

Learning at...



BUDGET 2019

# Wallkill

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## WCSD Names 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

**WALLKILL HIGH SCHOOL IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT AMANDA WHITEHOUSE IS THE VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2019, AND VICTORIA SOLER IS THE SALUTATORIAN.**

Amanda, with a near-perfect grade point average (GPA) of 99.79, is the daughter of Lynn and Charles Whitehouse of Wallkill. She has been active in the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society (for which she serves as secretary), and the school band. A talented oboe player, she earned a spot in the All-County Band as well as the Area All-State Band.

Outside of school, Amanda serves as an assistant teacher at her church's Sunday school, working with three and four year-olds.

Amanda is very appreciative of the education she received at Wallkill.

"I was able to learn something from each and every teacher I've had," she said. "I liked the challenges each class has brought me, as each challenge pushed me to be a better student, and each



*Wallkill High School has announced its valedictorian, Amanda Whitehouse (left), and its salutatorian, Victoria Soler.*

teacher taught me important lessons."

Next fall, Amanda plans to attend SUNY Orange, where she will study accounting as the first step towards achieving her long-term goal of becoming a forensic accountant.

"Forensic accountants look into fraud involving money," she explained. "It's a relatively new field, and I think it's growing."

Ultimately, Amanda plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in accounting, followed by a master's degree in forensic accounting.

Amanda looks back fondly at her years in the Wallkill Central School District. "There were so many opportunities, and I really liked our music program," she said.

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**Annual Budget Vote  
& Election of Trustees**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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

**Budget Details Inside**

# 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 2019-2020 school district budget. As a result of the fiscal foresight of the Board of Education and Administration over the last several years, our proposed 2019-2020 budget will result in a tax levy that is either at or below the limit for the eighth year in a row. Because of this, the taxpayers in our community have received tax rebates from the State.

In preparing the budget, the Board of Education and Administration made it a priority to ensure that the budget addresses both the academic and social/emotional needs of our students. In doing so, the proposed budget maintains all programs and extracurricular activities for our students and keeps class sizes low. In addition, the budget includes having police officers stationed at each school building.

The District is proposing a 1.9% budget increase for the 2019-2020 school year that equates to a 2.68% tax levy increase. Since the proposed tax levy is **at 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). **Furthermore, the five (5) year average for our budget increase is 2.0% and the five (5) year average for our tax levy increase is 1.9%.**

The fiscal health of a school district is defined as the ability

of a district to fund the level and quality of services expected by its citizens in good times and bad. The Board of Education and Administration have the responsibility of monitoring the fiscal condition of their district to ensure it remains fiscally healthy. School districts need to have adequate resources (fund balance and reserves) to address emergencies and unforeseen situations (i.e. reduction in State Aid) without interrupting or negatively impacting educational services provided to students. Due to multi-year financial planning and strong oversight of the budget, we have maintained/enhanced programmatic opportunities for students in the Wallkill Central School District, while at the same time recognizing the needs of our taxpayers.

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 2019-2020 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

## District-Wide Art Show Celebrates Students' Creativity

During a recent spring evening, the Wallkill High School gymnasium was filled not with athletes and spectators, but with scores of young artists and art lovers. One of the highlights of the WCSD calendar, the District-Wide Art Show showcased selected work from artists in Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Grade 5 Leptondale student Ashlyn Weber and her brother Matthew Weber, who is in Grade 3, proudly showed off their artwork to family members and passersby. "I made a Lego character," explained Matthew. "I colored it on paper with Crayola markers and cut it out."

Ashlyn had two pieces on display, including an intricate watercolor of a tree. "We were supposed to make a tree with lots of branches. I added patterns and words inside," she said.

Ashlyn and Matthew's Art teacher, Tara Andrews, explained her philosophy that art education at the elementary school level should be fun as well as informative. "I introduce them to different materials and different artists, and basic techniques like simple shading. I want them to have fun and experience art," she concluded.



Leptondale students Matthew Weber (Grade 3) and his sister Ashlyn (Grade 5) were among the many student artists showing off their work at the District-Wide Art Show, which was held on April 11.

# 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

## 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

### Total Proposed Budget

**Amount ..... \$76,524,146**

### Increase from the 2018-19

**School Year..... \$1,426,067**

**Percentage of Increase..... 1.90%**

## District Revenue 2019-2020

Revenue Source	Amount Received
Estimated State Aid	\$29,585,172
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,950,000
Appropriated Reserves	\$1,036,000
Other Sources	\$1,000,000
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	\$42,952,974*
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$76,524,146</b>
Tax Levy Increase	2.68%

\*At the tax levy limit

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Victoria Soler, this year's salutatorian, achieved a GPA of 99.70. She is the daughter of Vilmarie and Edwin Soler of Plattekill.

In addition to handling a rigorous academic schedule, Victoria has kept busy with a range of extracurricular activities, including National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Madrigal Choir, Handbell Choir, and Girls Barbershop.

Victoria also excels at her chosen sport, taekwondo, in which she holds a third-degree black belt, and serves as a senior instructor at a martial arts center in Newburgh.

"I love my job!" she says.

Victoria also loves code, the language that computers use to talk and communicate. Last fall, she was active in the Girls Who Code Club. This spring, she plans to "challenge" the AP Computer Science A exam.

"Coding is 100 percent my favorite class," she said.

In the fall, Victoria will begin her studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she plans to major in web and mobile computing. Eventually, she plans to earn a master's degree and pursue a career in computer coding.

Computing and technological know-how runs in the family, as her uncle works for Google. In fact, after visiting the tech giant's Silicon Valley headquarters at the age of 11, Victoria decided it would be a great place to work. A possible first step towards that goal? An internship.

"I would love it there!" she declared.

## Class of 2019 Top Ten Named at Wallkill High School

**THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CONGRATULATES THE TOP TEN STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF 2019, IN ORDER OF GPA:**

Amanda Whitehouse, Victoria Soler, Julia Foti, Sophia Soler, Kaitlyn Haywood, Brigid Hickey, Milana Pla, Annika Pelc, Samantha Scannell, and Lucie Afko.





# 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2019-2020 School District Budget

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

The proposition voters will cast a ballot for on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, will be:

**Proposition #1:** RESOLVED, that the proposed Wallkill Central School District budget for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of \$76,524,146 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 2019-2020 budget when compared to the 2018-2019 budget?

The 2019-2020 budget increase is **1.90%**.

### 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 2019-2020 tax levy within the limit?

Yes, the 2019-2020 tax levy is within the limit; therefore, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval (50% + 1). The tax levy increase with permissible exemptions is **2.68%**. The average tax levy increase over the past five (5) years has been **1.9%**. Additionally, eligible taxpayers have received rebates due to the District being at or below the tax levy limit.

### 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 \$29,585,172 in State Aid in 2019-2020. 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 and at the same time maintain and enhance our programs?

1. Reduction of four (4.0) FTE Teaching positions through attrition due to a decline in enrollment.
2. Reduction of one (1.0) FTE Teaching Assistant position through attrition.
3. Reduction in the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) contribution rate.
4. Utility costs were stabilized due to bidding and the Energy Performance Contract.
5. Use of fund balance and reserves.
6. Multi-year financial planning.

### What programs for students are included in the 2019-2020 budget?

1. Addition of one (1.0) FTE Special Education Teacher at Ostrander to support the Grades 5 and 6 inclusion model, resulting in two Special Education teachers being assigned to both grade levels. This will support larger inclusion numbers in Grades 5 and 6.
2. Addition of one (1.0) FTE Special Education Clerk to assist with clerical duties for 504, CSE, and CPSE meetings by eliminating one (1.0) Teaching Assistant position through attrition and re-allocating the funds.
3. The continued assignment of Police Officers in all five (5) school buildings.
4. Maintain all current programs and extra-curricular activities as a result of long-range planning.
5. Maintain low class sizes for K-12 to allow for enhanced learning opportunities (K-6 average class size of 20).
6. Maintain support services to address the social-emotional needs of our students.
7. Professional development opportunities to support classroom instruction and student learning.

### 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 twice (contingent budget)?

- Reduction of ten (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.

# 2019-2020 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 0.6 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 21, 2019?

You must be registered in the School District register or for the general election. In order to register, you must be 18 years of age, a citizen, and a resident in the School District for 30 days. If there is a question on voting day at the polls, inform the people at the polls you would like a contested ballot, complete it, and registration will be verified the next day.

## 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 16, 2019.

## May I cast an absentee ballot?

If you are a qualified voter and expect to be out of town on business, are hospitalized, or are on vacation, you may request an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots may be secured at the Office of the School District Clerk, 19 Main Street, PO Box 310, Wallkill, New York 12589. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk prior to 4:00 p.m. on May 13, 2019, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. After May 14, 2019, and on or prior to 4:00 p.m. on May 20, 2019, applications and ballots must be picked up at the Office of the School District Clerk. All absentee ballots must be received by the School District no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2019.

## Preguntas frecuentes sobre el presupuesto del distrito escolar 2019-2020

### ¿Quién puede votar, el 21 de mayo de 2019?

Debes estar registrado en el registro del distrito escolar o para las elecciones generales. Para inscribirse, debe ser de 18 años de edad, un ciudadano y residente en el distrito escolar durante 30 días. Si hay una pregunta sobre el día de votación en las urnas, informar a la gente en las urnas, desea que una votación impugnada, completa que registro y se verificará el día siguiente.

### ¿Dónde me registro para votar?

Usted puede registrar en la oficina de las escuelas o en la oficina del distrito de 9:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m. hasta, el 16 de mayo de 2019.

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
2015-16	2.40%	2.03%** (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)
2016-17	1.48%	0%* (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)
2017-18	2.47%	1.99%** (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)
2018-19	1.91%	2.74%** (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>2.68%* (This increase is at the tax levy limit with exemptions)</b>

**5-Year Average Budget Increase: 2.0%**  
**5-Year Average Tax Levy Increase: 1.9%**

**\*at the tax levy cap**  
**\*\*below the tax levy cap**

## Plattekill Elementary Hosts Family STEAM Fair

It was full steam ahead at Plattekill Elementary School the evening of March 28, when the school held a fair celebrating the so-called STEAM subjects—Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

Approximately 200 people attended the event, which featured learning stations where students and their families could tackle a variety of challenges, from writing code for mouse and caterpillar-shaped robots to whipping up a batch of satisfyingly gooey—and scientifically intriguing—slime.

The evening, co-chaired by Principal Monica Hasbrouck and Grade 3 teacher Diane Tanner, provided a way for families to come together and enjoy fun activities that incorporated each of the STEAM disciplines. “STEAM is exciting because kids work together and problem-solve,” said Ms. Tanner. “The students are having fun and don’t even realize that they’re learning about science, technology, engineering, art, and math.”

The various projects and games allowed students to explore basic STEAM concepts and practice a variety of skills, including measuring, programming, designing, and working with technology.

At one learning station, representatives from the Plattekill Public Library helped youngsters fashion working pan pipes (flutes) out of plastic straws. At another table, youngsters were invited to solve brain-teasing word puzzles known as Worldles. Also on the evening’s agenda: generating bubbles, devising marble mazes, and making homemade ice cream and trail mix.

At the end of the fair, students went home with stronger STEAM skills, their own pan pipes, bubble wands, and marble mazes—and perhaps even a tasty snack or two.

The fair was a hit with the students. Katelyn Krupp, a sixth grader, appreciated the variety of learning stations and the fact that there were plenty of volunteers on hand to help, such as older students from the Leo Club, a youth service organization. Grade 6 student Elena Sindt agreed. “I liked having the High School students there as role models. I also like working with the robots!”



*At Plattekill Elementary School's Family STEAM Fair, held on March 28, Kindergarten student Remington McCarthy used an iPad to write code as Library Media Technology Integration Specialist Stephen Cabarcas looked on.*

## Sophomores Selected for State Leadership Seminar

**THREE WALLKILL HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES—CONOR WARREN, NORA SERRAO, AND JAMES ALBANESE—HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN A STATE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SPONSORED BY HOBY (HUGH O'BRIEN YOUTH LEADERSHIP).**

From May 31-June 2, the trio will join students from throughout New York State at SUNY Oneonta, where they will hone their leadership skills by interacting with community leaders and participating in hands-on activities. In addition to panels, presentations, and group discussions, there will be opportunities for community service.

Wallkill students applying to this highly competitive program were required to write an essay on leadership. They were also interviewed by Wallkill seniors and juniors who are HOBY alumni.

The students are sponsored by the sophomore class, the Student Government Association (SGA), and the Wallkill Woman's Club.

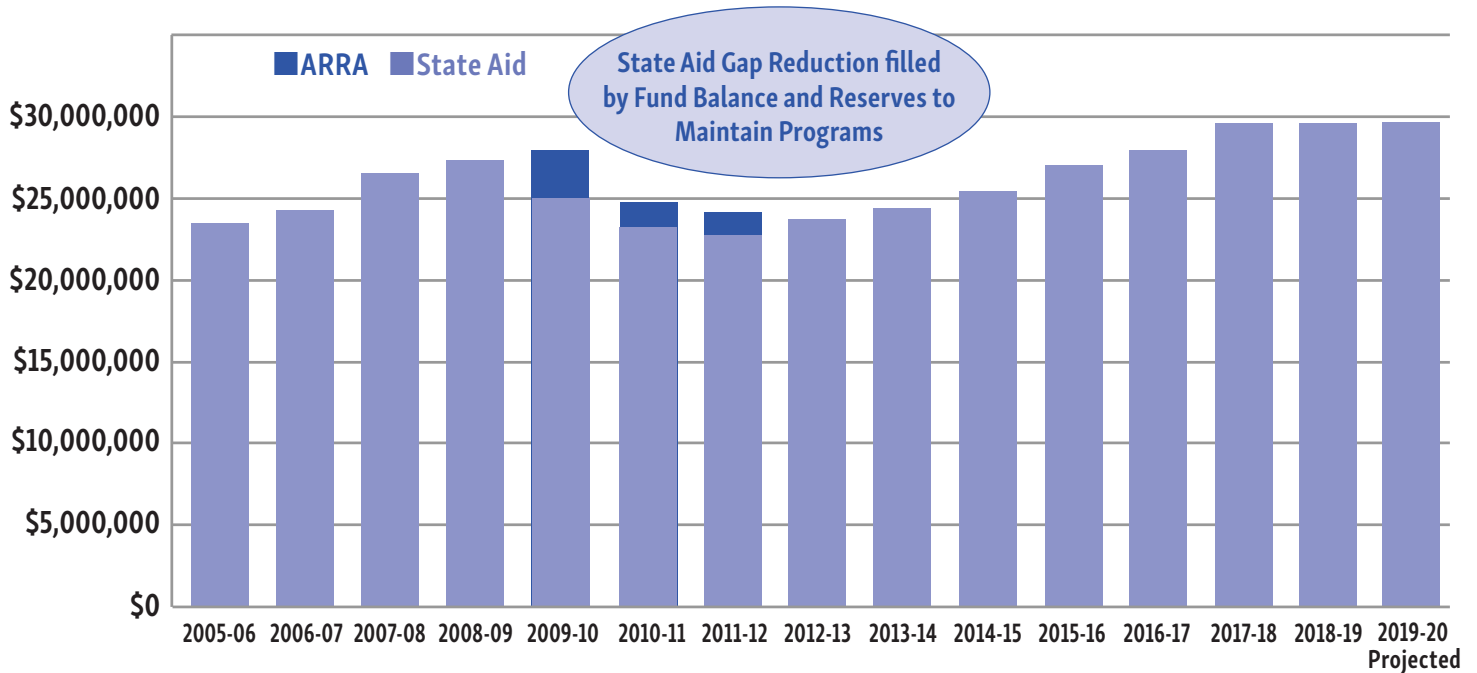


*Conor Warren (left), Nora Serrao (center), and James Albanese have been chosen for a State leadership program.*



# 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

## History of State Aid 2005-2019



## WCSD Celebrates Author's Day

**WRITERS AND THEIR WORK—THESE WERE THE THEMES OF WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ANNUAL AUTHOR'S DAY, HELD IN EARLY APRIL.**

Each school welcomed a talented author, who shared his or her time, insights, and experience with students. Writer Peter Catalanotto visited Leptondale and Plattekill Elementary Schools, Susan Zimet came to John G. Borden Middle School, Jennifer L. Place stopped by Wallkill Senior High School, and Daniel Jude Miller spent the day at Ostrander Elementary School.

Ostrander students met with Mr. Miller in the school's gymnasium. The author of the popular children's books *Everybody Wake Up!!* and *Monsters in Manhattan* talked about his background and what a typical workday involves. He also read excerpts from his books.

Grade 2 student Sophia O'Keeffe said that her favorite part of Mr. Miller's presentation was when he opened a magical box, which hid a handmade monster. Sophia and her fellow students were delighted to learn that instructions for making their own monsters could be found on Mr. Miller's website.

Sophia learned something else that surprised her. "I learned that he doesn't have a favorite book," she said. "Most authors like their own book the best!"



Writer Daniel Jude Miller talks to Ostrander students during the school's Author's Day, held on April 8.

## Leptondale Students Shine in Annual Talent Show

Leptondale students have talent! That much was crystal-clear when their school presented its Annual Talent Show on April 5. The entertainment-packed evening, which featured 24 acts, showcased a wide variety of skills and passions.

Nearly 40 students took to the stage. In addition to singing, dancing, and acting, there was a martial arts display, a juggling exhibition, and lots of laughs.



Leptondale student Kayla Grimm rehearses a scene from a skit featured in her school's talent show.

Grade 4 student Steven Griffith performed a comedy routine. "I like telling jokes," he explained. Grade 5 student Aidan Roberts belted out a moving rendition of "Giants in the Sky" from his favorite musical, *Into the Woods*. Grade 4 student Vanessa Goll, who performed a dance with another fourth grader,

Emma Randolph, shared her love for this particular art form. "I take dance classes and have been in recitals," said Vanessa, who danced to "Without Me" by Halsey.

Even Leptondale Principal Scott Brown got into the fun, appearing in a student skit based on the movie *The Greatest Showman*.

Kudos to all the talented performers!



Steven Griffith, a Grade 4 student at Leptondale, practices his comedy routine.

## John G. Borden Middle School Presents *Alice in Wonderland*

**IT TRULY WAS A WONDERLAND!** During the Middle School Drama Club's April production of *Alice in Wonderland*, the auditorium welcomed a host of fabulous, fantastical characters drawn from the pages of Lewis Carroll's beloved classic.

A cast and crew of more than 40 students in Grades 7 and 8 took part in the show, which tells the story of a curious girl who goes down a rabbit hole and encounters a world populated by singing flowers, chatty cats, and maniacal monarchs, not to mention a Mad Hatter and a perpetually tardy rabbit.

Under the guidance of Spanish teacher Irina Gales and Library Media Specialist Debra Rosenfeld, students rehearsed for months memorizing lines and songs, practicing dance steps, and using their creativity on sets and costumes.



Grade 8 student Lauren Tuck played one of three Alices in the production. "I'm the original Alice," she said, explaining that her character becomes smaller when she eats a cookie and taller when she drinks a potion. "I'm a big fan of *Alice in Wonderland*, and Alice is one of my favorite characters."

Jeffrey Davenport, who is in Grade 7, wore a crown in the play. "I'm the King of Hearts," he said. "I put Alice on trial. She would have had her head cut off, but she wakes up!"



## Kindergarten Students Benefit from New Action Based Learning Labs

**KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AT WALLKILL'S THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HAVE A NEW PLACE TO EXPLORE DURING GYM CLASS: ACTION BASED LEARNING (ABL) LABS.**

These brightly colored, inviting spaces promote hands-on physical activity in an exciting and fresh way. ABL Labs, which made their debut in Wallkill this year, were inspired by research that links movement and physical activity to increased academic performance.

When in the lab, students rotate between various stations that focus on the ten foundations of learning readiness: balance, cardiovascular fitness, nutrition, visual tracking, mindfulness and problem-solving, cross lateralization, rhythm and sequencing, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and strength and endurance. Among the space's enticing equipment are patterned walking mats, monkey-themed tossing games, caterpillar-shaped tunnels, wobbly chairs, and over-under bars.

Brielle Faia, a Kindergarten student at Ostrander Elementary School, was excited to be in her school's ABL Lab. "My favorite part is the pattern mat where you have to cross your feet," she said.

The District has plans to expand the equipment in these labs to accommodate higher grade levels. By supporting healthy, active students, the District hopes to promote better learners as well.



*Ostrander Kindergarten students Brielle Faia (left), Bailey Channing (center), and Peter Stoker try out the Wobble Chairs in their school's new Action Based Learning Lab, which was inspired by research that links movement and physical activity to improved academic performance.*

## Middle School Afterschool Clinic Incorporates Technology, Sewing

Switches, circuits, sewing—and monsters! All this, and more, could be found at an afterschool academic enrichment clinic held at the Middle School this spring. The clinic, offered by Technology teacher Adam Seelig and Home and Career Skills teacher Evonne Falk, combined technology with sewing. The students made their own felt monsters, which featured light-up eyes and mouths.



*Grade 8 student Cody Wilbur shows off the pattern for the "monster" he is making from felt, metallic thread, and an electrical circuit. Grade 7 student Cheyenne Crespi (right) also participated in the afterschool clinic.*

"We are sewing electrical circuits into designs," said Mr. Seelig. "The thread is metallic, so it acts as the conductor to complete the circuit. There are tons of other applications for this technology, such as running vests that light up to make runners more visible."

On a recent afternoon, some students were busy cutting, gluing, and stitching, while others examined the circuits, which were made of batteries, lights, switches, and buttons.

The clinic participants thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on lessons. "This is my first time sewing," said Grade 8 student Cody Wilbur. "I also learned how to use a glue gun, and I'm going to learn about circuits and conductivity."

This particular clinic runs for five weeks. Other clinics have focused on a variety of educational themes, ranging from how to make a handmade instrument to how to use crochet as a way to draw attention to threats to the world's coral reefs.

# 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

## Wallkill Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$75,098,079	\$76,524,146	\$75,403,251
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$1,426,067	\$305,172
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.90%	0.41%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$41,832,079	\$42,952,974	
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)	\$41,832,079	\$42,952,974	\$41,832,079
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$753,589	\$758,500	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$41,078,490	\$42,194,474	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$41,078,490	\$42,194,474	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$6,962,383	\$7,314,260	\$6,995,662
Program Component	\$61,582,287	\$62,652,697	\$61,910,400
Capital Component	\$6,553,409	\$6,557,189	\$6,497,189

\*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 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 computer equipment). Total: \$1,120,895.

\*\*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
<b>NO SEPARATE PROPOSITIONS</b>	

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$814.20
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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 2019-20 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 21, 2019 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., 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.

**Annual Budget Vote  
& Election of Trustees**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019  
12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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

Visit [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)  
for more information

## 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 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
- ▶ Diversity programs
- ▶ Safety and wellness programs
- ▶ Fire safety education
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy
- ▶ Field days
- ▶ Project-based learning with makerspaces
- ▶ School newsroom studios
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ STEM lessons
- ▶ Coding instruction
- ▶ Too Good for Drugs program

### 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)
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ Career Day
- ▶ Family Coding Night

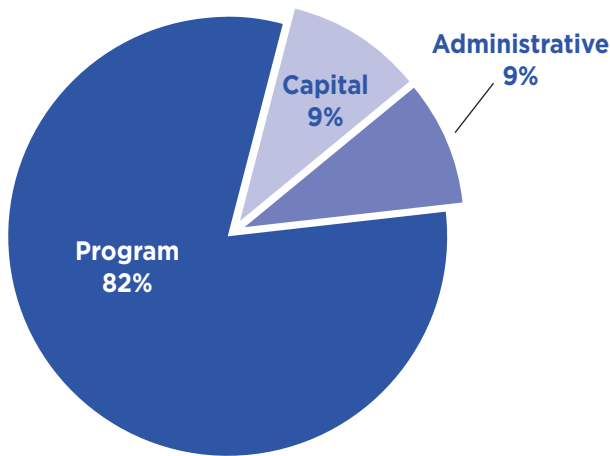
### WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ 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 and evening 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



# 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

## Three Component Budget



### Administrative Component: \$7,314,260

- Central Administration, Building Supervision, BOCES (partial)

### Program Component: \$62,652,697

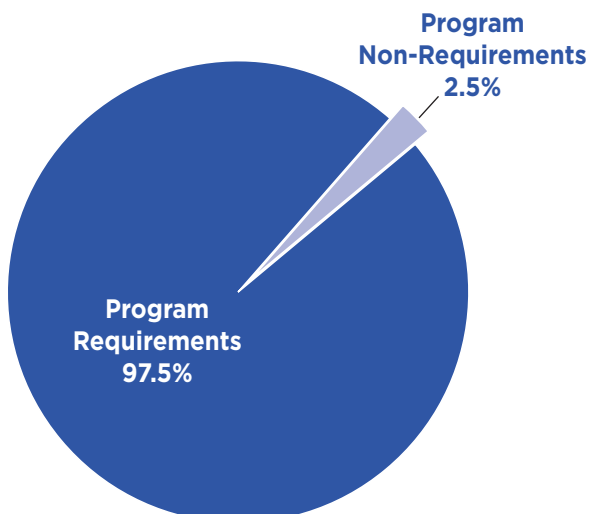
- Instructional Areas, Transportation, Extracurricular Activities

### Capital Component: \$6,557,189

- 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



Sara Ellison, the Ostrander Talented and Gifted (TAG) Liaison who coached the LEGO students in her building, joins TAG students as they show off their competition projects to Wallkill Superintendent Kevin Castle.

## Elementary School Students in Talented and Gifted Program Participate in FIRST LEGO League

This year, 32 elementary school students in the District's Talented and Gifted (TAG) program participated in the FIRST LEGO League's regional competitions. The League challenged the TAG students, who are in Grades 4-6, to think like scientists and engineers.

Throughout the year, students met after school with their building coaches to program their robots to conquer the kind of obstacles that astronauts might encounter in outer space. Their challenges coincided with this year's theme: Into Orbit. At the various competitions, students were judged not only on their robots' design and performance, but also on the League's Core Values: discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion, and teamwork.

Leptondale Elementary School placed first in the Core Values section. Typically, teams demonstrate their Core Values using posters or PowerPoint presentations that highlight working together as a team, but the Leptondale team took a different route. Students performed a song and dance that they wrote and created themselves, and Grade 6 student Jonathan McLaughlin played the ukulele. "We enjoyed working together to get things done with the song and dance," he said.

On April 9, the students from all three teams came together for the first time to share their designs, ideas, and troubleshoot. In addition, they demonstrated their competition projects to members of the Curriculum Committee, which recognized the students for their efforts.

# 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

## Tax Levy Limit Calculation 2019-2020

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$41,832,079	
Tax Base Growth	x 1.0069	
PILOT	+ \$2,341	
Capital Exemption	- \$753,589	
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	= \$41,369,472	
	x 1.0200	← Allowable Growth Factor
PILOT	- \$2,388	
Tax Levy Limit Prior To Exemptions	\$42,194,474	← Voter Threshold
Capital Exemption	+ \$758,500	} Estimated
TRS Exemption	+0	
ERS Exemption	+0	
	= \$42,952,974*	← *Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

\*The District will be proposing a tax levy at the limit

## High School Presents *Shrek the Musical*

THE WALLKILL HIGH SCHOOL STAGE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A FAIRY TALE KINGDOM IN LATE MARCH, WHEN THE SCHOOL PRESENTED **SHREK THE MUSICAL**. The fanciful, family-friendly production told the tale of a hulking ogre, Shrek, who reluctantly comes to the rescue of the imprisoned princess Fiona—saving a host of mythical, magical creatures along the way.

The talented cast was led by Thomas Ayala (Shrek), Michael Castellana (Donkey), Nora Serrao (Fiona), and Sean Gustafson (Farquaad).

Nora, who is in Grade 10, thoroughly enjoyed playing a princess. “I loved it,” she said. “Of all the parts I’ve ever played, it’s been my favorite.”

Sean, who is in Grade 12, said that inhabiting the persona of the evil Lord Farquaad was the best part of his day. “It was a lot of fun being with all my friends,” he explained.

Michael, a senior, found that playing the part of a wisecracking donkey was a challenge. “I feel like I’ve learned a lot, but it’s the hardest role I’ve ever done,” he declared. He has, he said, considered going into acting as a profession, following in the footsteps of his grandfather.

Thomas, who played the titular role, plans to pursue a different career path. “My goal is to become a tattoo artist,” he said. To that end, he has taken advantage of virtually every art class offered at the High School.

Directed by Liz Bailey with assistance from Mark Cambalik, the show featured choreography by Meghan Tobias, musical direction by Brian Henneberry, and costumes by Bernadette Brewer.



In the High School's production of *Shrek the Musical*, a green ogre played by Grade 12 student Thomas Ayala (foreground) was the reluctant savior of fairy tale creatures who had been banished from their homes.

# 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

## Candidates for the Board of Education

The three candidates (shown in ballot order) are seeking election to three 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, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

### Leif D. Spencer

As I complete my second term on the school board, I have developed a rich understanding of the educational aspect and the administrative side of reaching our educational goals. The Wallkill Central School District Board of Education strives to educate our students to meet the demands of our ever-changing world. The objective of producing a quality education for every student utilizing a variety of learning styles is one of my principal concerns. I believe that the key to providing a successful educational experience is achieved when a district provides innovative, engaging, and real-world learning environments. The Wallkill Central School District does just this as it continuously assesses the ability of our students to be career and college ready.

While the education of our children is the primary goal of the Board of Education, we have to ensure that this education is achieved in a safe environment. As a member of the Safety Committee, it was a priority of mine to have police officers present at all District schools while school was in session. We were able to achieve this goal with the cooperation of the Shawangunk and Plattekill Police Departments as well as the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

With the education and safety of our students a priority of mine, I have never forgotten my fiduciary responsibilities to the taxpayers. There is a fine line that needs to be walked between providing a quality education and paying for it. Tax caps and State budget cuts always seem to impact the local school district directly. As a member of the Board of Education for the past six years, I have examined the budget to ensure that we are spending wisely and will continue to do so.

I am married to Debbie Spencer and have three children, Morgan, Rebecca, and Nathan. All three of my children attended and graduated from the Wallkill Central School District and have gone on to college. They all benefited from the college-ready education that was expertly provided by the District. I am a retired Sergeant with the Town of Newburgh Police Department and served on active duty in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman. I possess a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and am currently obtaining a master's degree in Cybersecurity.

I am currently the Chairman of the Technology and Wellness Committees, as well as a member of the Safety, Building and Grounds, Budget, Curriculum/TAG, Legislative, and Policy Committees. I believe each member of the Board has a responsibility to become involved in all aspects of running an efficient and responsible school district.

Being community oriented, I have volunteered my time and energy to numerous local programs and activities. I have coached both soccer and baseball with the Wallkill youth sports programs, and I am a former Vice-President and team coach of the Southern Ulster Futbol Club. I have been Cubmaster and Committee Chairman of Cub Scout Pack 76 in Wallkill. I am presently a member of the Ulster Prevention Council and the Wallkill Fire Department.

### Joseph LoCicero

My name is Joseph LoCicero and I am a candidate seeking re-election to the Wallkill Central School District Board of Education. My educational background started with graduating from Wallkill Senior High School and then going to Ulster County Community College. My experience as a Lieutenant with the City of Newburgh Fire Department and a retired First Sergeant with the New York Air National Guard has taught me how to work under pressure and on tight budget restraints, making me a valuable resource to the Board of Education.

I am a husband, father of two, and dedicated member of this community. I would be honored to serve the students and taxpayers of the Wallkill Central School District. My service to this community includes coaching in the Wallkill Area Little League and Wallkill Modified Football, as well as being involved with the Wallkill Fire Department, holding various command positions for over twenty years.

The current economic climate forces everyone to face many challenges. Our school district and community also face these same challenges. I will work diligently in order to guarantee our children are given the resources to reach their highest potential.

Thank you for your support!

### Dustin Palen

My name is Dustin Palen and I am seeking re-election to the Board of Education. During my last term on the Board, I served on the Health and Safety, Buildings and Grounds, Budget, and Policy Committees. I strongly believe all students deserve the best education we can provide them in a safe environment while being conscientious of costs to taxpayers. When elected to the Board three years ago, I encouraged and supported establishing a program that places a police officer in each of the District's schools; I am happy this was put into place this past Fall. I am pleased with the administration and Board in our District and their priority of always putting our students first and would like to continue being a member of this partnership.

As a lifetime resident of the District and 1993 alumnus, I am committed to this community that I call "home." My daughter graduated from Wallkill this past June and is attending college pursuing a degree in Education, my son is a freshman at the High School and my wife is an elementary educator at Ostrander. I am a Sergeant with the Orange County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, have volunteered as a coach for Wallkill Youth Football, and have been a member of the Modena Fire Department for twenty-five years.

I would appreciate your support and vote on May 21st. Thank you.



## IBM Engineers Collaborate with Plattekill Students

**IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD THEIR VERY OWN ROBOTS IN THE PRESENCE OF IBM ENGINEERS.** However, during Plattekill Elementary School's annual IBM Day, held on March 21, students in Grades 2-6 were given the chance to do just that.

"This year, the goal of their STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] lesson was to create a robotic arm," said Principal Monica Hasbrouck. She noted that the number of females among the six visiting engineers underscored that engineering is an equal-opportunity career path.

The classes were divided into teams of four to five students. Working with a common set of materials—wooden rulers, rubber bands, binder clips, paper cups, pieces of foam, and paper fasteners—the teams attempted to construct a device capable of picking up a crayon, a Matchbox car, a ping pong ball, and various other items. After testing their designs, the teams brainstormed to determine what changes, if any, might make their robotic arms perform better.

Mrs. Hasbrouck said the day promoted collaboration, problem solving, and in-depth discussions.

"The students were truly engaged and excited to participate in this activity," she said. "They look forward to IBM Day every year!"



*IBM engineer Alex Jorge Ortiz (standing) was among six IBM engineers who challenged Plattekill Elementary School students to create a robotic arm. Also pictured are students (from left to right) Henrik Carlson, Gabriella Morales, Trevor Tucker, Kaden Moscatello, and Darrek Jorge Martinez (the engineer's son).*

## Wallkill's Stellar Strings Program

**S**trings feature prominently in Wallkill's award-winning music program, which boasts two grade-level orchestras and an honors orchestra at the elementary level, as well as orchestras at the Middle School and the High School.

"Our students start in 4th grade and can choose violin, viola, cello, or bass," explained District-Wide Music Coordinator Kirsten Rolon, who spoke with pride about the number of Wallkill string musicians recognized by the Ulster County Music Educators Association. "This year, we had 22 Elementary students and 15 Middle and High School students in our All-County program," she said.



*These Plattekill Elementary School string players are among the 22 Wallkill Elementary School students chosen for the All-County Orchestra.*

The string program began at the elementary level under the direction of Edie Duncan, who directs the Elementary School Orchestras. "The elementary group averages 150-180 students, and the Honors Orchestra has been racking up NYSSMA golds and first place finishes at our spring festivals," she said.

Prior to starting the program, Mrs. Duncan was a General Music teacher at Plattekill and an advisor to the District's Talented and Gifted program. At the end of many District meetings, she recalled, administrators would ask if there was anything the District could do to promote higher-level thinking. "My answer was always 'Strings!'" Mrs. Duncan said, "because without them, we rob children of two thirds of the Western symphonic orchestra!"

Kiersten Lestrangle, in her first year at Wallkill, is the director of the Grade 7 Orchestra, the Grade 8 Orchestra, and the Grade 9-12 Orchestra. "The work of my predecessors is evident in the work ethic, dispositions, and skill levels of the students in the String program," she said.



## Wallkill Central School District

Office of Educational Services

19 Main Street, PO Box 310

Wallkill, NY 12589

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

## CTE Student Qualifies for State Skills Competition



Harry Terwilliger, a Wallkill student enrolled in the Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Education (CTE) Top C program, took third place in the Action Skills category at the SkillsUSA regional competition in March. During the event, which was held at Dutchess Community College, Harry gave an oral presentation about the boat oars he made at the Riverport Wooden Boat School at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston. Harry's medal earned him a trip to the State championships, held in April in Syracuse.

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

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Mrs. Kathryn Anderson

Mrs. Donna Crowley

Mr. Tom McCullough

Mr. Steven Missale

Mr. Dustin Palen

Mr. Vincent Petrocelli

Mr. Leif Spencer

Ms. Kaitlyn Bordone, *Student Representative*

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