



VOLUME 53

BUDGET ISSUE

MAY 2025

FFA SPOTLIGHT: DISTRICT PRESIDENT FINALIST!

We are thrilled to celebrate one of our outstanding FFA members, ****Sage****, who has advanced to the final round in the race for ****District President****! Through hard work, leadership, and a true passion for agriculture, Sage has impressed judges with her dedication, strong speaking skills, and commitment to service.

Sage is now one of the ****top two candidates**** for District President, with the final decision to be made at the ****100th New York State FFA Convention**** in ****Syracuse, New York this May****!

We are so proud of Sage and the way she represents our chapter—you've already accomplished so much, and we're all rooting for you! **Way to go, Sage! **Blue jackets. Bright futures. ** Let's hear it for Sage!**



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



The Middle School is proud to announce that they inducted 32 new members into the National Junior Honor Society on April 23rd. Our NJHS has worked hard all year on activities that enhance our school culture and our community at large. They collected over 1000 items for the food drive at the holidays and donated them to a local food pantry. Members volunteer in the elementary school where they help in classrooms and in the lunchrooms. Earlier this spring, they collected over 300 items for the Wyoming County Animal Shelter. NJHS members have also been sending cards to the East Side Nursing home regularly, which the residents are always excited to see. Before the end of the year, they plan to work on a cleanup project with the local YMCA. As you can see, our NJHS members and advisor have been working hard all year to make Letchworth a special place to be. We are very grateful to them for all they do.

ELEMENTARY FAMILY FUN NIGHT BRINGS SMILES AND LAUGHTER TO ALL!

On the evening of March 20th, the high school gymnasium was transformed into a joyful hub of activity for our annual Family Fun Night! The event brought together students, families, and staff for an evening filled with laughter, games, and unforgettable memories.



Highlights from the night included:

- **Mr. Scribbles** – Mr. Scribbles amazed participants by transforming scribbles into whimsical cartoon-style animals right before their eyes. Each drawing was completely unique, and kids were thrilled to take home their personalized masterpieces!
- **Prehistoric World Reptiles** – Students got up close with a variety of fascinating reptiles. The handler provided fun facts and answered curious questions, giving kids a hands-on learning experience they won't soon forget.
- **Book Fair** – Families browsed and purchased books for all ages. It was a great way to inspire young readers and bring a little learning to the fun-filled night.
- **Community Wellness Fair** – Local organizations and health professionals hosted booths offering helpful resources, wellness tips, and family-friendly activities focused on healthy living and well-being.
- **Face Painting** – Face painting stations were buzzing with activity as students lined up to become butterflies, superheroes, and fierce animals—thanks to the talented artists who volunteered their time and skills. Bright colors and big smiles lit up the night.
- **Bounce Houses** – The inflatable bounce houses gave kids a chance to jump, tumble, and laugh with friends. They were high-energy crowd favorites all evening long.
- **Carnival Games** – Classic games like Bean Bag Toss, Giant Jenga, and Bowling offered fun challenges and small prizes for all participants.

A huge thank you to the dedication of our amazing staff, volunteers, and families! An extra special thank you to our National Junior Honor Society volunteers; thank you for smiling, encouraging, and being such positive role models for our elementary students. Because of all of you, Family Fun Night was a huge success. Events like these remind us of the strong sense of community that makes our school so special.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - YOU MAY VOTE FOR ANY THREE (3) CANDIDATES

There are three vacancies for the Board for three year terms (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028). **You May Vote For Any Three (3).** The candidates who receive a plurality of the votes cast respectively for the three offices are to be declared elected. Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.

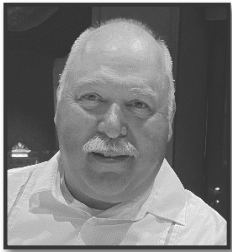
1) David Reed

2) Nick Youngers

3) Merritt Broughton

2025 CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

DAVID REED



My name is David Reed. I grew up in Alden, NY and my wife and I have lived in Castile for the last 40 years. My wife has worked for Letchworth since 1987, our son is a proud Letchworth graduate, and our three grandsons currently all attend LCS. I hold a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Albany and a

degree in Vocational Education from Buffalo State College. I am currently retired and substitute teach part time for Letchworth Central School. During my career, I was a Parts Manager for NAPA in Perry (2 years), a cabinet maker for Kittenger Furniture in Castile (4 years), a Corrections Officer with the Wyoming County Sheriff's Department (8 years), and a teacher (22 years) for Erie I BOCES (Construction Trades) and Erie II BOCES (Criminal Justice and Construction Trades). I have served on the Castile Village Board for over 20 years collectively, was on the Wyoming County Angel Action Board, was a member of the Castile Community Club, and have been involved in serving the Boy Scouts of America in various capacities for over 40 years.

I am familiar with educational requirements and mandates; construction, architecture and maintenance services; contract negotiations; budgeting; public meeting processes; state and federal grant procedures; and the state permitting process for public/municipal projects.

I wish to serve the community as a LCS Board of Education member in order to assist in keeping Letchworth the pinnacle of education it has been since its opening in the early 1950's.

NICK YOUNGERS



I would appreciate your vote to continue serving as a member of the Board of Education for the Letchworth Central School District. Serving on the Board is a unique and valuable opportunity to help shape an innovative and supportive educational environ-

ment for our students. As a graduate of Central School, a

local professional in the agriculture industry, and a father of two, I understand the importance of making thoughtful, informed decisions that will impact not only my own children but every student in our district. I am committed to honoring the proud traditions of our schools while also embracing progress as we adapt to an ever-changing world. Our school district is the foundation of our children's future, and I am proud to be part of the work that helps guide and support that future. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our students, families, and community.

Thank you for your support.

MERRITT (PETE) BROUGHTON



I am seeking re-election to the School Board because I believe it is important to stay actively involved in the community where you live and raise your family. As a lifelong resident of Silver Springs and a 1990 graduate of LCS, I take great pride in our district and its continued success.

My four children have all attended school here, and I am committed to helping maintain the high standards and strong educational foundation that benefit every student's future. Over the years, I've been deeply involved in community service, including volunteering with Wyoming County 4-H and serving on the Wyoming County Fair Board. I also served on the Wyoming County Farm Bureau for many years, including time as president, and have held multiple leadership positions within the New York State Beef Producers Association.

As a business owner and employer, I bring a practical perspective to the board, and my years of community involvement have provided me with valuable insight into the needs and priorities of our district. Serving on the School Board has been a rewarding experience, and I would be honored to continue representing our residents for another term.

Thank you for your continued support.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A VOTER: • United States Citizen • Eighteen years of age or older
• Resident of the School District for 30 days prior to voting

NOTICE OF INSPECTION: Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2025 of all buildings of Letchworth Central School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the District Office of Letchworth Central School District at 5550 School Road, Gainesville, New York for inspection by all interested persons.

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 7:30 PM - The annual school district Public Hearing will be held at Letchworth Central School in the High School Cafeteria at 7:30 PM for the purpose of reviewing the 2025-2026 school budget and to meet the candidates.

VOTE & ELECT BOARD MEMBERS

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 – Noon to 8:00 PM - The polls will be open in the Auditorium lobby, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 PM to vote on the 2025-2026 budget, propositions and to elect three members of the Board of Education.



Complete your ballot



Scan your ballot



EARLY/ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The option of using an absentee ballot is available for the school district annual budget vote. To obtain an absentee ballot, you must be a qualified voter of the school district and be unable to personally appear to vote. One of the following qualifications must apply:

- a) a patient in a hospital, or unable due to illness or physical disability;
- b) out of town because of duties, occupation, business or studies - you must provide a description of duties or special circumstances;
- c) on vacation outside the district - you must provide dates of beginning & ending of vacation, where you will be, name & address of employer, or statement of self-employment, or a statement of retirement;
- d) in jail - affidavit must state if detained awaiting action of grand jury or confined after conviction for a non-felony.

Qualified voter spouse, parent, or child is also entitled to vote as absentee if expected to be absent from the district accompanying an absentee ballot applicant upon personally making and signing an application based on the above reasons. The option of using an early mail ballot is available for the school district annual budget vote. To obtain an early mail ballot, you must submit a request in writing and be a qualified voter of the school district. Applications for early mail or absentee ballots must be received by the clerk at least 7 days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if it is to be delivered personally to the voter at the Office of the District Clerk. All completed early mail and absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 PM on the day of the election. (Tuesday, May 20, 2025) Qualified voters may pick up applications at the District Office at Letchworth Central School during regular business hours. You may request an application be sent to you by contacting the District Clerk, in writing at 5550 School Rd., Gainesville, NY 14066

The following provides the proposed revenue and expenditure plan for the 2025-2026 school-year in a summarized format. The tri-part format and the District Report Card are available in the District Office, on the District website at <https://www.letchworth.k12.ny.us> or by calling 585-493-5450.

Revenues

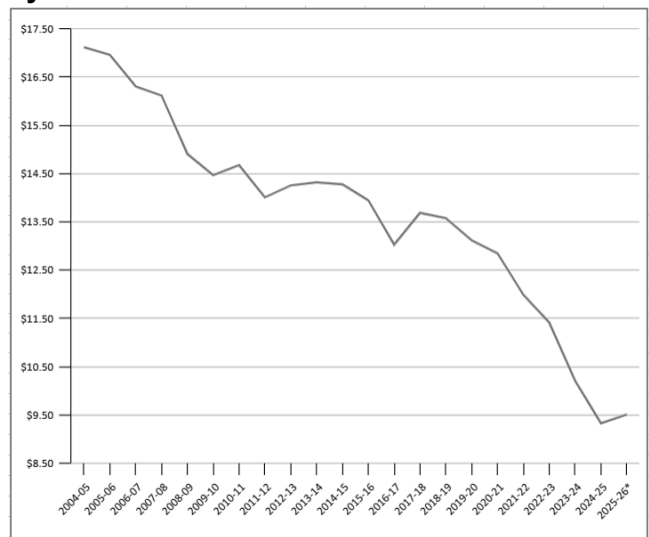
	Budget 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Percent Change
State Sources			
Foundation Aid & Excess Cost Aids	13,363,689	13,886,790	+3.91%
State Expense Based Aids	5,681,946	5,428,727	-4.46%
Instructional Materials Aids	81,674	83,086	+1.73%
Total for State Sources	19,127,309	19,398,603	+1.42%
Property Tax & Star Payments	4,763,500	4,854,007	+1.90%
Appropriated Fund Balance	300,000	0	-100.00%
Appropriated Empl Contribution Reserve	100,000	300,000	+200.00%
Appropriated Unemployment Reserve	41,886	15,784	-62.31%
Appropriated Workers Comp Reserve	0	15,000	
Local Sources			
Payment in lieu of tax	244,815	277,178	13.22%
Transportation for other districts	1,138,187	1,183,714	+4.00%
Miscellaneous/Other revenues	772,750	720,750	-6.73%
Total Local Sources	2,155,752	2,181,642	+1.20%
Other Revenues			
Interfund transfer – debt service	25,000	0	-100.00%
Interfund transfer – school lunch	0	25,000	
Federal aid - Medicaid	80,000	80,000	0.00%
Total Other Revenues	105,000	105,000	+0.00%
TOTAL REVENUES	26,593,447	26,870,036	+1.04%

The School Budget and the New York State Tax Levy Limit (Tax Cap)

New York State has instituted a tax levy limit, commonly referred to as a “cap”, that provides a state formula to establish a levy limit that determines if a simple majority or a super (60%) majority will be required for passage. The levy limit for Letchworth this year was calculated to be 3.39%. Since the proposed levy increase for this year is 1.9% (or \$70,993 below the cap), a simple majority will be required for passage.

Tax Levy

The proposed expenditure plan of \$26,870,036 is partially funded by a tax levy of \$4,854,007. This is a 1.9 percent increase in the levy from last year. To calculate the tax rate for each of the nine towns within the District, both the assessed values and the equalization rates are used. Final assessments and equalization rates will not be available until August. The graph to the right displays historical information on the true value tax rate in the district with a projected rate for 2025-26. Under this proposed budget, the tax rate on true value is estimated to be \$9.51 per thousand.



Proposed Expenditures

	Budget 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Board of Education	36,266.00	41,636.00	
District Meeting	3,430.00	3,440.00	
Chief School Administrator	241,251.10	251,671.80	
Business Administration	296,491.59	306,944.90	
Auditing	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Treasurer	71,034.00	74,303.00	
Tax Collector	10,537.00	10,964.00	
Purchasing	6,194.00	6,396.70	
Fiscal Agent Fees	3,500.00	7,000.00	
Legal	95,900.00	98,975.00	
Personnel	14,701.66	14,801.27	
Public Information	12,190.00	14,860.00	
Operation of Plant	1,298,272.40	1,292,283.70	
Maintenance of Plant	825,304.95	763,865.50	
Security of Plant	90,467.00	95,775.00	
Central Storeroom	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Central Printing & Mailing	67,752.25	69,789.50	
Central Data Processing	414,442.36	449,762.62	
Unallocated Insurance	100,000.00	150,000.00	
School Association Dues	6,923.00	7,224.00	
Refund on Real Property Taxes	3,500.00	3,500.00	
BOCES Administrative Costs	268,226.00	273,507.00	
Total General Support	3,892,883.31	3,963,199.99	% Change +1.806%

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

The 2025-26 general fund proposed budget includes a capital outlay project that would be completed during the upcoming school year. This project includes plumbing upgrades, as well as HVAC and building automation improvements. The total cost of the project will not exceed \$100,000 and is aided through state building aid. By completing this work as a capital outlay project, the District will receive the state building aid in the following year.

INSTRUCTION

Curriculum Development	225,781.00	302,137.19	
Supervision, Regular School	434,556.28	453,635.17	
Inservice Training, Instructional	14,790.00	25,575.00	
Teaching, Regular School	5,002,621.09	4,954,705.01	
Programs for Students w/Dis.	3,297,589.59	3,576,688.41	
Programs for Eng. Lang. Learn. (ELL)	2,491.90	32,914.20	
Occupational Education	661,005.60	672,158.48	
Teaching, Special Schools	22,114.00	22,709.00	
School Library	194,094.00	204,346.20	
Computer Assisted Instruction	529,879.22	611,151.17	
Attendance	8,800.00	8,800.00	
Guidance	198,160.00	209,626.30	
Health Services	113,413.00	118,982.00	
Psychological Services	159,901.90	167,749.10	
Social Work Services	16,660.00	7,440.00	
Co-Curricular Activities	41,243.00	51,843.00	
Interscholastic Athletics	350,082.75	389,308.57	
Total Instruction	11,273,183.33	11,809,768.80	% Change +4.760%

LOCKWOOD'S UPK**Pre-Kindergarten Program**

All district children who are 4 on or before **December 1, 2025** are eligible.

Please register online at our website.

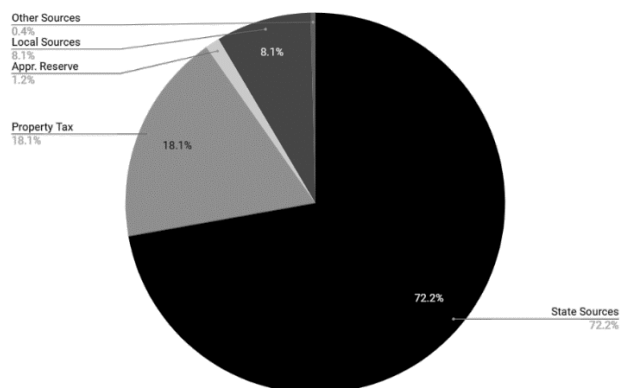
Once dates for screenings have been established, we will send you information packets.

TRANSPORTATION

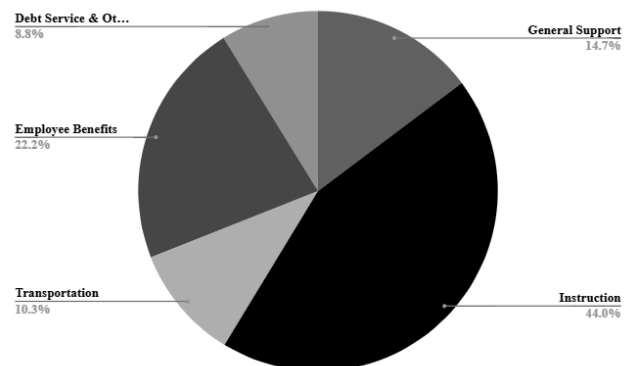
District Transportation	2,560,778.33	2,671,948.83	
Garage Building	76,868.00	87,301.25	
Contract Transport	0.00	5,000.00	
Transportation from BOCES	3,767.24	3,604.00	
Total Transportation	2,641,413.57	2,767,854.08	% Change +4.787%

	Budget 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICE</u>			
Adult Education & Recreation	7,386.00	7,628.00	
			% Change
Total Community Service	7,386.00	7,628.00	+3.276%
<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</u>			
State Retirement	534,175.42	563,652.24	
Teachers' Retirement	731,255.85	727,940.18	
Social Security	840,117.73	871,445.44	
Workers' Compensation	90,000.00	95,000.00	
Unemployment Insurance	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Health Insurance	3,381,986.79	3,610,359.27	
Other - Benefits	80,100.00	91,100.00	
			% Change
Total Employee Benefits	5,660,635.79	5,962,497.13	+5.333%
<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>			
Serial Bonds - Principal	1,390,000.00	1,340,000.00	
Serial Bonds - Interest	1,552,945.00	844,088.00	
			% Change
Total Debt Service	2,942,945.00	2,184,088.00	-25.786%
<u>INTERFUND TRANSFER</u>			
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	
Transfer to Capital Fund	100,000.00	100,000.00	
			% Change
Total Interfund Transfers	175,000.00	175,000.00	0.000%
			% Change
Total General Fund	26,593,447.00	26,870,036.00	+1.040%

Revenues



Expenditures



PROPOSED ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2025-2026

Proposition 1 - Budget \$26,870,036.00

The Board of Education of the Letchworth Central School District shall be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the proposed budget for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$26,870,036.00 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

[illegible]

Proposition 2 –Maintenance Vehicles/Equipment Reserve Fund

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Letchworth Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the “2025 Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Reserve Fund”), with the purpose of such fund being to finance the acquisition of maintenance vehicles and equipment for school district use that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law, and costs incidental thereto, the ultimate amount of such fund to be \$750,000, plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be 10 years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted, and the sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are (i) an initial deposit of \$66,138 plus accrued interest to be transferred from the existing 2015 Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Reserve Fund, and (ii) an initial deposit of \$50,000 to be transferred from the existing Unemployment Insurance Reserve, and (iii) amounts authorized by the voters from time to time, and (iv) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (v) proceeds from the sale of retired vehicles, all to the extent permitted by law.

Proposition 3 – Transportation Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Letchworth Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the “2025 Transportation Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund”), with the purpose of such fund being to purchase vehicles for the transportation of students as part of the transportation program of the district, the ultimate amount of such fund to be \$950,000, plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be 10 years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted, and the sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are (i) an initial deposit of \$35,171 plus accrued interest to be transferred from the existing 2017 Transportation Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund, and (ii) an initial deposit of \$50,000 to be transferred from the existing Workers’ Compensation Reserve Fund, and (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iv) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (v) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all to the extent permitted by law.

[illegible]

Proposition 4 - Library Funding (as received from the libraries)

Shall the amount of funds raised by taxation to support the four public libraries in the Letchworth Central School District be increased from \$230,741.94 to \$243,096.12, the increased amount to be distributed as followed: \$36,100.18 to the Eagle Free Library, Bliss; \$87,712.20 to the Cordelia A. Greene Library, Castile; \$67,687.81 to the Gainesville Public Library, Silver Springs; and \$51,595.93 to the Pike Library Association, Pike?

TOGETHER, WE BUILD LEGENDS: A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE, GROWTH, AND COMMITMENT

As we reflect on the past year and look toward the future, we want to express our sincere gratitude to the families, students, staff, and community members who continue to support Letchworth CSD. Your partnership in our educational mission is the foundation upon which we build not only strong academic programs, but also a thriving community of learners, leaders, and citizens.

Navigating the Landscape of Public Education Public K-12 education is in the midst of dynamic change, and our district remains committed to staying ahead of the curve. Three major trends are shaping the future of our schools:

1. **Innovative Learning:** From differentiated instruction in the classroom to technology-enhanced platforms, we are embracing tools that allow students to learn at their own pace, in their own style—helping every child reach their fullest potential.
2. **Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health Support:** Schools are no longer just centers for academics. We are also prioritizing students' emotional well-being, building resilience, empathy, and interpersonal skills as part of a whole-child approach.
3. **Career and College Readiness:** Whether a student is heading to college, into a trade, or directly into the workforce, we're expanding pathways to success. This includes hands-on career and technical education, dual enrollment programs, and real-world learning experiences. The Legends Innovation Center is a cutting edge space that opens new creativity in learning.

Reassurance Amid Changing Economic Times- "A budget that is Responsible!"

We understand that these are uncertain economic times for many families. Please know that we remain deeply committed to financial responsibility. Our budget planning process is guided by a singular focus: serving every student while maintaining a fiscally sound, forward-thinking approach. The Board of Education and I are here to ensure that our schools remain competitive, our programs robust, and our services responsive to student and community needs. The proposed 1.9% increase to our tax levy (2025-26) is in response to increased benefit costs, contractual responsibilities and a commitment to quality programming. Letchworth remains the lowest true value tax rate in our BOCES. (Estimated \$9.51 per thousand)

Excellence in Action—Every Day

What happens in our schools each day is nothing short of remarkable. Our dedicated educators and support staff pour their energy, creativity, and expertise into their work. From classrooms to cafeterias, athletic fields to auditoriums, we witness daily acts of inspiration, perseverance, and success.

Our students continue to impress with their resilience, drive, and curiosity. They are involved, hard-working, and increasingly taking ownership of their learning and their futures. Their achievements—both academic and extracurricular—are a testament to their strength and the support they receive from home and school alike.

The Power of Family and Community

Education does not happen in a vacuum. Families are our students' first teachers and remain essential partners throughout their academic journey. Your involvement, encouragement, and high expectations make a measurable difference. We thank you for entrusting us with your children, and for collaborating with us to ensure their growth and happiness. If you have questions, please ask. Accurate information is a key to making informed decisions.

A Promise for Every Child

Above all, we want the Letchworth community to know: we are here for every child. Our mission is to advocate for each student, provide a safe and nurturing learning environment, and offer the tools and opportunities that will allow them to succeed in an ever-changing world. We appreciate your continued support, and together, we will meet the challenges of today while building a stronger school one day at a time. Our commitment to excellence and opportunity remains unwavering—and we are proud to walk this journey alongside you.

Thank you for believing in us.

**Serving with great hope,
Todd Campbell, Superintendent**



LETCHWORTH ARTISTS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACWC ALL-COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

Ten talented Letchworth High School artists were recently selected to showcase their work in the Arts Council for Wyoming County (ACWC) All-County High School Art Exhibition. This annual event highlights outstanding student artists from across the county, celebrating their creativity and dedication to the arts.

The Letchworth students featured in this year's exhibition include Olivia Gilbert, Kiarra Gilbert, Lillian Lane, Shirley Pfeiffer, Maci Weaver, Kaylyn Bradley, Kira Wantuch, Zoey Herter, Z Sommer, and Bianca Rodriguez. Their work was chosen for its artistic excellence and originality, making them stand out among their peers.

A special congratulations goes to Olivia Gilbert, who received the prestigious Director's Choice Award for 2-D Art. This recognition is a testament to her talent and hard work, and we are incredibly proud of her achievement.

We commend all ten of these students for their dedication to the arts and for representing Letchworth with creativity and passion. Their work continues to inspire our school community, and we look forward to seeing where their artistic journeys take them next!

