



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### QUARTER III - 2025

### MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Members of the BUUSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my gratitude for your continued support of the BUUSD schools and to share important information about the upcoming FY26 school budget vote. Together, we can make continuous strides in providing high-quality education for our students, and your partnership is and has been instrumental in these efforts.

This year's proposed budget reflects our commitment to maintaining appropriate class size to serve our students, experiences beyond the classroom, and extra-curricular activities while being mindful of our fiscal responsibility to the community. The budget also continues to support the arts, extra support for struggling learners, mental health resources, and maintaining our well managed school facilities. These investments are designed to ensure that every child in our district has access to the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Could we do better? Yes, we can, and please know we are building a culture of continuous improvement.

We understand that budgets can present challenges, and we have worked diligently to develop a plan that balances the needs of our students with the economic realities facing our community. The proposed budget represents a 4.95% increase in spending, which will result in a decrease in taxes for residents of both the city and the town. We believe this is a modest and necessary step to support the future of our schools and our children.

Your voice and your vote are critical in shaping the future of our schools. Thank you for your dedication to the children of the BUUSD. Together, we can ensure that our schools remain a source of pride and a foundation for success in our community.

Gratefully,  
JoAn F. Canning, *BUUSD Superintendent of Schools*

*Count Me In*



**above & right** To kick off some holiday cheer, Student Council sponsored a Winter Pep Rally by encouraging student participation.



### BE IN THE KNOW

**February Break Monday,**  
February 24th - Tuesday, March 4th

**Academic Planning with  
School Counselors Week of**  
March 10th

**UVM Math Exam** March 11th

**Spring Sports TryOuts Week**  
of March 24th

**Family/Teacher Conferences**  
Thursday, March 20th Pick A  
Time will be available for  
Parents/Guardians to sign up

**Quarter III Marking Periods**  
**Ends Friday, April 4th**

**Spring Drama Production:**  
**Clue the Musical Thursday-**  
**Saturday, April 4th-6th**

**Announcement of Bogni, Dr.**  
**Reynold's, & York**  
**Scholarship Recipients** during  
the week of April 14th

**In House Scholarship Night**  
Thursday, June 5th in the  
Auditorium

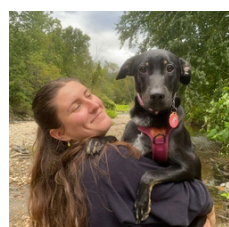




## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY

Echoing the tenets of **Ms. Chap's & Mr. Jablonski's Health & Wellness classes**, newcomers, **Sofia DiFilippo** from Physical Education & **Sean Dunn** hailing from the History & Social Studies Departments, both are in agreement, "...staying active and being a participant of society" are much needed in their lives.

**Ms. DiFilippo**, a former college rugby player understands the importance of mental wellness and embracing a healthy lifestyle.



"I enjoyed my years at *East Stroudsburg University*" in Pennsylvania by earning a degree in Health & Physical Education," stated Ms. DiFilippo. Like her university's motto, "Where Warriors Belong," Ms. DiFilippo wants to embed in her programming educational opportunities for students to understand why it is important to be active and wear proper footwear, especially when participating in team oriented games. She knows students possess a certain energy and she's ready to foster it on the court or field by developing their skills due to her own experiences playing on a team.

She acknowledges, "I also like playing Nintendo, checking out information online, and listening to music," but she encourages students to have a balance between social, emotional, and physical health.

Yes, this is her 1st year teaching at the high school level, but she has a perspective that connects with our students, especially post COVID. In response to learning losses and gaps in building a culture of physical fitness, along with high school sports programs struggling with numbers, she is truly invested in restoring programming within the Team & Recreational Sports and Lifetime Activities Course Offerings that promote effective communication, the understanding of working as a team, and collaboration.

However, she notes people need to experience "camaraderie" whether it be on a club sport, working out, participating in a Physical Education course, and/or earning a spot on a high school sports team. For those interested in learning what she has planned for next year, drop by Ms. DiFilippo's office and schedule her course for next semester with your School Counselor.



As for **Mr. Dunn**, he is a believer in having the skills to critically think and problem solve based upon his previous careers throughout New York and even Washington State. As a graduate of *SUNY: Cortland*, Mr. Dunn embraces the concept of students being equipped with the skills and knowledge of US History, Civics, and Financial Literacy.

More than ever, "I want my students to develop the skills to critically think and synthesize information in order to make an informed decision rather than believing in one perspective as the truth," stated Mr. Dunn. He also wants his students to be engaged with their community and be civically responsible too. Mr. Dunn recognizes the pacing of his quarter classes: Civics & Financial Literacy can be challenging, but fostering relationships with his students is equally as important by sharing with them his beloved cat, Pita and things he enjoys outside of school.

He noted that he strives for a healthy lifestyle whether it be running, hiking, skiing Sugarbush Mountain, and just being outdoors. In his previous role as an outdoor recreational educator, project based learning was at the forefront, so he's hoping to implement aspects of this type of learning in his courses for next semester, so students can make connections to real world issues.

And so, for those interested in becoming more engaged in their community, pop by Mr. Dunn's classroom to learn about his courses.



# ACADEMIC PLANNING

**Start With a Dream, Finish with A Future** As the months of March & April are upon the student body, School Counselors are encouraging students to check out the Program of Studies and investing in their academic future, so students can be college or career ready.

In turn, our mission is to prepare our students for success in an ever-changing world. We do this by providing a wide range of learning opportunities for students to engage in rigorous and meaningful coursework, learning experiences to enhance their interests and skills, and flexible opportunities to access their education.

Students will be asked to select a minimum of **eight courses** regardless of credits already completed.

This differs from past practices, and the effort is to *empower* each student to be better informed of their credit standing and what courses are necessary to earn a diploma.

In particular, students are strongly advised to review Graduation Requirements and make sure they are on track to graduate.

## Graduation Requirements

Spaulding High School will grant diplomas to students who complete all graduation requirements and graduation proficiencies as determined by the BUUSD, and all other non-academic requirements as stated in school district policy. Teachers, advisors, and school counselors review completion of graduation requirements. Ultimately, students are responsible for the accurate documentation of completed coursework on their transcript. Concerns or discrepancies should be reported to the school counselor.

Twenty-Four (24) credits are required for a Spaulding diploma.

<b>English</b> - equivalent of 4 credits, and demonstrated proficiency in performance indicators required for graduation.	<b>History/Social Studies</b> - equivalent of 3.5 credits, including 1 World, 1 U.S. History, 1 History Elective, and .5 Civics. demonstrated proficiency in performance indicators required for graduation.
<b>Science</b> - equivalent of 3 credits, and demonstrated proficiency in performance indicators required for graduation.	<b>Math</b> - equivalent of 3 credits, and demonstrated proficiency in performance indicators required for graduation.
<b>Physical Education</b> - equivalent of 1.5 credits, and demonstrated proficiency in performance indicators required for graduation.	<b>The Arts</b> - equivalent of 1 credit in visual arts or music, and demonstrated proficiency in performance indicators required for graduation
<b>Health</b> - equivalent of 0.5 credits, and demonstrated proficiency in performance indicators required for graduation	<b>Financial Literacy .5 credit (required for all students)</b>
<b>Community Service</b> -10 hours required for each school year. Minimum 40 hours total for graduation.	<b>Additional classes and electives</b> - equivalent of 7 credits

## Advanced Placement Courses



Opportunity for students to enroll in college level courses sponsored by the *College Board* with the potential of earning credit and placement that is nationally recognized.

## CTE Programming



Opportunity for students to gain the knowledge, training and skills of a particular technical field by enrolling in the *Central Vermont Career Center (CVCC)*.

## Concurrent Courses



Concurrent courses are *Community College of Vermont (CCV)* approved courses, taught by a *Spaulding High School* teacher, and they are held during the regular high school day. A Dual Enrollment voucher can be utilized for this course, or a student can choose to pay a fee. Students will need to meet CCV's requirements in order to access these courses.

## Dual Enrollment



Juniors & Seniors have the opportunity to utilize two Dual Enrollment vouchers during their high school years. This program allows for such students to enroll in college classes for credit, awarded both through *Spaulding High School* and the chosen college or university, for no tuition cost.

## Early College



Opportunity for seniors to enroll in a full year of college courses, at no tuition cost, at an accredited college, such as *Community College of Vermont, Norwich University, or VSU: Randolph*.





## SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2025-2026

Students are also strongly *encouraged* to meet with their School Counselors *now* to discuss next year's courses and credits.

### School Counselor Contact Information



Chris Cate  
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Ashley Kellett  
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Emily Graham  
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Nick Ross  
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Kelly Young  
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### Maple Program



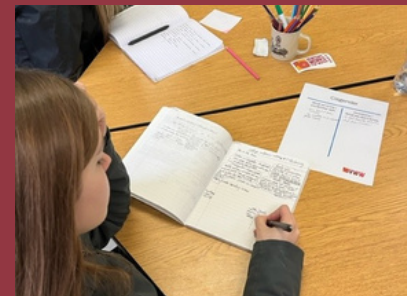
Opportunity for students to participate in experiential learning by investing in their own backyard by using the school district's maples as an outdoor classroom for students to gain the skills around installation, maintenance, and tubing of trees, along with understanding the Maple Industry in Vermont.

### Online Learning



Opportunity for Junior & Senior students to go beyond what is offered at Spaulding. In some situations, students may access an online course if they have a schedule conflict and they are in need of a course for graduation.

### Phoenix Program



An alternative Program where Juniors/Seniors can learn in a smaller, more individualized setting that allows them to attain their short and long term goals. An application is required in order to be a part of this type of programming.

### Work Based Learning



Opportunity for Junior and Senior students to make clear, informed choices about their futures by learning about the process needed to obtain the skills to be a part of the 21st century workplace, along with connecting academic learning to experiential opportunities: job shadows, mini rotations, professional development workshops, and/or internships.



SNAPSHOTS FROM WINTER SPORTS





# Voting Day is Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7am - 7pm

### Vote by Mail:

You can request a ballot to be mailed to you through the City & Town Clerk or My Voter Page: [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov)

There is no deadline to register to vote. You can register ahead of time or at the polls on March 4.

### In-person voting will take place at these locations:

#### Barre City Voters:

Barre Municipal Auditorium,  
16 Auditorium Hill

#### Barre Town Voters:

BT Middle & Elementary School,  
70 Websterville Rd.

## What You Will See on the Ballot

### BALLOT

Shall the voters of the Barre Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$59,449,143, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Barre Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget if approved, will result in per-pupil education spending of \$11,476, which is 3.99% higher than per-pupil education spending for the current year.

## Proposed FY26 Budget Education Taxes

Assessed Home Value	Barre City	Barre Town
100K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$1,414 -\$3 less than FY25	\$1,218 -\$31 less than FY25
200K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$2,828 -\$6 less than FY25	\$2,436 -\$62 less than FY25
300K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$4,242 -\$9 less than FY25	\$3,654 -\$93 less than FY25
400K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$5,656 -\$12 less than FY25	\$4,872 -\$124 less than FY25

*\*\*These are estimates and do not include the municipal portion of property taxes\*\**

For details and questions about the proposed FY26 budget: [buusd.org/budget](http://buusd.org/budget)

## Want to Learn More About Vermont's Education System?

**"Vermont Education Funding System Explained"**  
Written and shared by the Vermont Agency of Education



**"How Does Vermont Pay for Schools?"**  
Breakdown of terms & video explaining education funding







***We are constantly amazed and proud of our community.***

**Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow** continue to be at the forefront of alumni and friends of *Spaulding High School*, especially for the generous support from the Central Vermont community and beyond during the week of Nights of Hope/Think Pink Games.

For the Winter Athletes, they appreciate the wave of support from their families and encourage their peers to demonstrate TIDE PRIDE on the sidelines. For the Wilmott & Zaneloni Families, they are incredibly humbled by the outpouring of support in terms of donations for the *Al & Peg Wilmott Scholarship*, along with dedicating the new basketball chairs in honor of Al's legacy at *Spaulding High School* as an alumni student athlete from the *Class of 1969*, colleague, and coach.

"On behalf of Allan's family, I thank everyone who was involved in making this tribute to our father, brother, uncle happen. I thank the faculty and staff at Spaulding and U32 for their help, the cards and messages left for us to read and to the people who came to the games. My brother often said that he couldn't imagine doing anything other than teaching - he truly enjoyed his students. THANK YOU." -Cheryl & Family