junior High School and the advisor is Social Studies teacher, Gabrielle Brannigan (David’s sister).

Pictured are BSU advisor, Mr. Tony Onorato, and (from left to right) Kayla Jean-Jacques, Serah Hall and BSU President, Tejada. They are all seniors.

West Irondequoit CSD 2024-25 School Calendar



July

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27



- Superintendent's Conference Day
- Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- Holiday/Recess
- Student Holiday
- Regents Exams
- Regents Rating Day

Sept. 2	Labor Day - No School
Sept. 3-4	Superintendent's Conference Day - No School K-12
Sept. 5	First Day of School - Grades K-12
Oct. 11	Superintendent's Conference Day- No School K-12
Oct. 14	Indigenous Peoples' Day-No School K-12
Nov. 11	Veterans Day - No School K-12
Nov. 26	K-12 Parent-Teacher Conference Day - No School K-12
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving Recess - No School K-12
Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Holiday Recess - No School K-12
Jan. 6	School Resumes
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School K-12
Jan. 21-24	Regents Exams
Jan. 27	Rating Day - No School Grades 9-12
Jan. 29	Lunar New Year-No School Grades K-12 12 month staff report/10 month staff virtual day
Feb. 17-21	Winter Recess - No School K-12
Apr. 11	K-12 Parent-Teacher Conference Day - Half-day Grades K-12
Apr. 14-18	Spring Recess - No School K-12
May 26	Memorial Day Recess - No School K-12
June 4, 10, 17-25	Regents Exams
June 16	Last Day of school for Grades 9-12
June 19	Juneteenth - No School K-12
June 22	Graduation TBD
June 25	Last Day of School Grades K-8 (1/2Day)
June 26-27	Regents Rating Day
June 27	Last Day all Faculty and Staff

Faculty Days 187 Student Days 180

Approved by the Board of Education: 2/15/24
187 Faculty days includes 2 virtual days



West Irondequoit CSD
321 List Avenue
Rochester, NY 14617
Phone: 585-342-5500

Presort First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY
Permit No. 1021

Superintendent
Dr. Aaron Johnson

Board of Education
Mr. Matthew Metras, President
Mr. Matthew Sullivan, Vice President
Mrs. Melissa Bohrer
Mrs. Victoria Bournival
Mr. Justin Connor
Mrs. Rosa Vargas-Cronin
Mr. John Vay

Mrs. Jenna Lustig, District Clerk

Aliyah Bozkurt, Student Representative
Chloe Curran, Student Representative
Andrew Sullivan, Student Representative

Newsletter Editor
Mr. Jeff DiVeronica

DISTRICT VOTE: MAY 21 at St. Paul Blvd. Fire Dept., 433 Cooper Road

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen; you have lived in the West Irondequoit School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote; you are at least 18 years of age by the day of the vote. The West Irondequoit Board of Education requires proof of residency at the polls. Examples include a driver's license or other documentation proving residence in West Irondequoit.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified voters unable to vote in person because of disabilities, illness, travel or other valid reasons listed under election law may vote by Absentee Ballot. Residents may request an application for an Absentee Ballot in person weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from District Clerk, Jenna Lustig, at District Office, 321 List Ave.

EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

New this year, qualified voters may request an application for an Early Mail Ballot in person weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from District Clerk, Jenna Lustig, at District Office, 321 List Ave.

ABSENTEE/EARLY MAIL SUBMISSIONS

Applications for both Absentee and Early Mail ballots are available at westirondequoit.org. Completed applications must be received in the District Clerk's office at least 7 days before the vote (May 14) if the ballot is to be mailed, or by 4 p.m. the day prior to the vote (May 20), if the ballot is to be picked up. Absentee/Early Mail ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21. 📄



THEY ACED IT!

The ACE Mentor Program of America is a national after-school program designed to encourage students to pursue careers in Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE), as well as skilled trades. Congratulations to the five IHS students who graduated from this year's program: seniors Alex Anderson, Ezzedine Al Mawed (exchange student, not pictured) and Colton Vinette and sophomores Sebastian Reidmiller and Edwin Zheng. A second-year ACE participant, Alex earned a \$2,000 scholarship! ACE partners with many local companies, including Catenary Construction, O'Connell Electric and SWBR just to name a few. IHS students who are interested should ask Mrs. LaVon Bucciarelli in the College & Career Center for more information. 📄



On May 21st, the day of the vote, Bay Vista Taqueria and Bruster's will be serving food and ice cream in the front loop of Dake Jr. HS and Irondequoit HS from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.