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MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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NOVEMBER 2024

CAMPUS FORWARD '24

Capital project proposal supports student programs, increases safety and security, upgrades various systems, and addresses needed site work.



**Artist's renderings, designs are conceptual and not final.*

On December 11, voters in the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District will decide on a \$35 million capital project to address a variety of needs of the school campus to enhance the educational experience for students while contributing to the safety, accessibility and longevity of the District's facilities.

The project, if approved, would touch many areas of campus. Improvements would include a new multipurpose turf field, roof replacements at both buildings, upgrades to elementary music rooms as well as secondary educational rooms, along with boiler, HVAC and mechanic up-

grades and much more.

The proposal calls for no additional increase in school taxes to pay for construction.

The District plans to pay for the project with \$8 million already set aside in a Capital Reserve Fund. Also, the state would reimburse the District on 87.7% on approved costs of the \$35 million project.

Voters are encouraged to review the information provided in this newsletter, follow Midlakes Schools on social media and visit Midlakes.org for additional information.

Residents with specific questions or comments may contact the District Office at (315) 548-6423. ■



MORE ONLINE AND INSIDE

Visit Midlakes.org/CampusForward and look inside this edition for more information on the 2024 capital project proposal set to go before voters from **noon to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11** in the former **Middle School Library space**. Park in the north lot near the soccer fields. ■

HIGHLIGHTS



DEMAND IN SCHOOL MEALS INCREASES

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District Food Services Department prepared 308,180 total meals for Midlakes students during the 2023-2024 school year, a jump of nearly 18% from the same period a year earlier.

Since the pandemic, schools have seen an increased demand for meal service to help ensure students receive the proper nutrition.

“There is a strong link between learning and nutrition, and without the extraordinary efforts of everyone in our district and support from our community, we could not have met the demand,” said Jil Swarthout, Director of Food Services and Nutrition.

Meals are now provided for free at Midlakes under a federal program. Students are allowed one free meal at breakfast and lunch and are charged for a la carte items and additional full meals.

The District made 55,180 more meals during the 2023-2024 school year than the 2022-2023. To learn more about the food service program and to view menus, visit Midlakes.org/FoodService or scan the code below with a smartphone. ■



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

CAMPUS FORWARD

As areas of the 2019 Capital Project began opening for use, our Facilities Committee was already busy taking a deep dive into how the District would maintain its commitment to providing students with the resources needed for a high-quality, equitable education.

The committee took a hard look at the 2019 Capital Project when faced with high inflationary costs, to prioritize our most pressing needs while fulfilling our promise to stay on budget without raising local taxes.

To ensure our future facility needs are properly met, the committee then developed a new Building Condition Survey, gathered input from various stakeholder groups through meetings and an online survey, and held numerous meetings with our school architect and construction managers to lead the development of our latest Campus Forward '24 capital improvement project.

The result of their work is a \$35 million proposal, which has been approved by the Board of Education, that calls for no increase in school taxes to pay for construction. The first \$8 million of work will be paid from a District reserve fund with the state reimbursing the District 87.7% on all approved costs of the work.

The project presented to voters for approval on Wednesday, Dec. 11 will focus on four key areas of our campus to address our evolving needs and maintain our commitment to high standards. We also plan to address the items that could not be completed in the 2019 project.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Proposed work to enhance student programs would include renovations to the secondary culinary arts room and wood shop as well as modernization of the weight room and restrooms in the secondary building. Also, the elementary band/music room would be relocated to provide proper space and improved soundproofing.

SAFETY/SECURITY

New security windows would be built at the entrance to the offices of our Committee on Special Education and the Midlakes Education



Center to better handle guests before entering these areas. Also, the proposal calls for upgrades to fire alarms and the installation of new generators and gymnasium partitions.

SYSTEMS

The project will modernize mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems to replace boilers and HVAC systems in the secondary school. The entire roof at the elementary school and a portion of the secondary school roof would also be replaced.

SITE WORK

A practice field at the south end of campus would be replaced with a new multipurpose field to provide increased practice and physical education instruction spaces during the fall and spring seasons. Restrooms, access paths, and other amenities would be added to enhance safety and the experience of visitors to the campus. The main elementary school parking lot, tennis courts, fencing, and the maintenance barn would all be renovated to fix deteriorating conditions.

There is little doubt that this project will have a significant positive impact on our campus, much like the 2019 project. Students and staff have told us that investments in our campus work to improve school culture while sending a powerful signal from the community that students matter.

We also believe this project addresses the critical needs facing our District and will help ensure the integrity and longevity of our facilities while improving programs and opportunities for students and maintaining our fiscal responsibility to taxpayers.

We encourage the community to learn more about the project by visiting our website, following us on social media, attending a Board of Education meeting, and reviewing this edition of the *Midlakes Journal*.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Facilities Committee, administration, faculty, staff, and students of Midlakes schools, we thank you for your support. Go Eagles!

— Nick Ganster, Superintendent

CAMPUS FORWARD '24 OVERVIEW

Q & A

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Responses to commonly asked questions of the capital improvement project. For more, visit Midlakes.org/CampusForward.

Q. Why is the project needed?

A. Several areas of campus require attention to meet the needs of students and staff and to ensure continuous school operations. The areas identified in the Campus Forward '24 capital improvement project stem from a Building Condition Survey.

What is a Building Condition Survey?

The Building Condition Survey is required every five years by the New York State Education Department to identify and prioritize the facility needs of school buildings and the campus. The District Facilities Committee, guided by input from school staff, construction and design experts, and the community, identified and prioritized the items to include in the project.

What is the cost to local taxpayers?

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is presenting voters with a \$35 million project that calls for no additional taxes to pay for the work. Approximately \$8 million will be paid from an existing capital reserve fund with the state reimbursing the district about 87.7% on the approved costs of the project.

Isn't state aid just our tax dollars at work?

Yes, partially. State Building Aid comes from several sources, including revenues from gaming and casinos, state lottery, income taxes, and other streams. If the District doesn't tap into its allocation, it will be lost locally and used in another community. (Also, Midlakes would miss an opportunity to tackle all of the identified work in the most cost-effective way.)

Has the last capital project closed?

Work on the 2019 capital improvement project has closed. The project addressed the most pressing needs, but inflationary cost increases

due to the pandemic forced the Facilities Committee to re-prioritize work and move some upgrades to the Campus Forward '24 proposal to stay within budget. Secondary restrooms, woodshop upgrades, culinary arts renovations along with HVAC, boilers, controls, and other upgrades were moved to the 2024 capital improvement project plan to stay on budget.

What are the objectives of the proposal?

The Campus Forward '24 proposal includes items to enhance student programs, increase campus safety and security, modernize various systems, and address multiple site issues.

What were the results of the community survey?

In a non-scientific online survey, nearly 80 percent of respondents said they would "probably" or "definitely" support the project.

Where are we on the pool project and why wasn't it included in this proposal?

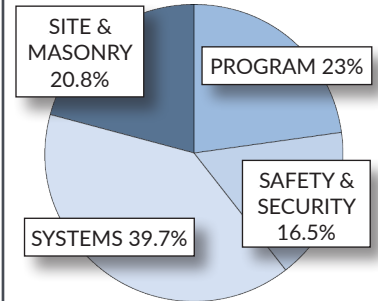
Bids have been awarded and a timeline to complete the work is underway. Remember, all work on the Midlakes Aquatic Center was deemed under an emergency declaration by the Board of Education and results in no additional taxes to property owners. The work will replace a dehumidification unit, upgrade a filtration system, and repair the pool floor and other damaged areas.

What is the timeline for the campus project?

Detailed design work on the project would begin upon voter approval and take approximately 16 months with approvals from the New York State Education Department coming approximately 6-8 months later. Once final approval is received, construction bids will be awarded with construction projected to begin in 2027. ■

HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE SPENT?

The scope of the \$35 million capital project includes upgrades to the following categories.



Figures are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point.

PROJECT VOTE INFORMATION**IN-PERSON VOTING**

Noon to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11, former Middle School Library (use north entrance of secondary school).

ELIGIBILITY

Residents qualify to participate in the annual vote, provided they are:

- A U.S. Citizen
- At least 18 years old
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

****There is no property requirement to vote.****

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications are available from the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

MILITARY BALLOTS

Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. In a request for a military ballot, the voter may indicate a preference for receiving the ballot by mail, facsimile or email.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on absentee/military ballots and voter eligibility, please contact District Clerk Pam Mann at (315) 548-6423, email at pmann@midlakes.org, or visit Midlakes.org/CampusForward.

BALLOT PROPOSITION

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to the District's buildings and campus, including the Middle/High School building, the Elementary School building, including construction of a turf multipurpose stadium with grandstand, press box, drainage, stadium lighting, goal posts, scoreboard, fencing upgrades at the bus garage, improvements to the maintenance building, and the purchase of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection with the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used, all to include site, utility, access, lighting, parking, athletic and playfield improvements, utility, mechanical, plumbing and electrical improvements as well as payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work, and expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$35,000,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for the project by spending \$4,428,508 from the Capital Reserve Fund approved by the District's voters in May of 2020, spending \$3,571,492 from the Capital Reserve Fund approved by the District's voters in May of 2023, and the levy of a tax which is hereby voted for the project in the amount of \$27,000,000, subject to available state and federal aid, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$27,000,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due. ■

CAMPUS FOR

SCOPE OF WORK

STUDENT PROGRAMS

- Culinary arts
- Wood shop
- Weight room
- Secondary restrooms
- Elementary music and band room relocation and upgrades

SITE WORK

- Multipurpose synthetic turf field
- Field restrooms
- Tennis court resurfacing
- Elementary parking lot repaving
- Maintenance barn repairs
- Fencing repairs, gate upgrades
- Masonry repairs and sealants
- Floor replacement, Midlakes Education Center

SYSTEMS

- New HVAC units/air handlers
- Boilers
- Generators
- Secondary roof replacement (66,000 square feet)
- Elementary roof replacement (103,000 square feet)
- Upgraded controls

SAFETY & SECURITY

- Updated fire alarms
- New generators
- New gymnasium/cafeteria partitions
- New security windows at the entrance of the Committee on Special Education/Midlakes Education Center.

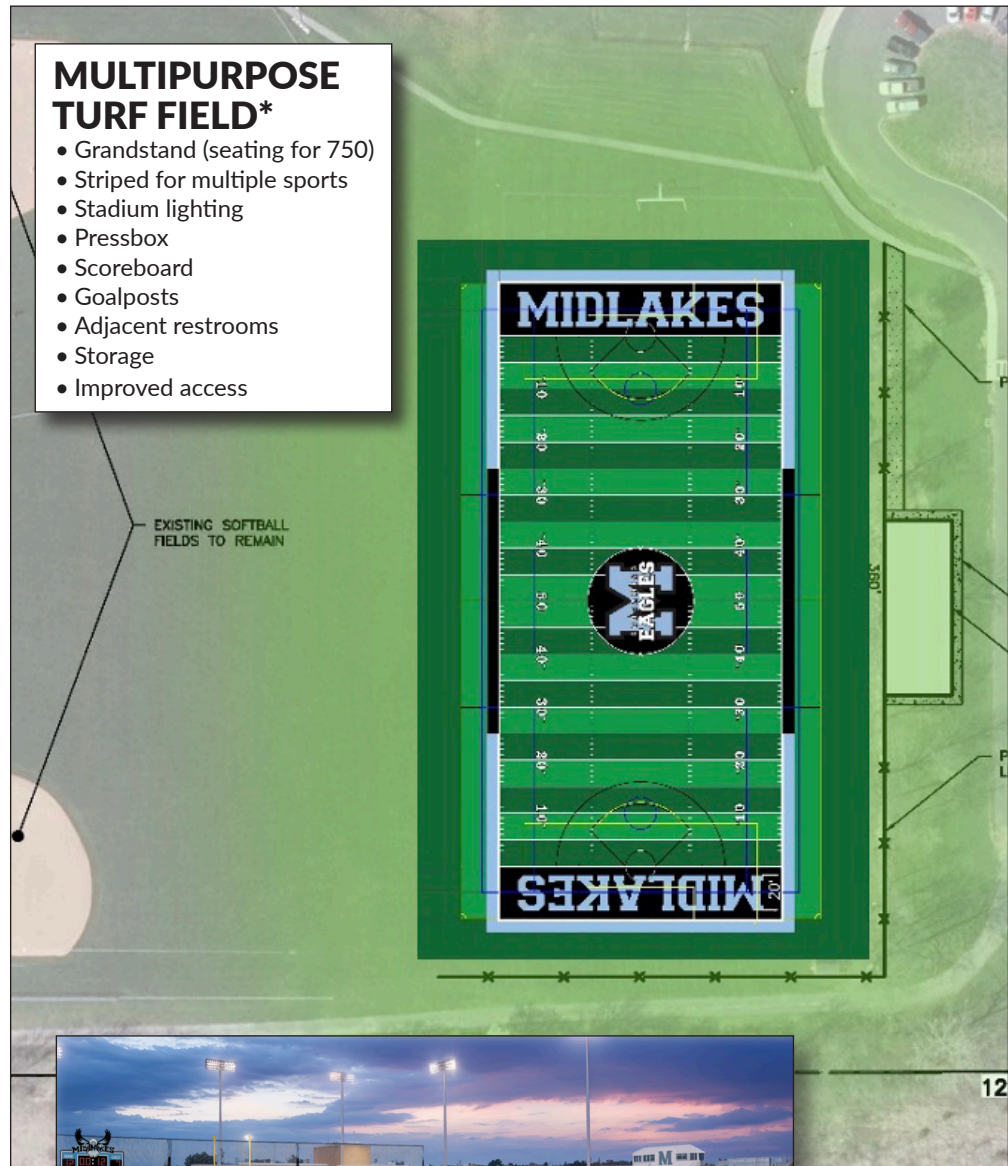


LEARN MORE

Scan the code with your phone or visit Midlakes.org/CampusForward to learn more about the Campus Forward '24 capital project proposal.

MULTIPURPOSE TURF FIELD*

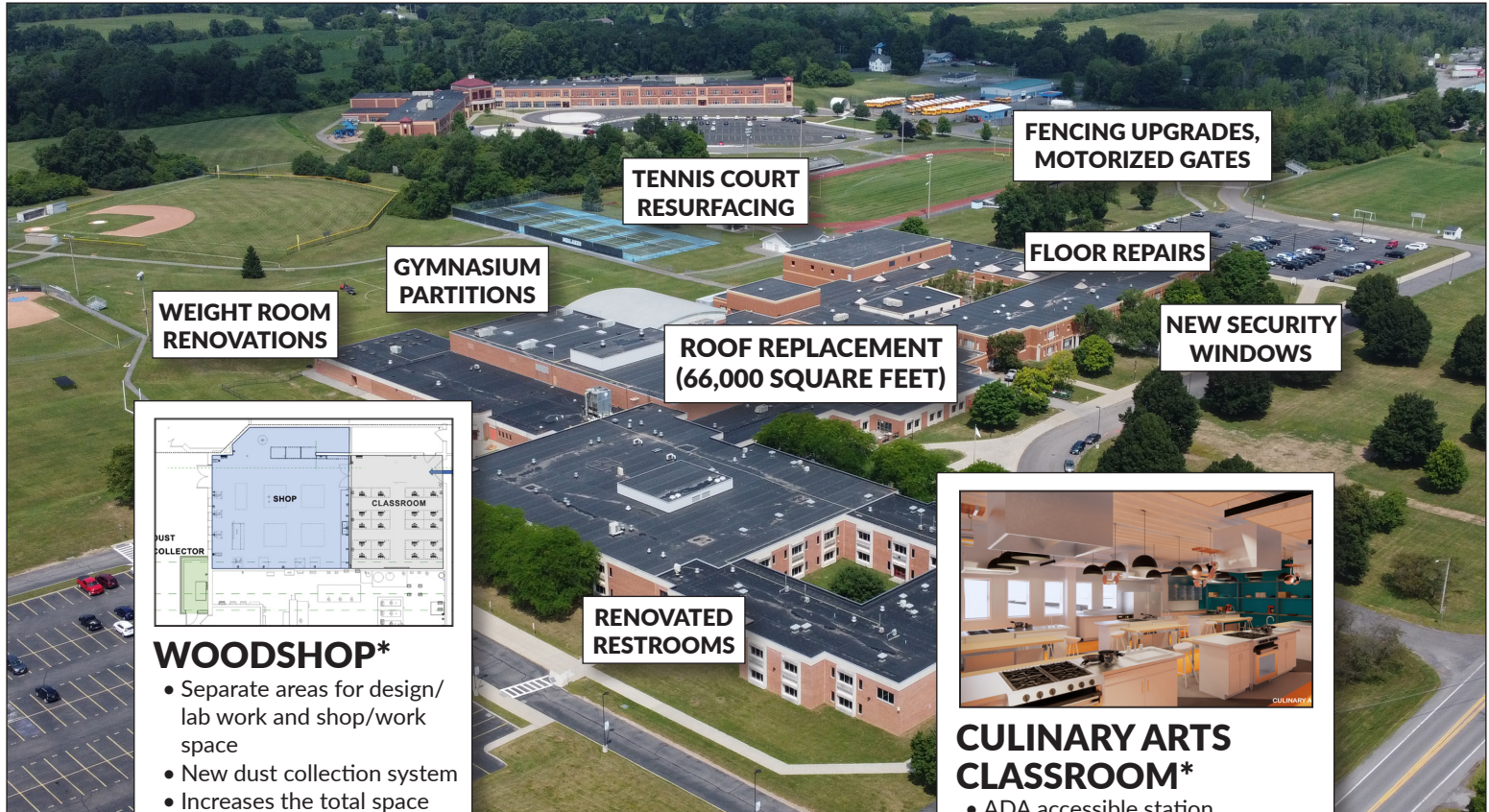
- Grandstand (seating for 750)
- Striped for multiple sports
- Stadium lighting
- Pressbox
- Scoreboard
- Goalposts
- Adjacent restrooms
- Storage
- Improved access



*Artist's renderings, designs are conceptual and not final.



WARD '24 PROJECT



WOODSHOP*

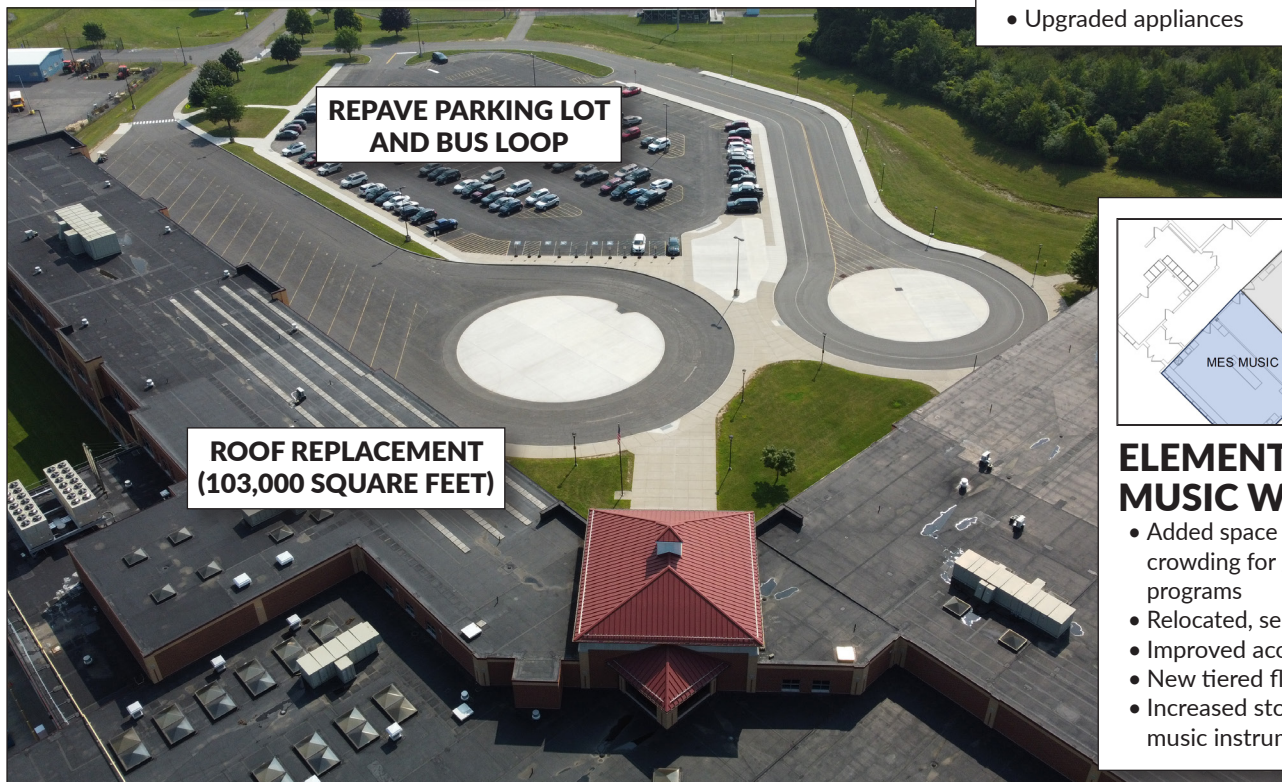
- Separate areas for design/lab work and shop/work space
- New dust collection system
- Increases the total space and storage for materials and student projects
- Addresses deteriorating floors, paint, etc.



CULINARY ARTS CLASSROOM*

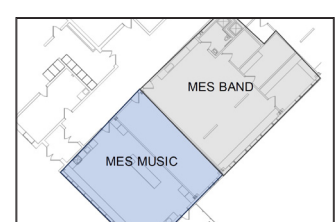
- ADA accessible station
- Improved layout/mobile tables
- Upgraded finishes, lighting
- Epoxy flooring
- Code compliant exhaust system
- Increased storage
- Upgraded appliances

**Artist's renderings, designs are conceptual and not final.*



REPAVE PARKING LOT AND BUS LOOP

ROOF REPLACEMENT (103,000 SQUARE FEET)



ELEMENTARY MUSIC WING*

- Added space to ease overcrowding for growing programs
- Relocated, separated spaces
- Improved acoustics
- New tiered flooring
- Increased storage for music instruments



Midlakes chapter of the FFA greets officers from the state chapter in October during a ceremony at school.

“WE HAVE HAD GREAT SUPPORT”

Agriculture takes root at Midlakes with new FFA chapter

Building upon a strong connection to local agriculture, New York FFA officers visited Midlakes Middle/High School on Oct. 3 to formally recognize the school’s new chapter alongside students and school administrators. Now called FFA, the organization was formerly named the Future Farmers of America.

The chartering ceremony followed Midlakes’ FFA certification received last spring, which marked a several-years of effort to expand agricultural learning through new classes and curriculum, FFA membership, and leadership opportunities.

“We have had great support from school administration and the community, and that support will allow us to offer more opportunities moving forward,” said Marina Bartolotta-O’Brien, an agricultural teacher and FFA adviser at Midlakes. “We



want to recognize our local ag businesses for their tremendous support of our program by presenting in our classes and opening their doors for our students to have alternative learning experiences.”

FFA is a national organization dedicated to promoting agricultural education and fostering leadership. It helps prepare students for successful careers through hands-on learning, participation in statewide conventions and conferences, and community involvement.

Students at Midlakes have long had opportunities to learn about the local agricultural industry. However, a new initiative to expand programs emerged after the state made agricultural curriculum more accessible to schools by integrating it under the Career and Technical Education Center umbrella.

As a result, and backed by community support, Midlakes launched new courses



in Agricultural Exploration, Small Animal Science, Floriculture and more. The school also established a new Ag Club, now the FFA chapter, that brought industry experts into the classroom and increased opportunities for students to visit local farms and businesses to learn about entrepreneurship, innovation, and various careers.

Also, the school opened a reorganized agricultural suite this year, bringing together its teachers and ag classes in adjacent spaces.

"Students are applying the knowledge learned in classes to their everyday lives," said Bartolotta-O'Brien. "They have started gardens, cared for pets with a deeper understanding of animal science, and even channeled their love for floral design in non-traditional ways, such as using Legos."

For instance, as part of their coursework, students in Small Animal Science have fostered and adopted rabbits into loving homes. Floriculture students have learned to create seasonal arrangements and more. Students have tapped trees to make maple syrup,

raised fish, grown lettuce in vertical units to serve at lunch, and planted disease-resistant trees, while also learning about viticulture and much more.

Membership in the Midlakes Ag Club nearly quadrupled from the 2022-2023 school year to last year, while the number of students attending the state FFA conference in Buffalo doubled over the same span.

With its new status, the Midlakes FFA Chapter plans to implement new programs, community service projects, leadership retreats, and participate in competitions that allow students to showcase their public speaking skills, industry skills and techniques, knowledge of agricultural science, and more.

Midlakes FFA chapter will also provide students the opportunity to connect with other FFA chapters across the state, connect to a network of peers, and earn scholarships.

Bartolotta-O'Brien said that several Midlakes families have expressed excitement about Midlakes membership in FFA while reminiscing over their own experiences in the organization. During the chartering ceremony, Midlakes FFA members, officers, and advisers signed a certificate of membership alongside officers from the state FFA chapter.

"This is a monumental step toward developing our Ag Program and broadening the opportunities available to our students," Bartolotta-O'Brien said. "Our FFA members are beyond excited."

While only students in grades 7-12 can be members of Midlakes FFA chapter, the goal of the Agriculture program is to reach students of all grades. FFA members are already working with elementary students during National Ag Literacy Week (March 17-25) and hosting such events as Ag Fest in the spring. ■

MIDLAKES FFA CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Ana McConnon

Vice President
Kenzie Turner

Secretary
Alex Mix

Treasurer
Haven Benz

Reporter
Lexie Schuling

Sentinel
Ty Palmieri

Student Adviser
Maryalice Busby

MEMBERS

Ella Busby
Charlotte Curran
Gabby Delpriore
Spencer Fox
Chris Henderson
Logan Hill
Ralsei Kline
Aubrey Morlang
Matt Richards
Grace Roder
Nahla Romps
Chris Schuster
Alex Shipley
Mark Tiffany
Vaughan Tornow-Coffee
Brayden Trickey
Noah Vancise-Priest
Emma Mae White

FOLLOW FFA

To learn more about the Midlakes agriculture program and FFA, scan the code below and follow along on social media.



HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Businesses and community members interested in connecting with Midlakes FFA should contact the secondary school's main office to reach Marina Bartolotta-O'Brien, Jessica Spence, or Ethan Sleeman.



SPIRIT WEEK!

Midlakes celebrates Spirit/Homecoming Week with a number of fun-themed days, spirited pep rallies, and celebrations that brought students, staff and alumni together. For more photos, visit Midlakes.org. ■



MATT
CANNAN

ALL-STATE MUSICIANS

Students are recognized for outstanding musicianship at NYSSMA solo festival

The Midlakes Music Department is proud to announce that a trio of students have been accepted to the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Area All-State, one of the most prestigious recognitions students can receive for outstanding musicianship.

All three Midlakes students were selected after receiving ratings of "Outstanding" for their solo performances earlier this year during the NYSSMA Solo Festival held last school year in Victor.

Matthew Cannan received a 99 for a grade Level VI euphonium solo. Sydney Rodriguez, clarinet, earned a 27 on a Level IV solo and Brian Cannan received a perfect score of 28 on a Level V French horn solo. Matthew Cannan was also selected as an alternate for



SYDNEY
RODRIGUEZ



BRIAN
CANNAN

Conference All-State Band, which only recruits about 90 students from across New York State among thousands of student musicians across the state.

About the same number of students from across Western New York are selected to join the Area All-State Band.

Rodriguez and Brian Cannan are eligible to perform with the Junior High Area All-State Band in November.

The Conference All-State Band is scheduled to perform in Rochester in December. All band students in Grades 7-12 at Midlakes are eligible to audition in

the NYSSMA Solo Festival and All-State bands.

"Bravo to Brian, Sydney, and Matthew for their hard work and dedication," said Will Hope, Band teacher. ■

HIGHLIGHTS



CLASS OF '74 RETURNS

Approximately 60 members of the Class of 1974 at Midlakes High School came together for their 50th reunion celebration on Friday, Sept. 6 at the Clifton Springs Country Club.

Also, the Class of 1974 returned to the high school to get a first-hand look at all of changes at their beloved school. Many were happy to see and learn about all of the building upgrades and the direction of school curriculum.

The Class of 1974 wanted to thank Superintendent Nicholas Ganster and Mary DePorter for their help with the tour of Midlakes High School.

If you missed the reunion or any reunion of 50 years or more contact Edie Chapman ('74) at edie56chap@aol.com or send a direct message and follow Midlakes HS Alumni on Facebook. Class members are looking to connect. ■

COLLEGES VISIT MIDLAKES

Several area colleges visited Midlakes in September to give interested students an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about their schools, available programs, scholarships, and much more!!

The annual visit preceded an open house at the secondary school, which included a college financial aid discussion for families led by Financial Aid Counselor Jon VanBlargen. ■



Midlakes Schools | Phelps-Clifton Springs CSD

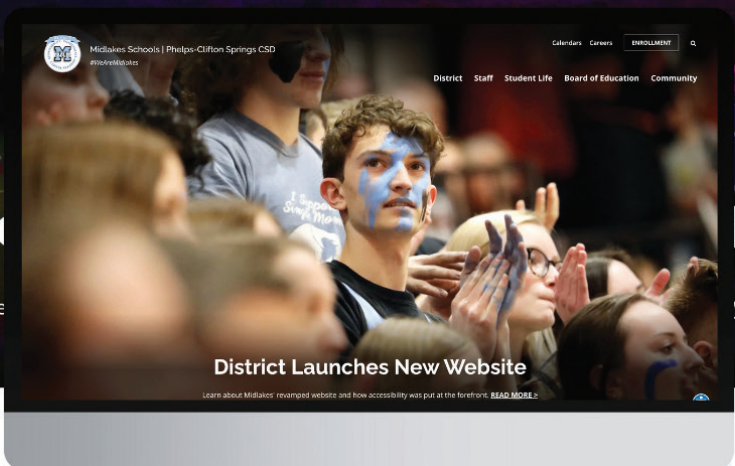
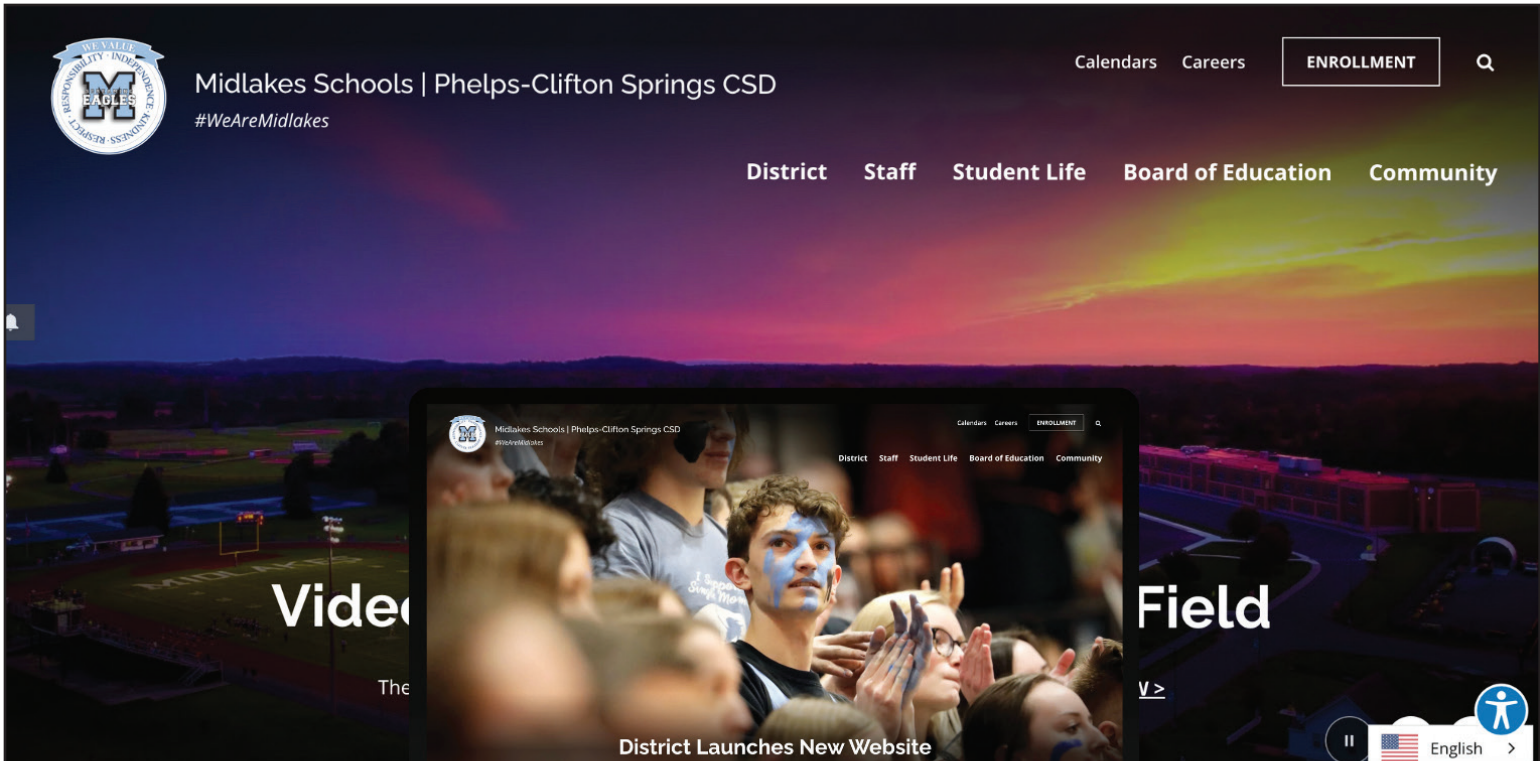
#WeAreMidlakes

Calendars Careers

ENROLLMENT



District Staff Student Life Board of Education Community



Video

Field

The

v>

District Launches New Website

Learn about Midlakes' revamped website and how accessibility was put at the forefront. [READ MORE](#)



English



SCHOOL FEATURES

Latest news, updates, photos & videos.

HIRING INFO

Apply today to work at Midlakes!

MEAL MENUS

Printable menus for both schools.

CALENDAR UPDATES

School event information & links to team schedules.

AND MUCH MORE. VISIT [MIDLAKES.ORG](https://midlakes.org) TODAY!



AQUATIC CENTER



BOARD OF EDUCATION



CONTACT INFO.



ENROLLMENT & OTHER FORMS



HELP DESK



POP-UP ALERTS



STUDENT LIFE

MIDLAKES SCREAMING EAGLES



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Provide us with your thoughts on your experience with our website by completing a [Brief Survey](#) by scanning the code with your phone or visiting midlakes.org/about/communications/website-survey.

LOOKING AHEAD

COMMUNITY SWIM

The Midlakes Aquatic Center offers the community opportunities to swim, except when school closes for a snow emergency and most holidays. Morning, family, lap, and open swim as well as water aerobics are offered throughout the week. Please call ahead for availability as classes fill quickly.

Family/Open/Lap Swim: 6-8 p.m., Friday.

Morning Swim: 6-7:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Water Aerobics: 7:30-8:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

WINTER SWIM LESSONS (SESSION II)

• Email registration by December 20 to Jack Hauber at jhauber@midlakes.org.

• Include: Parent's name, child's name, parent's email, and phone number, along with lesson level and time (if Level 1).

• Level 1 lessons are 30 minutes long, from 9-9:30 a.m. and 9:30-10 a.m.

• Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5 have hour-long lessons, from 9-10 a.m.

• Lesson dates are Jan. 4, 11, 18, and Feb. 1 & 8. All dates are subject to change.

The cost is \$30 for Level 1 (30 min); \$40 for Levels 2-5 (1 hour).

For more information, call (315) 548-6451 or visit the District's website at Midlakes.org/AquaticCenter. ■

CAN'T MISS EVENTS



RPO CONCERT

The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra returns to the Midlakes High School Auditorium for a community concert with Midlakes students thanks to special underwriting by the G.W. Lisk Foundation.

DATE: Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.; Check Midlakes.org for more details as they become available ■

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Students of both schools host their traditional seasonal concerts in the Midlakes High School Auditorium.

DATES: Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. (secondary school) and Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. (elementary school). ■



THIS MONTH & NEXT

NOV.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS (FALL BACK)

Nov. 3

ROLLER SKATING PARTY

Nov. 4: Grades UPK-2

Nov. 5: Grades 3-4

Nov. 6: Grades 5-6

ELEMENTARY PARENT NIGHT FOR INSTRUMENTS

7 p.m., Nov. 6 (Grades 3-6)

ALMOST, MAINE

7 p.m., Nov. 7-9; 2 p.m., Nov. 9
Black Box Theatre

GRADES 7-12 SCHOOL PICTURES MAKE UP DATE

Nov. 7

VETERANS DAY PARADE & CEREMONY

Nov. 9

VETERANS DAY

Nov. 11 (No School)

GRADES UPK-6 SCHOOL PICTURES MAKE UP DATE

Nov. 14

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Nov. 18

THANKSGIVING RECESS

Nov. 27-29 (No School)

DEC.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Dec. 3-5 (UPK-6 half days)

RPO CONCERT

7 p.m., Dec. 4, auditorium

CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE
Noon-9 p.m., Dec. 11, former
Middle School library space

SECONDARY CONCERT

7 p.m., Dec. 11.

ELEMENTARY CONCERT

7 p.m., Dec. 17.

Events subject to change. Find school calendars, sports schedules and more under the "Community" tab at Midlakes.org.

HIGHLIGHTS



SAFETY WEEK DRILLS COMPLETED

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District successfully completed Safety Week as part of its ongoing effort to make the school community as safe as possible for staff and students.

In conjunction with the Ontario County Sheriff's Office and several community partners, the school district held a series of safety drills from Sept. 30 - Oct. 4.

These state-mandated drills are designed to assess how well the school district responds in an emergency while familiarizing students and staff on proper safety protocols.

Some of the procedures included:

- Teachers and staff discussing the importance of safety drills with students.

- AED/CPR drills to ensure that staff members are trained and prepared to use automated external defibrillator equipment as needed.

- Schools practiced lockout and lockdown drills. During a lockout drill, school doors are locked, and no one is allowed to enter or exit. During a lockdown drill, students remain in a locked and sheltered location until released by an administrator.

- A CODE RALPH calling for students and staff to hold in place inside their classrooms until search dogs are allowed to move through school.

- Each school practiced a campus evacuation procedure. ■

TURNING WASTE INTO USABLE COMPOST

Midlakes students are stopping food waste from making it into a landfill by helping to produce clean soil for gardening and farming through a composting program at Midlakes Middle/High School.

The second-year program kicked off in September for the new school year during an assembly led by Environment Club advisor and teacher Brie Stratton and Doug Carney of Impact Earth Rochester, a regionally based composting company.

The two talked to students about the importance of the program, about the items that can be turned into compost, and how students helped turn 4,076 pounds of food waste and meal trays into fresh compost during the last four months of the 2023-2024 school year.

In addition to breaking down the cardboard trays, students place napkins, disposable paper products, and leftover food into specially marked green bins at lunchtime in both cafeterias. Plastics and other items are either recycled or put in the trash.

The items marked for composting are then bagged and picked up weekly by Impact Earth



Rochester through a \$5,000 grant from Ontario County to turn into compost a few weeks later.

To encourage participation, each cafeteria will track how well they sort for waste in a competition among students in Grades 7-8 and Grades 9-12.

The goal is to help students understand the impact of their choices and how something as simple as sorting food waste can have a positive effect on the school community. ■

STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE SUPPLIES

Students at Midlakes Elementary School received free school supplies thanks to a continuing partnership between the school and the Clifton Springs Rotary Club.

For years, the local Rotary Club has worked with The Salvation Army, Mary Hicks Preston Foundation, the Lisk Morris Foundation, and other community organizations and patrons to provide free school supplies such as backpacks, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, notebooks, glue, earbuds and much more.

This year, Rotary and Midlakes Elementary School took it a step further and provided supplies to all elementary students in time for the start of the school year.

Families were allowed to visit school before the start of the new year to meet staff and bring supplies into their child's assigned classroom.

In addition, the Clifton Springs Nursing Home and local residents Mike and Colby Musto added to the all supplies by providing backpacks, clothing, and many other items. Midlakes is lucky to have such a supportive community. ■

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432



PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1490 STATE ROUTE 488
CLIFTON SPRINGS, NY 14432



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