

HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL

Home of the Golden Knights



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MAY 2025



VALEDICTORIAN

Stephanie Clemens

CLASS OF 2025

*Valedictorian, Salutatorian
and Academic Honors*

The Holland Patent Central School District is proud to announce the standard bearers for the Class of 2025. Representing the class as Valedictorian is **Stephanie Clemens**, daughter of Wayne and Barbara Clemens of Barneveld.

Stephanie will be graduating at the top of her class with a 99.95 weighted grade point average, a feat she accomplished while taking some of the District's most challenging classes all the way through senior year. Stephanie has built an impressive resume that has kept her busy throughout her high school career.

In addition to her academic success, Stephanie participates in a variety of clubs and ensembles. She is president of the Tri-M Honor Society, secretary of Student Council, vice president of the Knightly Players, and secretary of the Class of 2025. Stephanie is also an active member of Jazz Ensemble, MidKnight Vocal Ensemble, National Honor Society, String Ensemble, and the Yearbook Club. She works part-time at the Walgreens Pharmacy in Barneveld and has volunteered her time at the circus, blood drive, and Trick or Treat Street. Stephanie has earned numerous awards and accolades including the Eastman Award, Elmira College Key Award, and she has been selected for the Area All-State Choir several times. Stephanie will be truly missed next year at Holland Patent High School. She plans to attend college to major in music education and minor in theater.

Representing the Class of 2025 as Salutatorian is **Juliana DelPico**, daughter of Richard and Tonya DelPico of Holland Patent. Juliana has a very impressive resume from her time at Holland Patent High School, graduating with a weighted grade point average of 99.72, while taking the District's most challenging courses.

Juliana is an outstanding student and student athlete who works hard at everything she does and is a true role model for younger students. Juliana is the National Honor Society president, Girls Varsity Soccer captain, and an active member of the STEM Club. She also opted to take the fourth level of Mandarin Chinese in her senior year where she is working to earn her Seal of Biliteracy. When she accomplishes this, she will be the first ever Holland Patent student to earn this seal. Juliana has volunteered her time at the Jervis Library in Rome and has a part-time job at Marshalls. Her leadership will be missed next year, as she plans to attend college to be a physician or physician assistant specializing in orthopedics.



SALUTATORIAN

Juliana DelPico



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Holland Patent CSD is to provide a safe learning environment where students become civic minded, resilient critical thinkers and problem solvers who are prepared for the rigorous demands of college and careers in an ever-changing world.

BUDGET HEARING

TUESDAY
MAY 6

6:00 p.m.
HS Library

BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY
MAY 20

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
HS Gymnasium

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

PROPOSED
2025-26 BUDGET

\$42,007,335

CURRENT
2024-25 BUDGET

\$40,436,507

BUDGET INCREASE

\$1,570,828



TAX LEVY INCREASE





Dear Holland Patent School District Community,

The Board of Education adopted the spending plan of \$42,007,335 for the 2025-26 school year at the February 26, 2025 meeting. The budget supports a strong curriculum which seeks to increase student engagement while preparing students for college and career readiness. We have utilized flexible thinking and planning to produce a budget that maintains programming in the face of multiple challenges. Through long range financial planning our district has worked diligently to present a budget that stays within our tax levy limit at 3.19%. This would not have been possible without the efforts of our teachers, staff and students, as well as the support from our community. The spending plan that has been constructed is fiscally responsible to our taxpayers in the long and short term, while continuing to maintain the solid educational programs that are essential to our students' success today and in the future. The wide range of opportunities for students produced memorable moments the students will carry with them through the future.

Some highlights, amongst other wonderful opportunities, in our budget are inclusive of the following examples of our programs:

- Languages: Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese, American Sign Language
- Arts: Photography, Computer Graphics, Drawing and Painting, Digital Design, Sculpture
- Music: Chorus, Select Chorus, Jazz Band, Vocal Ensemble, String Ensemble, Music Theory, K-8 General Music, Chamber Orchestra, Music Technology, Guitar
- Technology: CAD, DDP, Computers and Society, Keyboarding
- Business: Personal Finance, Intro to Business, Business Entrepreneurship
- Agriculture: Animal Science, Plant Science, Agricultural Business and Leadership, Pre-Vet Science, Dairy Science, Crop and Soil Science, Food Science
- Physical Education: Life Saving, Health, PE K-12, Fitness Center, Strength Training
- College Credits: English, Public Speaking, Physics, History, Government, Economics, Introduction to Business, Business Entrepreneurship, Personal Finance, CAD, Computers and Society, Keyboarding, Music Appreciation, French, Spanish, American Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese, Psychology, Sociology, Intermediate Math, Algebra/Trig, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics, Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Life Saving, Fitness Center, Strength Training, Animal Science, Plant Science, Agricultural Business and Leadership
- AP Courses: Calculus, Biology, Language and Composition, US Government, US History and Government, Modern World History, Music Theory
- Sports: Football, Tennis, Swim, Soccer, Field Hockey, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Basketball, Wrestling, Bowling, Volleyball, Alpine and Nordic Ski, Baseball, Softball, Golf, Track, Lacrosse

As a team we have worked on supporting a strategic plan as a Board of Education, Leadership Team, Faculty, Staff and Community which aligns our focus on the Mission, Vision and District Goals for the future. As we move into the spring and summer, the Capital Improvement Project is underway and remains focused on ensuring our facilities and classrooms are renovated to support the needs of our students. The improvements are centered on classroom spaces, facilities work and athletics. In Phase I, the Middle School has received renovations to the Art and Agriculture Suites, and the Multi-Purpose Field is currently in construction. As we move into summer, the Phase II of the Capital Improvement Project will begin with renovations to areas such as the High School Library, Music and Art Suites. Future Phases will include renovations to our tennis courts and other items as reviewed by our upcoming Building Conditions Survey.

We are future focused, with students centered at our core. Some of our current points of pride include:

- Investment in Early Literacy – Full-day Pre-K
- Building Literacy Capacity K – 12
- Teacher Center Professional Learning that supports district initiatives and building capacity
- Differentiated Professional Learning with Technology Integration
- Instructional Coaching K – 12 focused in Reading, Writing and Math
- Connected Community Schools, which are located in every building
- Hubs located in every school with food pantry, clothing closet, school supplies
- Links Referrals to outside agencies including mental health, housing, family needs, academics, nutrition, medical needs, transportation, behavior management
- Dual Credit Courses – Syracuse University Project Advance, MVCC, HCCC, Utica University, Hamilton College
- Career and Technical Education, PTech, MiTech, New Visions, Regional Program for Excellence
- Summer Programming for K-8 Enrichment at Holland Patent
- Summer camps, including Athletics, STEM, Art, Music
- Accrual of extensive dual-credits available to all students attending our high school
- Best community for Music Education for multiple consecutive years
- Mentoring Program for New Staff
- Updating Curriculum to ensure the NEXT Generation standards are embedded
- Instructional Coaches are building small group instruction in the classrooms
- Using student data to drive instruction and fill gaps due to learning loss

These points of pride are supported through a fiscally responsible proposed budget. The proposed 2025-26 tax levy is a 3.19% increase from the 2025-26 budget. The tax levy limit requires districts in New York State to apply a multistep formula to determine the tax levy increase a district can propose. We will once again stay within this tax levy limit. The Board of Education adopted a spending plan of \$42,007,335 for the 2025-26 school year, which results in a levy below the district maximum allowable levy limit.

Many years of financial planning has helped us to build a budget that engages student centered learning and is fiscally responsible with a tax levy under the allowable levy limit. We would like to thank everyone who put forth a great deal of effort in the development of the budget. We invite all residents to attend the public hearing at Holland Patent High School on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.. The budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 8 p.m..

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryl J. Venettozzi
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

In addition to voting on this year's budget, we are asking the community to consider these items:

THE ELECTION OF ONE (1) MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS.

Candidates running for the Board of Education (bios on page 6)

PROPOSITION NO. 1: Authorize a purchase of four (4) school buses for \$597,432

ESTIMATED INCOME

	BUDGET 2024-25	PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-26
Interests & Penalties on Taxes	\$20,000	\$20,000
Admissions	\$6,000	\$6,000
Interest	\$125,000	\$250,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$2,905,094	\$3,252,320
Sale of Equipment	\$1,000	\$1,000
State Aid - Basic, Trans, Special Aid, etc.	\$15,208,575	\$15,649,972
Building Aid	\$1,912,381	\$1,706,880
Textbook Aid	\$120,669	\$120,570
BOCES Aid	\$2,884,114	\$3,317,214
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,306,774	\$2,300,000
Tuition	\$5,000	\$5,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes - Reg. Water Authority	\$120,445	\$93,709
Interfund Transfer	\$300,000	\$300,000
TOTALS	\$25,915,052	\$27,022,665

TAX LEVY

	2024-25	2025-26
Budget	\$40,436,507	\$42,007,335
Non-Tax Income	\$25,915,052	\$27,022,665
Tax Levy - Budget	\$14,521,455	\$14,984,670
Total	\$463,215	3.19%
Tax Levy Public Library	\$60,000	\$60,000

TAX CAP VS. TAX LEVY - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

In 2011, New York State implemented a tax cap, which limits the amount of property tax revenue that a school district can raise each year. The tax cap is calculated based on a formula that takes into account the district's property values, the rate of inflation and certain exemptions. The purpose of the tax cap is to help control property taxes and prevent them from increasing too rapidly.

On the other hand, the tax levy is the total amount of money a school district raises through property taxes to fund its budget. The tax levy is determined by the district's financial needs such as salaries, benefits, programs and facilities. The tax levy can also be impacted by other factors such as state aid, enrollment changes and the need for capital improvements.

So, how does the tax cap and tax levy affect you as a taxpayer? If a district proposes a tax levy increase that is below the tax cap, then

the budget can be passed with a simple majority vote. However, if the proposed tax levy increase is above the tax cap, then the budget requires a supermajority vote of 60% or more to pass.

It is important to note that the tax cap does not limit your individual property tax bill; rather, it limits the total amount of property tax revenue that the school district can raise. Your individual tax bill can still increase more than 2% even if the tax levy increase is below the tax cap, because the school budget is not the only factor impacting your tax bill. Individual tax bills are also determined by the assessed value of your property, which can change from year to year. The Holland Patent Central School District encompasses multiple towns, all with different formulas for assessing properties.

We hope this information helps clarify some common questions regarding property tax bills and school budgets.



- **TAX CAP:** Limits the amount of property tax revenue that a school district can raise each year.
- **TAX LEVY:** The total amount of money a school district raises through property taxes to fund its budget.
- **SIMPLE MAJORITY:** 50% of all people who vote must vote yes for a budget to pass.
- **SUPER MAJORITY:** 60% of all registered voters must vote yes for a budget to pass.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

The Administrative Component provides for overall general support and management activities including business office operations, payroll, purchasing, general administration, personnel, legal and auditing services. Cost for administration and supervision of each of the district's four (4) schools is also included in this component.

SCHOOL YEAR	2024-25	2025-26	INC/(DEC)
Board of Education	\$35,135	\$36,205	\$1,070
Central Administration	\$372,004	\$386,085	\$14,081
Finance	\$584,747	\$604,936	\$20,189
Legal Services	\$95,057	\$98,730	\$3,673
Public Information	\$2,250	\$2,318	\$68
Central Printing	\$45,000	\$46,350	\$1,350
Central Data Processing	\$585,438	\$620,564	\$35,126
Unallocated Insurance	\$157,665	\$162,395	\$4,730
BOCES Administration	\$419,601	\$444,777	\$25,176
Supervision Reg. School	\$970,885	\$1,008,137	\$37,252
Teaching Special Ed.	\$132,909	\$138,226	\$5,317
AIS	\$43,356	\$45,090	\$1,734
Employee Benefits	\$1,179,947	\$1,284,809	\$104,862
TOTALS	\$4,623,994	\$4,878,622	\$254,628

PROGRAM COMPONENT

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the districts 1,276 students. Programs are offered in two (2) Elementary Schools, one (1) Middle School and one (1) High School. Funds are also included in this component for transportation.

SCHOOL YEAR	2024-25	2025-26	INC/(DEC)
Teaching Regular School	\$10,733,911	\$11,188,258	\$454,347
Teaching Special Ed.	\$ 5,561,678	\$5,797,386	\$235,708
Occupational Education	\$578,760	\$613,486	\$34,726
Legal Services	\$78,658	\$82,033	\$3,375
AIS	\$118,665	\$123,183	\$4,518
Instructional Media	\$337,857	\$353,005	\$15,148
Attendance	\$29,328	\$30,293	\$965
Guidance	\$488,168	\$507,068	\$18,900
Health	\$209,394	\$216,165	\$6,771
Co-Curricular	\$94,428	\$98,205	\$3,777
Interscholastic Athletics	\$509,761	\$527,702	\$17,941
Transportation	\$2,298,426	\$2,372,131	\$73,705
Employee Benefits	\$7,659,981	\$8,348,273	\$688,292
TOTALS	\$28,699,015	\$30,257,188	\$1,558,173

CAPITAL COMPONENT

The Capital Component pays for maintaining 10 buildings, for upkeep of over 65 acres of property, and for electricity, gas heat, oil, water & sewer and telephone services. Funds are also included for "mortgage" payments on capital projects (principal & interest payments) and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

SCHOOL YEAR	2024-25	2025-26	INC/(DEC)
Operations & Maintenance	\$2,999,631	\$3,090,406	\$90,775
Tax Refund	\$40,000	\$40,000	-
Employee Benefits	\$981,777	\$1,059,462	\$77,685
Debt Service	\$3,092,090	\$2,681,657	(\$410,433)
TOTALS	\$7,113,498	\$6,871,525	\$241,973

GRAND TOTAL

\$40,436,507

\$42,007,335

\$1,570,828

BUDGET SUMMARY

PROGRAM AREA	2024-25 BUDGET	2025-26 BUDGET	DESCRIPTION OF BUDGET AREAS
Board of Education	\$35,135	\$36,205	District Clerk, district mtgs., dues, supplies, State School Boards membership
Central Administration	\$372,004	\$386,085	Salaries - Supt./secretary; supplies, travel, journals
Finance	\$584,747	\$604,937	Salaries - Asst. Supt. support staff; auditor, audit mandates, treas., tax collector
Legal	\$173,715	\$180,763	Legal fees, advertisements, negotiations
Public Information	\$2,250	\$2,318	Newsletters, calendars, budget brochure
Operation & Maintenance	\$2,999,631	\$3,090,406	Water, tele, custodial-maint., equip., trash, heat fuel, elect., supplies, Capital Outlay (GWF)
Central Printing	\$45,000	\$46,350	Mailing, repair costs, parts, supplies
Central Data Processing	\$585,438	\$620,564	Computer services: networks, rpt. cards, attendance, scheduling, payroll, acct.
Unallocated Insurance	\$157,665	\$162,395	Property, liability, student accident insurance
Tax Refund	\$40,000	\$40,000	Refund of taxes, sewer taxes
BOCES Administration	\$419,601	\$444,777	Salaries, supplies, telephones, hiring, space rent, new debt, legal, interest
Supervision - Regular School	\$970,885	\$1,008,137	Salaries - Building principals, Assist. Principal, Dean, secretaries, travel
Teaching - Regular School	\$11,312,671	\$11,801,744	Teacher salaries, subs, aides, clerical, equip., supplies, textbooks, BOCES
Students with Special Needs	\$5,694,587	\$5,935,611	Salaries - Sp. Ed. staff, Admin.; equip., supplies, textbooks, BOCES Sp. Ed. Prog.
AIS Instruction	\$162,021	\$168,273	Salaries - remedial staff - math, writing, reading; equip., supplies, textbooks
Instructional Media	\$337,857	\$353,005	Salaries - staff; equip., supplies, books, magazines, newspapers, BOCES prog.
Attendance	\$29,328	\$30,293	Salary - attendance officer, supplies
Guidance	\$488,168	\$507,069	Salaries - staff, secretaries, equipment, supplies
Health	\$209,394	\$216,165	Salaries - staff, school physician; equipment, supplies
Co-Curricular	\$94,428	\$98,205	Salaries - advisors, chaperones, clubs
Athletics	\$509,761	\$527,702	Salaries - coaches; officials' fees, equip., supplies
Transportation	\$2,298,426	\$2,372,133	Salaries - drivers, mechanics, athletic/field trips, fuel, parts, supplies
Employee Benefits	\$9,821,705	\$10,692,542	Retirement, social security, workers' comp., unemployment, health insurance
Debt Service	\$3,092,090	\$2,681,656	Principal/interest payments - bldgs (new/existing), buses, short-term borrowing
GRAND TOTAL	\$40,436,507	\$42,007,335	Total budget increase of \$1,570,828 or 3.88%

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

School districts and BOCES are required to maintain a list of parents or guardians who wish to receive written notification 48 hours prior to a pesticide application at their children's facility. If you wish to be included on the School District Notification List, please contact Ken Smith at 315.865.7213. You will then receive advance notification of a pesticide application at your children's facility of pesticide products covered by notification requirements.



For further information about the products being applied, including any warnings that appear on the label of the pesticide(s) that are pertinent to the protection of humans, animals or the environment, call the National Pesticides Telecommunication Network at 1.800.858.7378 or the New York State Department of Health Center for Environmental Health at 1.800.458.1158. For additional information on the District's pesticide program, contact Ken Smith at 315.865.7213.

Capital Project Update

Progress continues on the voter-approved capital project! Site work for the new field is currently underway, and renovations to the middle school art and agriculture rooms are moving forward. Future Phases will include renovations to our tennis courts and other items as reviewed by our upcoming Building Conditions Survey. For detailed information, please visit hpschools.org.



Board of Education Candidate

Jeremy Morgan



My name is Jeremy Morgan, and I am proud to be a lifelong resident of Oneida County, with the exception of a two-year period spent living in Albany. I am 43 years old, have been married for 16 years and am the father of two children. My stepson, Caden Foote, is a graduate of Holland Patent, and my daughter, Olivia Morgan, is currently a tenth-grade student.

I am a graduate of New York Mills School, where I attended K-12 and participated in both golf and basketball. For the past 20 years, I have been employed at Collins Aerospace in Rome, NY. In addition to my professional career, I have proudly served as an EMT with the Stittville Fire Department for over 10 years and currently sit on the Board of

Fire Commissioners for my department.

I am running for the school board because I am deeply committed to the future of our children. I believe in fostering positive change within our educational system—change that supports, guides and empowers our students on their journey toward a successful and fulfilling life. I am dedicated to being a voice for our community and working collaboratively to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Colt Brumm

Hi! I'm Colt Brumm, and I would appreciate your vote on May 20 to elect me to the Holland Patent Board of Education so that I can help ensure that all of our community's children have access to a high quality education. I am thankful to be supported in this election and in life by my wife, Sue, and my son, Magnus.



If elected, my priorities would include:

- improving academic outcomes;
- making our schools safer;
- increasing teacher and staff retention;
- and making efficient use of school funds.

Rather than waiting to be elected to the board to get started on these issues, I have spent the last four years working on them. I have attended nearly all school board meetings over that time, where I am usually the only member of the general public present. I have advocated during the public comment period in those meetings for the interests of parents, teachers, students, staff and the community, and have some positive results to show for it. However, I am not allowed to actively participate in discussions, ask questions, make suggestions or push for improvements during the meetings because I am not a member of the board.

A good example of the kind of approach that I want to employ as a school board member is:

Dale Yerman



My wife Virginia Roczen (HP class of 1994) and I are longtime residents of Central New York and the Holland Patent area. We live here with our three school aged children (11, 12 and 14), who we have supported with home schooling, HPSD enrollment, involvement in HPSD sports and other extracurricular enrichment activities (STEM, art, etc.).

I am an engineer, by trade and education, and have over 20 years of experience working in cross

Budget Vote
May 20th
 Opens 10am, closes 8pm

Taste of the Arts

Also Featuring
 -Elementary Track Meet
 -Bake Sale

District wide Musical Performances all day

Chicken Barbeque
 2:45-5:45pm
 \$16, Presale Only

In May 2024, I discovered that all four schools' drinking water tests in 2015 and 2021 showed high levels of lead contamination, but only minimal steps had been taken in response. As a safety manager for the Air Force, I am well aware of the dangers of lead, which causes brain damage and is especially poisonous to children. I responded by:

- Bringing the issue to the attention of the administration and the school board;
- Recommending ways to fix it;
- Identifying potential sources of grant funding for this issue;
- Publishing articles to make the community aware;
- Working with Senator Joe Griffo and the county water authority to check the water delivery lines for lead;
- At every opportunity and every board meeting, pressing the district to fix it.

About six months later, they put into effect one of the approaches that I had recommended to them and reported that the problem had been fixed fairly easily and at relatively low cost.

In my Air Force Civilian career, my time as an Army Officer and in numerous volunteer pursuits, I have a strong track record of finding ways to make things work better. I have several professional certifications in process improvement and have even been put in charge of my Air Force unit's continuous improvement program.

I enjoy putting in hard work to help people and serve the community. Our kids deserve to have the best schools we can provide, and I would love the chance to help make that happen as a member of the Holland Patent Board of Education!

sectional team environments to solve highly complex technical and people problems. Most of my professional life has been centered around economic sustainability, analysis of alternatives, project management (technical and personnel) and continuous improvement. It has been my role to contribute positively to facilitation and team building, complex task management, efficiency and fiscal responsibility in areas like contract negotiations, purchasing and inventory management facilities management and process / system optimization.

In personal life, my family and I enjoy spending time together outdoors with activities like camping, hiking, gardening...and plenty more.

I feel that my home and work life skills and experiences offer me an opportunity to contribute positively to my community and HPSD, and to responsibly represent community parents and tax payers. I look forward to a chance to help, add value and do good things.

CLASS OF 2025

VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN AND ACADEMIC HONORS

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Joining Stephanie and Juliana in graduating with “highest distinction,” reflecting an average in excess of 95% are: **Addyson Carrier**, daughter of Danielle Carrier of Barneveld and Eric Johnson of Utica; **Reily Cieslak**, daughter of Joseph and Jamie Cieslak of Holland Patent; **Jacob Daniels**, son of Thomas and Renee Daniels of Marcy; **Heather Haynes**, daughter of Charles and Gail Haynes of Rome; **Nolen Heiser**, son of Keith and Jamie Heiser of Holland Patent; **Isabella Hobin**, daughter of Jeffrey and Leslie Hobin of Barneveld; **Christopher Kelly**, son of Adam and Lydia Kelly of Barneveld; **Mason Rasmussen**, son of Dain and Calista Rasmussen of Rome; **Caleb Savery**, son of Matthew and Cherie Savery of Holland Patent; **Chloe Swift**, daughter of Jonathan and Monica Swift of Holland Patent; and **Tyler Tyldesley**, son of Brent and Jessica Tyldesley of Holland Patent.

Twenty-four additional students will graduate with “distinction,” reflecting an average in excess of 90%. Members of the class graduating with distinction are: **Nathan Bennison**, son of Jason Ward and Victoria Bennison of Holland Patent; **Lillian Boris**, daughter of Bernard and Traci Boris of Stittville; **John Campbell**, son of Alex Campbell of Remsen and Ashley Jean of Radford, VA; **Gabriella Diana**, daughter of Joseph and Melissa Diana of Holland Patent; **Annemarie Geer**, daughter of David Geer of Rome and

granddaughter of Jean Cox of Holland Patent; **Emerson Hanna**, son of Kimberly Hanna and the late Richard Hanna of Barneveld; **Lillian Horton**, daughter of Sonya Wheeler of Rome and Charles Horton of Batavia; **Cole Jensen**, son of Chris and Corrinne Jensen of Remsen; **Andrew Jones**, son of Scott and Amy Jones of Barneveld; **Henry King**, son of Andrew and Jennifer King of Prospect; **Max Kowalsky**, son of Edward Kowalsky of Barneveld and Melissa Kowalsky of Stittville; **Hannah Kusmierczak**, daughter of James and Debra Kusmierczak of Rome; **Aaron Lopez**, son of Shannon Wilson of Holland Patent and Joseph Lopez of Rome; **Alaric Lyne II**, son of Alaric and Julie Lyne of Rome; **Miranda Millick**, daughter of John and Kathy Millick of Holland Patent; **Delanie Pritchard**, daughter of Bradley and Lisa Pritchard of Ava; **Nicholas Race**, son of Edward and Kimberly Race of Rome; **Valeriy Rasko**, son of Leonid and Natalya Rasko of Barneveld; **Lylah Riedman**, daughter of Jason and Ashley Riedman of Holland Patent; **Peyton Roberts**, son of Cory and Heather Roberts of Holland Patent; **Ryan Rosenkranse**, son of Harold Rosenkranse and Kathleen Peck of Barneveld; **Greyson Sexton**, son of Daniel and Lisa Sexton of Stittville; **Andrew Stanley**, son of Sean and Michelle Stanley of Remsen; and **Jacob VanEtten**, son of Bradley and Amy Meadows of Remsen.

CLASS OF 2025

Mural Showcases

Senior Creativity and School Spirit

As the Class of 2025 prepares to leave their mark on Holland Patent High School, two talented seniors have ensured that their legacy will be remembered in a bold and artistic way. Senior Henry King designed a stunning mural to represent the Class of 2025, bringing his vision to life with the help of fellow senior Annemarie Geer, who assisted in painting the piece.

This mural, a vibrant reflection of creativity and school spirit, stands as a tribute to the hard work, perseverance and unity of this graduating class. Through thoughtful design and artistic skill, Henry and Annemarie have captured the essence of their time at Holland Patent, creating a piece that will inspire future students for years to come.



Thank you to Henry and Annemarie for sharing their talents and for giving the Class of 2025 a lasting artistic legacy!



STUDENTS SHINE AT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION



The Regional 2025 High School Art Exhibition at View Arts Center in Old Forge showcased the incredible talent of high school artists from Holland Patent, Town of Webb, Lowville Academy and South Lewis. The exhibition, which ran from March 8 to April 5, featured the work of more than 20 Holland Patent High School art students, highlighting their creativity alongside some of the area's top young artists.

The exhibition celebrated student artistry with up to \$1,000 in prizes awarded to outstanding pieces. The event officially kicked off with an Opening Reception on March 15, held in conjunction with the Central Adirondack Art Show. The reception welcomed families, friends, and community members, offering a wonderful opportunity to recognize and support these talented students.

Congratulations to our Holland Patent artists for their hard work and dedication! Their contributions to this prestigious event demonstrate the strength of our District's art program and the passion of our young creators.

HP Senior Wins Scholarship in MVCC Art Contest

The School of Art at Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) recently hosted its annual Art Scholarship Contest, offering local high school seniors the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents and compete for prestigious awards, including a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship to MVCC.

Holland Patent senior Greyson Sexton was recognized for his outstanding work, earning a \$250 scholarship toward enrollment in the MVCC School of Art, where he plans to major in Photography. This contest invited students to submit original pieces in fields such as Digital Animation, Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography and Video Production, providing an exciting pathway for aspiring artists to further their education.

Congratulations to Greyson on this well-deserved achievement! We are proud of his dedication to the arts and look forward to seeing his creative journey continue at MVCC.



Music News

The Music Department kicked off the fall/winter season with its annual Veterans Day Concert on November 6, honoring those who have served in the armed forces. Later in November, talented student musicians represented the district at the Zone 4 Senior High Area All-State Festival and showcased their creativity during the Knightly Players 5th Annual Talent Show, which featured incredible performances in singing, dancing, acting and more.

December was filled with music and celebration! Chorus students in grades 6-12 enjoyed a trip to see "The Nutcracker" at the Stanley Theater, and our talented students in grades 4-12 impressed audiences with three spectacular Winter Concerts for chorus, orchestra and band. Drama and Cinemaholic Club students also attended a performance of "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella" at Syracuse Stage. In the spirit of

giving, Holland Patent's jazz band, high school orchestra and select choir spread holiday cheer at the Masonic Care Community of Utica, while students returned on Christmas Eve to carol for residents. The Tri-M Music Honor Society also shared a festive holiday performance before winter break.

The new year brought even more excitement, with Holland Patent students showcasing their talents at Rome Free Academy's Central New York Show Choir Festival in January. Then, on February 28 and March 1, the Knightly Players took center stage for their fantastic production of "Shrek Jr.," bringing the magic of musical theatre to the community—including a special preview for elementary students!

It has been an incredible season of music and performance at Holland Patent, and we are so proud of our talented students for their hard work and dedication!



MUSICAL MOMENTS: *Concert Highlights*



ATHLETICS NEWS

Celebrating our Athletic Community

Fall 

Cheer
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Football
Soccer
Swimming & Diving (Girls)
Tennis (Girls)

Winter 

Alpine & Nordic Skiing
Basketball
Bowling
Ice Hockey
Swimming & Diving (Boys)
Volleyball
Wrestling

Spring 

Baseball
Golf
Lacrosse
Softball
Tennis (Boys)
Track & Field

NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athletes

At the end of each sports season, the NYSPHSAA honors those teams and individuals who excel in the classroom. To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition with a certificate, the average GPA of the top 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00. If a team does not meet the Scholar-Athlete Team Criteria, the individuals on that team with a 90.00 or above GPA are considered an Individual Scholar-Athlete.

Fall 2024 Scholar-Athletes

CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS)

COACH: Tim Hoffman
Silas Crowe
Cole Jensen
Christopher Kelly
Max Kowalsky
Cooper Poland
Nicholas Race
Keegan Wehnke
Kaiden Whaley

Emelyn Ballie
Addyson Carrier
Gabiella Diana
Mara Erway
Lily Foley
Ava Larry
Olivia Morgan
Addison Snider
Gabriel Way

SOCCER (BOYS)

COACHES: Adam Tritten & Mike Ferris
Owen Carroll
Jorge Chicano Gascon
Aaron Finn
August Jones
Manuel Martinez-Gonzalez
Zachary Murray
Jacob Olearczyk
Mason Rasmussen
Michael Santa Maria
Caleb Savery
Andrew Stanley
Trenten True

SOCCER (GIRLS)

COACH: John Riemenschneider
Julia Callahan
Juliana DelPico
Isabella Hobin
Corrine Lenart
Payton Muha
Kaylen O'Brien
Sophia Rachon
Ava Roberts
Annabella Schrader
Madeline Snider
Chloe Swift
Faith Zylinsky

Gracie Poynter
Sadie Smith
Alyssa Tyldsley

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Dylan Bailey
Nathan Bennison
John Campbell
Kiera Crossway
Nicholas Doyle
Zachary Earl
Wyatt Esch
James Houck
Caiden Knapp
Casey Laguna
Lucas Mathewson
Sean Mathewson
Riley O'Brien
Helaina Razzano
Kyle Storm
Vivian VanHatten
Wyatt Ward
Erik Williams Jr.
Madeline Yerman

CROSS COUNTRY (GIRLS)

COACH: Aileen Viel
Melody Bailey
Rachel Baldwin
Allyson Beiderbecke
Lauren Favata
Leah Howard
Gabiella McLaughlin
Megan Mierek
Autumn Schieble
Shania Westcott

FIELD HOCKEY

COACH: McKenzie Keator

TENNIS (GIRLS)

COACH: Scott Parsons
Holly Buchanan-Wise
Carlee Foote
Hannah Kusmierczak
Maura Matthews
Teagan Matthews
Carley Mierek
Millick Miranda
Olivia Perretta

Winter 2024-25 Scholar-Athletes

BASKETBALL (BOYS)

COACH: Scott Jones
Ethan Briggs
Brodie Clark
Jacob Hart
Andrew Jones
Christopher Kelly
Peyton Roberts
Caleb Savery

SKIING - ALPINE

COACH: Dean Brown
Zachary Earl
Payton Muha
Madeline Snider

SKIING - NORDIC

COACH: Josh Olney
Silas Crowe

SWIMMING & DIVING (BOYS)

COACH: Mike Reilley
Riley Hook-Byers
George King
Nicholas Race
Mason Rasmussen
Mateo Stalnaker
Matthew Zaishnikov

VOLLEYBALL (GIRLS)

COACH: Lisa Aiello
Julia Callahan

Savannah Dipini
Sierra Dipini
Carlee Foote
Corinne Foote
Abigail Foster
Ava Larry
Carley Mierek
Millick Miranda
Ava Roberts
Annabella Schrader
Hailey Tadlock
Chole Tickell

WRESTLING (BOYS)

COACH: John Richard
Dylan Bailey
Nathan Bennison
Connor Earl
Chase Owens
Noah Rivera

Carson Tharrett
Raymond Spann

WRESTLING (GIRLS)

COACH: Samilinn Doxstader
Lexilinn Doxstader
Macylinn Doxstader
Claire Favata
Hannah Kusmierczak
Brynn Phan
Ellie Roberts
Isabelle Schuler
Addison Snider
Lily Swift
Loreli Walker
Madeline Yerman

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Avery Kneezle
Izabella Walters

STAY GOLD, HOLLAND PATENT!

On November 14, students took an unforgettable trip to New York City to see “The Outsiders,” the Tony Award-winning Best Musical based on S.E. Hinton’s classic novel and Francis Ford Coppola’s motion picture. This beloved story, which is read in eighth-grade ELA classes, came to life on stage in an inspiring and powerful performance!

Before the show, the students enjoyed a delicious lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., where the southern-style comfort food and Forrest Gump-themed atmosphere added even more fun to the day. It was an incredible experience for our students to connect their classroom learning with the arts.



SEVENTH GRADERS TAKE ACTION

TO SUPPORT *Clean Water Access*

For many, simple daily motivations—family, friends, school or work—drive us forward. But for Mrs. Lawson’s seventh-grade English classes, it was the desire to make a difference that inspired them to take action.

As part of their fall reading unit, students read “A Long Walk to Water” by Linda Sue Park, a novel based on the true story of Salva Dut, a former Lost Boy of Sudan and founder of Water for South Sudan, Inc. The book sheds light on the harsh reality of water scarcity, where women and children walk miles each day to collect water, often facing violence, illness and exhaustion along the way.

To deepen their understanding, students participated in a Water Walk on November 5, each carrying one gallon of water while walking one mile. This hands-on experience gave them a powerful connection to the struggles faced by millions worldwide.

Inspired by their learning, students wrote compelling letters to family and friends, ultimately raising \$400 to donate to Water for South Sudan, Inc. Two students, Boyd Crossley and Gary Grimshaw, took their efforts even further—building a cider and donut stand outside of school and raising an additional \$100 for the cause.

We are incredibly proud of our seventh graders for stepping up to make a difference. Their compassion, hard work and dedication to global issues prove that even young students can create meaningful change and contribute to a brighter future for those in need.



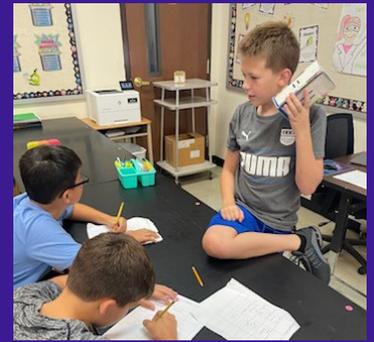
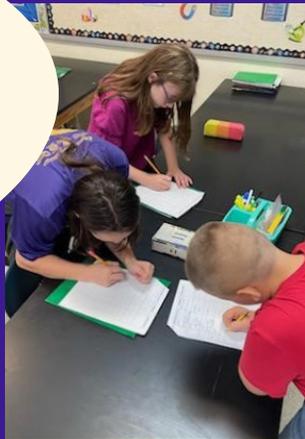
SIXTH-GRADE

Scientists in Action!

Holland Patent sixth-grade students have been embracing their year-long goal of “thinking and acting like a scientist” in their science classes. Through hands-on classroom activities, observations and lab experiments, students have been developing essential skills in scientific inquiry and critical thinking.

By engaging in these experiences, students are strengthening their ability to ask questions, make observations, analyze data and draw conclusions—just like real scientists! Each activity builds on their growing understanding of the scientific process, preparing them for future investigations and discoveries.

We are proud of our sixth-grade students for their enthusiasm and dedication to science learning, and we look forward to seeing their curiosity and problem-solving skills continue to grow throughout the year!



STUDENTS EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS ON MOUNTAIN BIKING ADVENTURE

In October, students embarked on an exciting mountain biking field trip to the Black River Outdoor Education Program, where they combined outdoor adventure with hands-on learning. Throughout the trip, students gained valuable insights into biking safety, explored the natural surroundings and even heard tales and legends of the woods from their guides.

One group, led by Mrs. Talarico, called themselves the “Quiet Coyotes” and took turns leading their team through the scenic bike paths. The trip provided students with an opportunity to develop leadership skills, build confidence and enjoy the fresh air alongside their peers. It was a beautiful day filled with fun, adventure and teamwork, reinforcing the importance of outdoor recreation and physical activity. Experiences like these help students build lifelong skills while making lasting memories!



JOURNEY THROUGH THE AMERICAS Festival

On February 12, Holland Patent fifth graders proudly hosted the inaugural Journey Through the Americas Festival, an exciting and immersive celebration of learning. This event served as the culminating activity for their nonfiction literacy unit, integrating research, social studies, and hands-on experiences.

As part of the festival, students conducted in-depth research on countries in the Western Hemisphere, then created vibrant displays showcasing their learning. The event provided a unique opportunity for students to share their expertise with third and fourth graders, as well as their families, turning the festival into an engaging educational experience for all.

Adding to the cultural experience, students performed La Raspa, a traditional Mexican folk dance, bringing energy and excitement to the event. Some students even brought in cultural foods to share, further enriching their understanding of different traditions.

The Journey Through the Americas Festival was a resounding success, fostering curiosity, creativity and a deeper appreciation for the world. This hands-on experience allowed students to connect literacy, social studies and cultural exploration, making learning both meaningful and memorable!



Kindergarten Authors SHARE STORIES OVER HOT CHOCOLATE AND COOKIES



On February 12, kindergarten students from General William Floyd Elementary shared their small moment writing with a member of their family. Students and their guests enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies while sharing their books. This was a wonderful opportunity for our kindergarten students to show everything that they learned about narrative writing.

We are so proud of how far these students have come and how they are using their knowledge of letters and sounds to write sentences. A special thank you to PTA and Connected Community Schools for assisting with this event.





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Michael Garrett, *Vice President*

Lydia Berez-Kelly

Cecil Morris

William Paolozzi

Chris Kelly, *Student Board Member*

Voter Information

What am I voting on?

A budget of \$42,007,435 for the 2025-26 school year, a proposition to purchase school buses and election of one candidate to the Board of Education.

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Holland Patent High School Gymnasium.

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. Citizen, 18 years or older and a resident within the district for a period of 30 days prior to the vote. A resident is not eligible to vote if they are prohibited from voting under the provisions of Section 5-06 of the Education Law.

How can I vote by absentee ballot?

Applications for absentee ballots for the 2025 school budget vote and BOE election will be available beginning Tuesday, April 22, 2025, and may be picked up from the Office of the District Clerk at Holland Patent Central School District, 9601 Main Street, Holland Patent, NY 13354; or requested to be mailed by calling 315.865.7221. For voters requesting to have a ballot delivered to them by mail, completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than Tuesday, May 13, 2025. For voters requesting to have a ballot delivered to them personally, completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than Monday, May 19, 2025. All completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

What about military voters?

Military voters who are qualified voters of the District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk at 315.865.7221 or vmarris@hpschools.org. For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025. On a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.