

Learning at...



BUDGET 2021

# Wallkill

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Wallkill High School Announces Valedictorian and Salutatorian

**WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (WSHS) HAS ANNOUNCED THIS YEAR'S VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN.** These young people reached the highest level of achievement, not only in academics, but also in an array of athletic, extracurricular, and community endeavors.

Valedictorian Conor Warren, the son of Loraine and Stephen Warren, leads his class this year with a grade point average (GPA) of 103.29, which he achieved while taking numerous college-level and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. A resident of Gardiner, Conor says that although he thoroughly enjoys science and learning in general, he has a particular passion for math. "I love math classes because they rely on problem solving," he said. "It is fun to learn strategies, expand your toolkit, and then see how you can apply this knowledge."

Outside of the classroom, Conor has been involved in many extracurricular activities, including the Leo Club, National Honor Society, and Spanish National Honor Society. In addition to



*Wallkill High School has announced its valedictorian, Conor Warren (left), and its salutatorian, Devin Ramos.*

serving as class president since 10th grade, he is currently an ex-officio student representative to the Board of Education.

Through his work as a student intern for Climate Smart New Paltz, he helped conduct and present a greenhouse gas inventory for local government operations in the Town of New Paltz. "I am currently working on and creating the Carbon Accountability Project, an initiative to do the same inventories for schools," he said.

Although Conor would like to extend thanks to numerous teachers for their kindness, understanding, and willingness to help, he singles out Math/Computer Programming/Physics teacher Samrat Pathania for his mentorship. "He has played an instrumental role in guiding me

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**Annual Budget Vote  
& Election of Trustees**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021 • 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School, Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School

**Budget Details Inside**

# Valedictorian and Salutatorian

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throughout high school, helping me find meaning, and helping me explore my purpose through meaningful opportunities,” Conor said. “It is impossible to overstate my gratitude for him and his influence.”

Conor’s most influential teacher, however, is someone closer to home. “My mother is not a teacher in the usual sense of the word, but she has nonetheless taught me countless important lessons through her strength, nurturing spirit, and kindness,” he explained. “I would like to thank her for being an excellent role model, for shaping me into the person I am today, and for equipping me with the knowledge and tools that will help me build a happy life.”

***“In short, I am not set on one path. I am surfing on the wave of life and seeing where it takes me.”***

— CONOR WARREN,  
VALEDICTORIAN

or venturing out and applying my learnings to start a business in either of those spaces,” he said. “In short, I am not set on one path. I am surfing on the wave of life and seeing where it takes me.”

As he prepares to graduate in June, Conor looks back in gratitude at the education he received at Wallkill. “It is an honor and a pleasure to call Wallkill Central School District my alma mater; these last 13 years have been great,” he said. “I am grateful for all the opportunities the District has offered me, all the experiences I have been exposed to, and all the personal growth that has occurred within the walls of Leptondale Elementary School, John G. Borden Middle School, and Wallkill Senior High School. I am excited to represent Wallkill in my future.”

Salutatorian Devin Ramos, the son of Steven and Margaret Ramos of Plattekill, achieved his salutatorian status by earning a GPA of 101.40 while handling a challenging course load that included AP and college-level classes and pursuing a number of extracurricular activities.

During his time at Wallkill, Devin was drawn

to courses related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). “Personally, I have found STEM classes the most interesting,” he said. He particularly enjoyed his Physics and Chemistry classes because of their relevance to astronomy, which he plans to study at Union College in Schenectady.

“I hope that majoring in astronomy will lead me to further opportunities in the future,” Devin said, mentioning the possibility of eventually working in an astronomy-related field, perhaps even at NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

Devin would particularly like to thank his Science teachers: Jordan Taylor (Earth Science); Ed Davis (Chemistry); James Greenhall (Physics I); and Samrat Pathania (Physics II). “They managed to teach the physical sciences in both an informative and entertaining way,” he explained. “I’ve had some of my favorite moments in these classes just discussing each unique field of science.”

Outside of the classroom, Devin has worked on the Yearbook staff since his junior year. “We work together to try to capture important moments in the lives of students each year, and it has been going well so far this year,” he said.

Until the pandemic hit, Devin was also heavily involved with Wallkill’s VEX Robotics Team. “I worked with my teammates on robotics challenges, and we competed at various places in New York State over the years,” he said.

Devin is appreciative of the education he received at Wallkill. “I know that in elementary school I had an incredibly fun time with the helpful teachers and staff that work there, and since then I have felt that I’ve been learning much more about both academics and who I want to be as a person,” he

said. “The teachers and staff that I have encountered throughout my life have been incredibly helpful, and I truly feel that I’ve taken a lot away that will be useful in the next chapter of my life.”

***“The teachers and staff that I have encountered throughout my life have been incredibly helpful, and I truly feel that I’ve taken a lot away that will be useful in the next chapter of my life.”***

— DEVIN RAMOS,  
SALUTATORIAN

# A Message from the Superintendent

## Dear Wallkill Community,

The Wallkill Central School District Board of Education and Administration have worked diligently over the past several months to prepare the proposed 2021-2022 school district budget. The District is proposing a 2.12% budget increase for the 2021-2022 school year that equates to a 1.47% tax levy increase (\$150,000 **below** the limit). As a result of the fiscal foresight of the Board of Education and Administration over the last several years, our proposed 2021-2022 budget will result in a tax levy that is either at or below the limit for the tenth year in a row. Since the proposed tax levy is **below** the tax levy limit, the proposed budget will require a simple majority of voters for approval (50% +1) instead of a super majority for approval (60% or more).

We received just under \$7,000,000 of federal money that will be used over the next several years to fund items such as:

- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Summer and After-School Programs
- ▶ Mental Health Services and Supports
- ▶ Technology Equipment and Software

Since this money expires in several years, we need to consider using the majority of the money on non-recurring costs compared to recurring costs. Notwithstanding this, we are going to be able to do great things for students with these additional funds.

This year has been very challenging for our students, faculty, staff, parents/guardians, and community. This budget addresses the academic, safety, and social/emotional needs of our students along with the economic needs of our community. This issue of *Learning at Wallkill* provides the public with valuable information on District program highlights, the candidates who are running for the Board of Education, and the proposed 2021-2022 school district budget.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all District residents for your continued support for our students.

Sincerely,



Kevin Castle, Superintendent of Schools

## Class of 2021 Top Ten Named at Wallkill Senior High School

**T**he Wallkill Central School District congratulates the top ten students in the Class of 2021, in order of GPA: Conor Warren, Devin Ramos, Alexei Temidis, Anthony Scarano, Chad Castle, Luke Martini, Nicholas Guerra, Gavin Roberts, Aaron Rubinstein, and James Elizares vonBaeyer. Also pictured is Superintendent Kevin Castle (far left) and Principal Joseph Salamone (far right). We're proud of you!





# 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2021-2022 School District Budget

### What is the proposition to be voted on?

The proposition voters will cast a ballot for on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 will be:

**Proposition #1: RESOLVED**, that the proposed Wallkill Central School District budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$79,343,346 be approved and the Board of Education of said School District be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefore.

### What is the percent increase of the proposed 2021-2022 budget when compared to the 2020-2021 budget?

The 2021-2022 budget increase is **2.12%**. The average budget increase over the past five (5) years has been **1.99%**.

### What is the tax levy limit?

Essentially, it is an eight-step formula that each school district must use to calculate the tax levy limit. The result (the limit) is the maximum allowable tax levy (including permissible exemptions) that a school district can propose and would require only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% + 1). Any proposed tax levy amount above the limit would require budget approval by a super majority (60% or more) of voters. For more information on the tax levy limit, please visit [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

### Is the Wallkill Central School District's 2021-2022 tax levy within the limit?

**Yes, the 2021-2022 tax levy is \$150,000 below the limit**; therefore, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval (50% + 1). The tax levy increase with permissible exemptions is **1.47%**.

### Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

No, the tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay toward the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another based on such things as equalization rates and assessed property values. At this time, individual town tax rates are undetermined due to the lack of final equalization rates and total town assessed values.

### How much State Aid is the District projected to receive?

The District is projected to receive \$30,900,000 in State Aid in 2021-2022. In addition, the District continues to balance its budget with reserves and fund balance.

### What strategies were used to have a tax levy within the tax cap?

- ▶ Projected increase in State Aid
- ▶ Reduction of one (1.0) FTE High School Business position through attrition
- ▶ Lower health insurance renewal rates
- ▶ Utility costs were stabilized due to bidding and the Energy Performance Contract
- ▶ Use of fund balance and reserves
- ▶ Multi-year financial planning

### What programs for students are included in the 2021-2022 budget?

- ▶ Maintain programs, extracurricular activities, and equipment money for technology
- ▶ Maintain low class sizes K-12 to allow for enhanced learning opportunities (K-6 average class size of 19)
- ▶ Professional Development opportunities to support classroom instruction and student learning
- ▶ Maintain support services to address the social-emotional needs of our students
- ▶ Police officers in all five (5) school buildings
- ▶ Create one (1.0) FTE Field Service Technician position through the elimination of one vacant (1.0) FTE Computer Lab Manager position
- ▶ Implement the new ICT program at Leptondale and Ostrander based on the Special Education Team Action Plan
  - 2021-2022 - K-5 ICT at Leptondale; K-6 ICT at Ostrander
  - 2022-2023 - K-6 ICT at Leptondale; K-6 ICT at Ostrander
- ▶ Create two (2) .97 Teacher Aide positions to support the new Special Education inclusion model

### What happens if voters reject the proposed budget?

If voters reject the proposed budget, the school district may put up a revised budget for a second vote or adopt a contingent budget.

### What additional programs/positions will be reduced if the budget fails (contingent budget)?

- ▶ Reduction of 10 instructional positions, resulting in larger class sizes and loss of programs for our students
- ▶ All field trips (including Ashokan)
- ▶ All equipment (except for technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment necessary for health and safety purposes)
- ▶ Charges to community groups that result in identifiable costs for use of buildings

# 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

## What is included, as allowed by New York State Education Law, in a contingent budget?

A contingent budget will allow:

- ▶ All regular transportation to and from school at current levels of more than .6 miles and to private/parochial schools for students residing less than 15 miles from their home to school
- ▶ All legal obligations
- ▶ All health and safety repairs
- ▶ All expenses to maintain mandated educational programs
- ▶ All other budgeted items as determined by the Board of Education

## Who can vote on May 18, 2021?

Voters are eligible to vote if they are: (a) a U.S. Citizen; (b) at least 18 years of age; (c) a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to May 18, 2021; and (d) not otherwise ineligible to vote under Section 5-106 of the Election Law. Individuals do not need to be registered to vote. Please contact the District Clerk at 845-895-7101, or by email at: [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) if you have any questions regarding how you may obtain an absentee ballot. Information on how an unregistered voter, who meets the definition of a qualified voter, may receive an absentee ballot is available at: [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

## Where do I register to vote?

You may register in each school office or at the District Office from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through May 13, 2021.

## May I cast an absentee ballot?

If you are a registered voter and expect to be absent from the county, are temporarily or physically disabled, are taking care of someone who is ill or physically disabled, or otherwise qualify for an absentee ballot, you may request an absentee ballot.

Applications for absentee ballots may be secured at the Office of the School District Clerk, 1500 Route 208, PO Box 310, Wallkill, New York 12589 or on the District's website. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk prior to 4:00 p.m. on May 11, 2021, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. If an application is received by the District Clerk between May 11, 2021 and 4:00 p.m. on May 17, 2021, the absentee ballot must be picked up at the Office of the School District Clerk. Qualified military voters should contact the District Clerk for more information about requesting an absentee ballot. All absentee ballots must be received by the School District no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021.

## Preguntas frecuentes sobre el presupuesto del distrito escolar 2021-2022

### ¿Quién puede votar, el 18 de mayo de 2021?

Los votantes son elegibles para votar si son: (a) un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos; (b) de al menos 18 años de edad; (c) residente del distrito escolar durante al menos 30 días antes del 18 de mayo de 2021; y (d) no ineligible para votar de acuerdo con sección 5-106 de la Ley Electoral. Las personas no necesitan estar registradas para votar.

Si necesita una versión en español de estas preguntas, vaya a nuestro website - [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

## Yearly Analysis Budget Increase vs. Tax Levy Increase

The Tax Levy increase has remained at or below the Tax Cap level beginning with the 2012-13 school year.

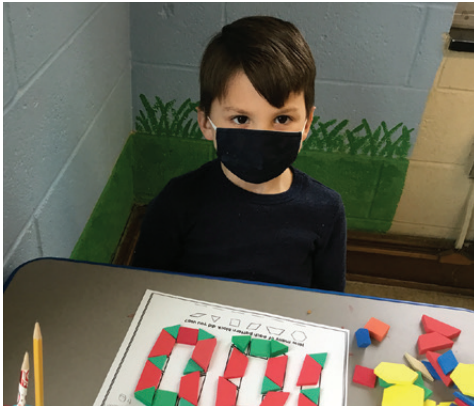
Year	Budget Increase	Tax Levy Increase
2017-18	2.47%	1.99%*
2018-19	1.91%	2.74%*
2019-20	1.90%	2.68%*
2020-21	1.53%	2.49%*
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2.12%</b>	<b>1.47%** (This increase is below the tax levy limit)</b>

**5-Year Average Budget Increase: 1.99%**  
**5-Year Average Tax Levy Increase: 2.27%**

**\*At the tax levy cap**  
**\*\*Below the tax levy cap by \$150,000**

# Ostrander Kindergarten Students Celebrate

## 100 Days of School



Ostrander Kindergarten student Christopher Figliola, from Dianna Palen's class, creating the number of the day using colorful pattern blocks.



Ostrander Kindergarten student Carlie Bulson counts out marshmallows—representing teeth—during a game promoting dental health on the 100th Day of School. Carlie is in Laura Busse's class.



Wearing a "100 Days Smarter" hat, Kindergarten student Cecilia Crispell counts out pretend teeth (marshmallows) during a dental health game played in Laura Busse's class at Ostrander Elementary School.

### ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF LEARNING IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE, AND OSTRANDER'S KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS—

Dianna Palen, Laura Busse, Sara Ellison, and Kristen Kreuscher—made sure that their students celebrated in style. The young learners, wearing hats that announced to the world that they were 100 days smarter, were treated to games and activities that reinforced their counting aptitude and honed their math skills.

Activities in Dianna Palen's class included using multi-shaped pattern blocks to create the number of the day, counting how many of each shape they used in the process. Her students, who celebrated the milestone in early March, also enjoyed a "reverse trail mix," which required them to sort various foods (like pretzels, raisins, chocolate chips, and cereal pieces) into 10 frames, with 10 pieces being placed in each frame.

Laura Busse, who is teaching remote as well as hybrid learners this year, held a week-long celebration with her students. "We did counting activities during the week on the students' in-person hybrid days, and then we had one big virtual celebration on the remote Friday," Mrs. Busse reported. "Students made hats in school to wear to the virtual party, and did a bunch of special activities like dancing for 100 seconds, counting to 100, and guessing games involving 100 items." Ingredients for the trail-mix snack were sent home to students who were learning remotely, so they could join in the party.

Speaking on behalf of all of the Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Busse said, "We have worked hard this year to make all students feel included in the celebrations."



Caitlyn Watt, a Kindergarten student in Dianna Palen's class at Ostrander Elementary School, shows off her carefully colored headgear on the 100th Day of School.



Deegan Barnhart, a Kindergarten student in Dianna Palen's class at Ostrander Elementary School, counts out the various ingredients making up the morning snack. Deegan and his classmates sorted the different foods—including pretzels, cereal, and Goldfish crackers—into 10 frames, each of which contained 10 food items.



## 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

### District to Receive a Federal Allocation of Funds

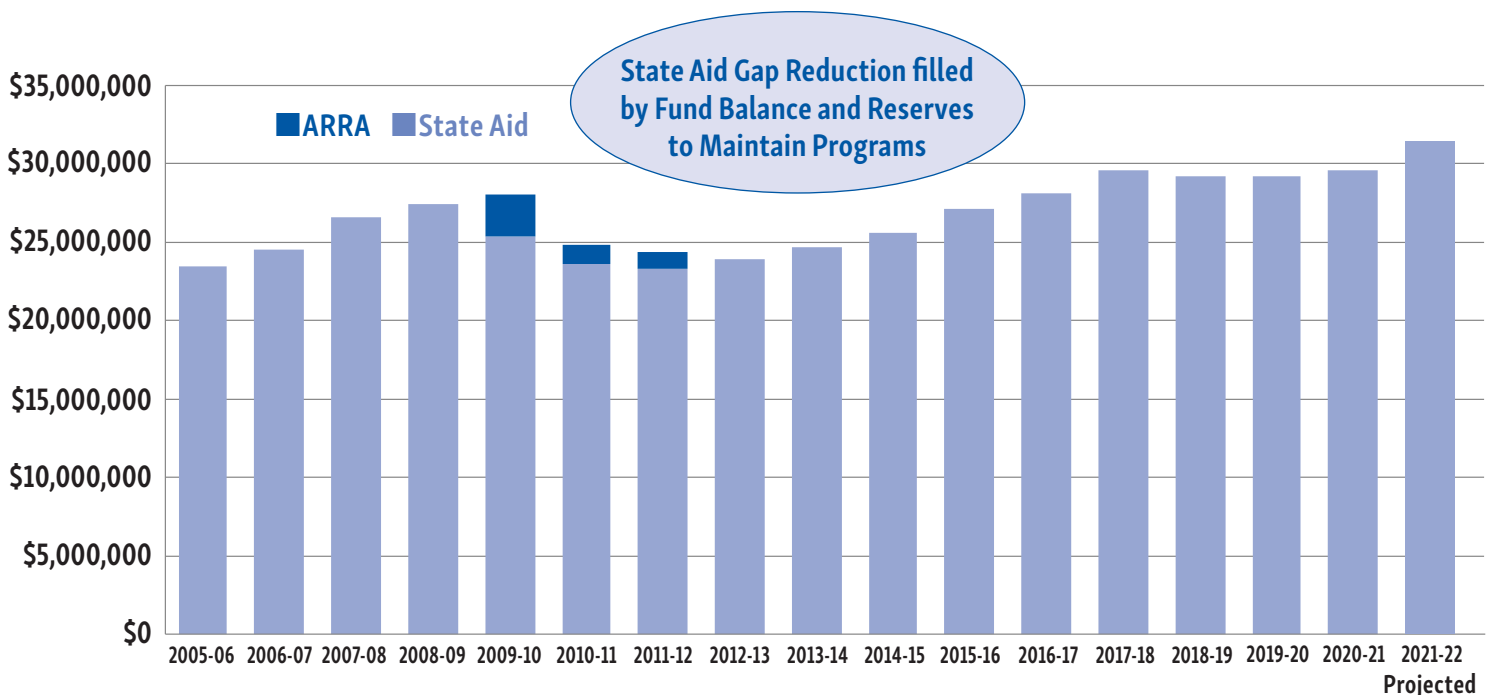
NAME OF FEDERAL RELIEF ACT	ESTIMATED TO BE RECEIVED
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	\$4,290,640
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020 (CRRSA)	\$2,666,019

The above funds can be used for items such as:

- ▶ Addressing learning loss
- ▶ Provide mental health services and supports
- ▶ Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school activities and online learning
- ▶ Purchase of Technology – can include hardware, software, and connectivity

These funds can be utilized over a three-to-four-year period. Non-recurring costs need to be prioritized when planning to expend the funds. As required, the District will develop a plan for these funds and post the plan on its website by July 1, 2021.

### History of State Aid 2005-2021



# 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

## Tax Levy Limit Calculation 2021-2022

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$44,021,248	
Tax Base Growth	x 1.0067	
PILOT	+ \$2,436	
Capital Exemption	- \$855,456	
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	= \$43,463,170	
	x 1.0123	← Allowable Growth Factor
PILOT	- \$2,485	
Tax Levy Limit Prior To Exemptions	\$43,165,792	← Voter Threshold
BOCES Exemption	\$149,531	} Estimated
Capital Exemption	+ \$672,533	
TRS Exemption	+0	
ERS Exemption	+0	
	= \$44,817,346	← *Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

*\*The District is proposing a tax levy of \$44,667,346, which is \$150,000 below the tax levy limit.*

### Three Component Budget

**Administrative Component: \$7,887,954**

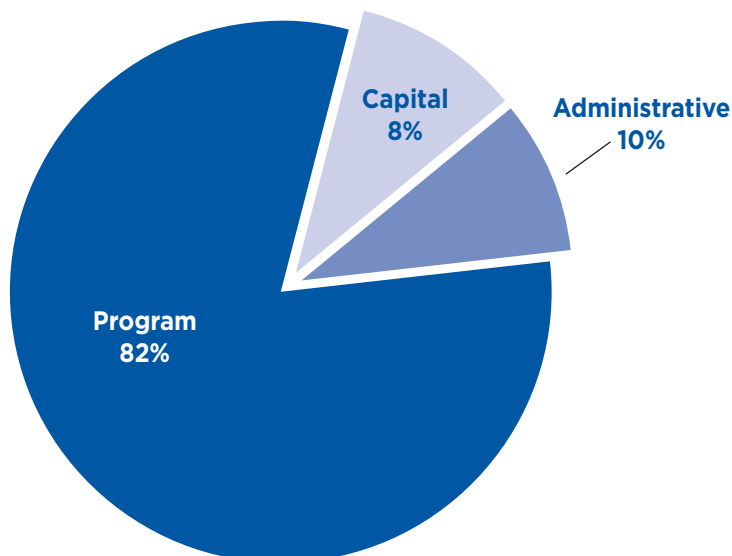
► Central Administration, Building Supervision, BOCES (partial)

**Program Component: \$64,921,655**

► Instructional Areas, Transportation, Extracurricular Activities

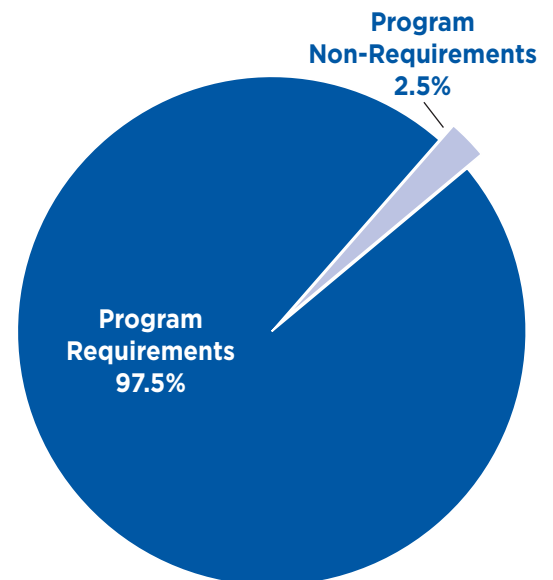
**Capital Component: \$6,533,737**

► Operations and Maintenance, Debt Service



### Program Budget: Required vs. Non-Required

As the chart indicates, 97.5% of the program budget is devoted to New York State Education Department required programs.





# 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

## Wallkill Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$77,697,248	\$79,343,346	\$78,697,248
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$1,646,098	\$1,000,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.12%	1.29%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$44,021,248	\$44,667,346	
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)	\$44,021,248	\$44,667,346	\$44,021,248
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$855,456	\$822,064	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$43,165,792	\$43,995,282	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$43,165,792	\$43,845,282	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$150,000	
Administrative Component	\$7,582,722	\$7,887,954	\$7,589,522
Program Component	\$63,579,656	\$64,921,655	\$64,633,989
Capital Component	\$6,534,870	\$6,533,737	\$6,473,737

\*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-2022 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Elimination of: Ten (10) teaching positions, all field trips (including Ashokan), and all equipment purchases (except technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment for health and safety).

Total: \$646,098

\*\*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
No Separate Propositions	

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$750.60
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<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Wallkill Central School District, Ulster/Orange Counties, New York, will be held at the High School, Leptondale and Plattekill schools in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the High School, Leptondale and Plattekill schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Information about requesting an absentee ballot can be found on the District's website or by contacting the District Clerk at 845-895-7101.

**Annual Budget Vote  
& Election of Trustees**

**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021  
12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School, Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School

## Programs Offered to Students in the Wallkill Central School District

### LEPTONDALE, CLARE F. OSTRANDER, AND PLATTEKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- ▶ Full-day Kindergarten
- ▶ Math instruction includes the use of technology and manipulatives for hands-on learning
- ▶ Arts and Environmental Education
- ▶ Active parent organizations
- ▶ Character Education programs
- ▶ After-school programs and events
- ▶ Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) system and specialized multi-sensory instruction for early reading intervention
- ▶ Active Learning Labs and iPad carts
- ▶ SMART Boards in K-6 classrooms
- ▶ 1:1 student computers in Grades K-6
- ▶ D.A.R.E. program
- ▶ Family Nights for Math, Literacy, STEM, and the Arts
- ▶ Grade 6 Olympics
- ▶ Enrichment programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Gifted and Talented programs
- ▶ Climbing walls: leadership and trust building
- ▶ Ashokan Field Campus
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity
- ▶ Safety and wellness programs
- ▶ Fire safety education
- ▶ Field days
- ▶ Project-based learning with makerspaces
- ▶ School newsroom studios
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ STEM lessons
- ▶ Coding instruction
- ▶ Too Good for Drugs program
- ▶ Before and after-school academic support programs
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy—federally funded

### JOHN G. BORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ▶ SMART Boards in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Instructional teams
- ▶ Interdisciplinary curriculum
- ▶ Enrichment activities
- ▶ Field trip experiences

- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ Character Education program
- ▶ Active Learning Lab
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Active parent organizations and community involvement
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Accelerated courses
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Gifted and Talented programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ Career Day
- ▶ Family Coding Night
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy—federally funded

### WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Extensive Advanced Placement/college course offerings
- ▶ College offerings in pre-engineering through Project Lead the Way
- ▶ Annual scholarship attainment of over \$4 million
- ▶ Career and Technical Education provided through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ An award-winning vocal and instrumental music program
- ▶ A diverse offering of clubs, organizations, and groups to benefit the ever-changing needs of our students
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ SAT prep course
- ▶ Summer school
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Academy Model
- ▶ College fair
- ▶ Instant college admissions program
- ▶ Peer tutoring
- ▶ VEX Robotics team
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity

## Leptondale Students Ace Reading Challenge!



Leptondale students Rowan and Ivy Shortle logged many minutes of reading at home.

In March, students and staff at Leptondale Elementary School tackled a formidable challenge. Could they each set a personal goal to read 20 minutes a day, and work collectively to reach a school-wide reading milestone of 100,000 minutes?

The answer, happily, was a resounding yes! One hundred and ninety-five students and staff participated in the challenge, logging a total of 102,776 minutes, according to Intervention Specialist Anita Hoyt. "The goal of the challenge," she explained, "was to figure out a way to keep the school community connected to one another while getting kids to READ, READ, READ!"

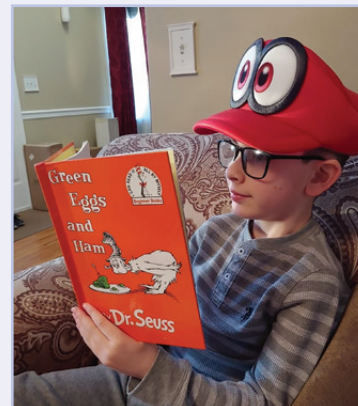
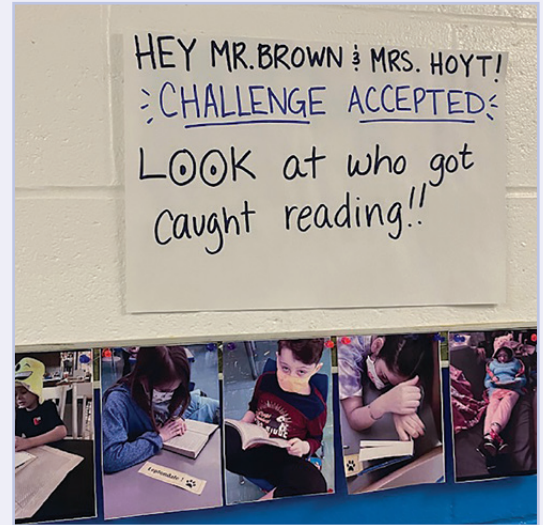
During a "normal" school year, Mrs. Hoyt continued, Leptondale takes pride in its school-wide pep rallies and other events that bring the school community together as one. She was determined to find a way to bring the school culture back to "normal," despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

At the beginning of March, the entire school had celebrated Read Across America Day, which took place on March 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. The Library Media Center kicked off the reading challenge by expanding the one-day celebration into an entire week filled with thematic dress-up days to match book genres.

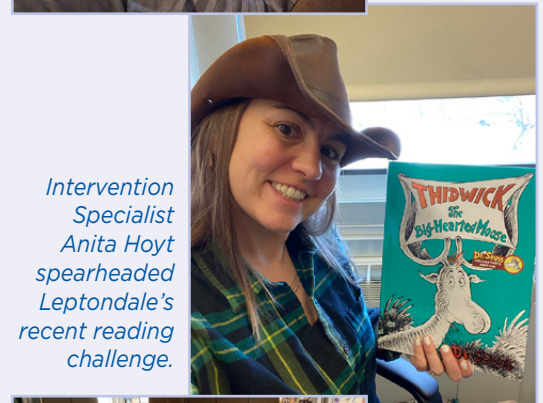
Students then voted on a school-wide challenge prize. "The choices were to see Mr. Brown and myself get pied, slimed, silly stringed, or to learn and perform a TikTok dance," Mrs. Hoyt reported. The winning choice was getting slimed!

The students kept track of the independent reading they did at home or at school, and each Monday morning, Mrs. Hoyt randomly drew a name of someone who logged their minutes for that week. The winner earned a free ice cream from Stewart's Shops.

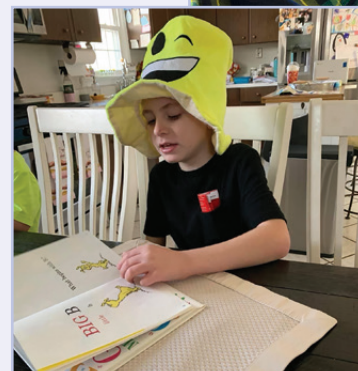
After the end of the month, the top three readers enjoyed a special pizza lunch delivery from Mrs. Hoyt and Mr. Brown. Congratulations to student winners Melanie Sposta (first place), Gabriella Bowman (second place), and Carlie Lacelle (third place) and to the top staff reader, Grade 5 teacher Katie Gross!



Lucas Trotta reading Green Eggs and Ham during the Leptondale Reading Challenge.



Intervention Specialist Anita Hoyt spearheaded Leptondale's recent reading challenge.



Leptondale student Bentley Stoner was among the many participants in his school's reading challenge.



# 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

## Candidates for the Board of Education

The six candidates (shown in ballot order) are seeking election to three “at large” open seats on the Board of Education. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2024.

*The Wallkill Central School District's practice has been to annually afford each candidate filing a petition an opportunity to present a bio about themselves, including reasons why they are seeking office. The views expressed by these candidates should not be construed in any way as being endorsed or promoted by the Wallkill Central School District.*

### Kris Psilopoulos

I am a 20-year resident and proud parent of a freshman in the WCSD. I consider the community of WCSD fortunate for the opportunities it provides—educational, arts, music, and sports.

I have paid attention to policies and procedures of WCSD and at times, have questioned some of the district's decisions. I no longer want to stand on the sidelines and pontificate on how things can be improved for WCSD. I am choosing to become involved in the process.

My professional experience as an engineer and salesperson provides me with the analytical tools that would be valuable to WCSD as a board member. I can see both sides of an issue and help forge the most meaningful outcome that benefits all.

I have the time, energy, and most importantly, the desire to help WCSD continue to be the very best it can be.

### Donna Crowley

My name is Donna Crowley, and I have served on the School Board since 2009. I have been a community member for 25 years and have 3 children. I am a CPA working for an accounting firm, specializing in governments including school district audits. I am the Chairperson of the District Audit and Budget Committees. The greatest challenge today is educating our children while navigating health and safety guidelines. The goal is to get our students back to school full time. They deserve the normalization, but we need to employ measures to reverse prolonged effects such as learning gaps and social implications. The Board has passed responsible budgets below or at the tax cap annually while still addressing District goals and maintaining reserves to stabilize and reduce future budgets. I have enjoyed, and want to continue, my Board experiences and believe these and my financial background are valuable to our Board.

### Thomas Frisbie

My name is Thomas Frisbie and I am seeking re-election. For over fifteen years, I have had the privilege of serving this community on the Board of Education. For the past five years, I have served as the Vice President of the Board. I also currently serve on the Audit committee and as Chairman of the Building and Grounds committee.

My educational background from Union College, my professional experience in Project Management and as a licensed Professional Engineer, have allowed me to continue to be a valuable resource to the District.

I am a husband and proud father of two recent Wallkill graduates and one current High School student. I have been a dedicated member of this community for over 23 years.

I would be honored to continue to serve the students and taxpayers of our district to guarantee our children are given the resources to reach their highest potential.

### Michael Rose

Married 28 years, we have lived in Wallkill since 2000. Blessed with 8 children, all of whom have either graduated or are currently attending WCSD. One daughter was the Salutatorian for Wallkill High School in 2017. We currently have 5 children in 3 schools—11th, 9th, 7th, 4th, and 2nd grades.

I have taught Art at Orange-Ulster BOCES for 21 years and have a BFA Highest Honors, Pratt Institute, MFA Queens College, and an MAAS, SUNY New Paltz.

I love the WCSD, yet this pandemic has revealed several gaps in the school curriculum that I propose to remedy:

- Mandatory Cursive Handwriting Taught Grades 2, 3, & 4.
- Full 5 Day/Week In-Person Instruction.
- Students or staff at risk can work remotely.
- No MASKS for OUTDOOR Sports Programs.
- Homeschoolers allowed to pick and choose what course offerings in the district that they may want to use.
- Ban Planned Parenthood from our Schools.

## 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

### Thomas Nafey

My name is Thomas Nafey. I have been a resident of Wallkill since March of 2002, where my wife and I built our home, as well as raised our twins Kaleigh and Liam. I have just retired from the City of Newburgh Police Department, completing my career as a Patrol Sergeant.

When my kids started grammar school, I became a youth coach for little league baseball, youth football, as well as Wallkill youth lacrosse. Currently, I am member of the board for the Wallkill Youth Lacrosse Program and I continue to coach the children within this program.

My goal as a member of The Board of Education, should I be elected, is to address the concerns of parents in the district and seek a positive resolution for both parents and the district. I am looking forward for the opportunity to become a member of the Board of Education.

### Damon Alberts

Greetings and salutations, my name is Damon Alberts, and I currently reside in the Town of Shawangunk with my wife Maria and our two children, Gianna and Noah, ages fifteen and twelve. You may have seen me from time to time as I have been employed as a Deputy Sheriff in Ulster County since 2012, mainly patrolling the southeast region. In March of 2019, I retired from the military with twenty-four years of honorable and faithful service. I am currently seeking a position on the Board of Education as I feel everyone should have a voice in the vested interest of our children's education as well as their safety and well-being. I look forward to serving the community in the same capacity as I have during my military career, and currently as a Deputy Sheriff, with integrity, honor, and a strong moral compass to continually guide me.

### 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

#### Total Proposed Budget

**Amount** .....\$79,343,346

#### Increase from the 2020-21

**School Year**..... \$1,646,098

**Percentage of Increase**..... 2.12%

### 2021-2022 District Revenue

Revenue Source	Amount Received
Estimated State Aid	\$30,900,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,250,000
Appropriated Reserves	\$1,526,000
Other Sources	\$1,000,000
Tax Levy	\$44,667,346*
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$79,343,346</b>
<b>Tax Levy Increase</b>	<b>1.47%</b>

*\*Below the tax levy limit by \$150,000*

## Annual Budget Vote & Election of Trustees

**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021**  
**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School,  
 Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School

# Family Fun at Plattekill's Virtual Math Night

**THIS YEAR, DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, PLATTEKILL'S POPULAR FAMILY MATH NIGHT WENT VIRTUAL.** But the event was just as fun-filled—and educational—as ever, thanks to the efforts of the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

"Since we were unable to have our in-person Family Math Night, we searched for a fun, virtual educational activity that was appropriate for all grade levels, K through 6," said PTA President Nikita Davis.

The PTA's goal, Mrs. Davis explained, was to engage families in hands-on math fun in their own homes. Participants used their personal and/or school-issued computers as well as "math kits" that had been previously distributed to all registrants.

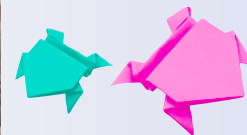
Grade 5 student Noah Davis said that he especially enjoyed the Scavenger Hunt. "I didn't realize that math was all around me," he exclaimed. "I had to find something spherical, a numerical palindrome, something that shows the fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and something cylindrical in my house. It was fun running around looking for everything."

Isabella Burte, a Grade 6 student, was happy to learn how to use math to make art. "The Origami Station was fun," she recalled. "My Mom and I used triangles and rectangle shapes to make origami animals, and the frogs that we made jumped better than we expected!"

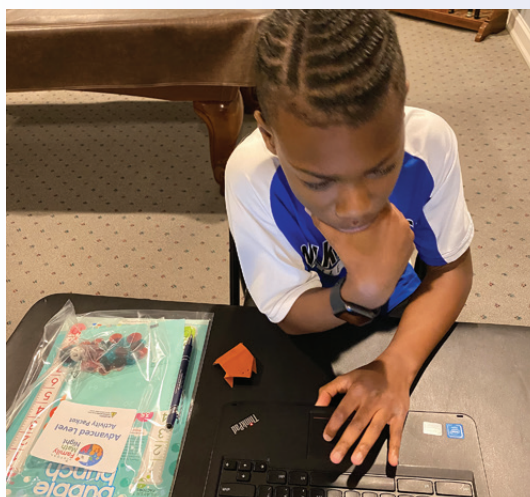
Principal Monica Hasbrouck brought the idea for the virtual math night to the PTA, and was thrilled by the group's support for the event. "During remote learning time, it was important to promote fun, social interactions among our students," she observed. "I am truly grateful to the Plattekill PTA and all of its members for the hard work, dedication, and support they consistently offer our school."



Grade 6 Plattekill student Isabella Burte showing off the origami frogs she created during her school's Virtual Family Math Night.



Grade 2 student Owen Croce learning how to make an origami crab during Plattekill's Virtual Family Math Night, which was held in March.



Grade 5 student Noah Davis using his laptop to participate in math-themed activities during Plattekill's recent Virtual Family Math Night, which was organized by the school's PTA.



Kindergarten student Ava Croce watches an instructional video during Plattekill's Virtual Family Math Night. Using the video's step-by-step instructions and her knowledge of shapes and math concepts, Ava was able to create an origami cat from a single piece of paper.



# Wallkill Middle School Students Celebrate Spirit Weeks

**STUDENTS AT JOHN G. BORDEN ARE A SPIRITED BUNCH**—so spirited, in fact, that they celebrated not one, but two Spirit Weeks this spring!

During the weeks before and after Spring Break, students were encouraged to show their school spirit by dressing up according to the theme of the day. On Monday, it was PJ Day, followed by Crazy Hair Day on Tuesday, Blue and White (School Colors) Day on Wednesday, Hat Day on Thursday, and Jersey Day on Friday.

The celebration was spearheaded by the Student Council and the school's PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Committee, says Dean of Students Craig Ramsay. The two-week format was chosen because not all in-person learners are attending school on the same days this year. "We felt strongly that we wanted to give all our students the opportunity to participate in person if they wanted



*Crazy hairstyles were sported by Dean of Students Craig Ramsay and Math teacher Colleen Keesler (back row, left to right) as well as Grade 7 students (bottom row, from left to right) Aidan Boland, Ryan Campbell, and Emily Lantos.*



to," Mr. Ramsay explains. Remote learners were

*Celebrating PJ Day at the Middle School were (from left to right): Marilyn Pelaez, Marilyn Velazquez, Ashley Sanchez, and Isabella Mozo-Aguilar.*

encouraged to get into the spirit of things by showing off their outfits or hairstyles via Zoom.

"We have always believed that school needs to be a place where kids learn and have fun," he continues. Fun was very much in evidence on Crazy Hair Day, when the halls were filled with students and staff sporting multicolored wigs, gravity-defying braids, and an impressive display of hair dyes and sculpting gels.

The special activities were also a way to build community, Mr. Ramsay suggests. "Making connections with students is one of the most important things about our Spirit Weeks," he explains.

## Wallkill Athletes Are Off and Running!

Mask-wearing is among the health precautions being taken by Wallkill athletes this spring. Pictured at a cross-country meet are (from left to right) Josh Craypo, William Conklin, Jake Craypo, and Jack Simon. Jake won the boys' race with a time of 16:18.40.





## Wallkill Central School District

Office of Educational Services

1500 Route 208, PO Box 310

Wallkill, NY 12589

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[www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)



## High School Student Wins SkillsUSA Regional Competition

Wallkill Senior High School student Nicholas Keglovitz, who is enrolled in the Ulster BOCES Advanced Robotics & Manufacturing program, came in first at the SkillsUSA virtual regional competition in the Job Demo A category. Congratulations!

***“Learning at...Wallkill” is an official publication of the Wallkill Central School District.***

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Joseph LoCicero, *President*

Mr. Thomas Frisbie, *Vice-President*

Mrs. Kathryn Anderson

Mr. David Bartolone

Mrs. Donna Crowley

Mr. Dustin Palen

Mr. Vincent Petrocelli

Mr. Leif Spencer

Conor Warren, *Student Board Member*

Mr. Kevin Castle, *Superintendent of Schools*

Ms. Yvonne Herrington, *Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*

Mr. Brian Devincenzi, *Assistant Superintendent for Support Services*

### Important Telephone Numbers to Know

Leptondale Elementary School..... 895-7200

Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School..... 895-7225

Plattekill Elementary School..... 895-7250

John G. Borden Middle School ..... 895-7175

Wallkill Senior High School..... 895-7150