

WHITESBORO

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER



WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL RENAISSANCE CLUB HOSTS WINTER ACADEMIC RALLY

On February 28, the Winter Renaissance Rally was held in the high school gymnasium for students who had at least an 80% average in each of their classes during the second quarter.

Turn to page 6 to read more!

MAY 2025

**SPECIAL
BUDGET ISSUE**



**PUBLIC BUDGET
HEARING**

**TUESDAY,
MAY 6, 2025**

7:00 p.m., High School Cafeteria

**BUDGET VOTE
AND BOARD
OF EDUCATION
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY,
MAY 20, 2025**

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Parkway,
Deerfield & Marcy Schools

Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:

I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to the many exciting events that remain this year for our school community, including athletic contests, concerts, advancements and graduation. These are just a few of the many wonderful events planned for our students and their families. I look forward to seeing you there!

In this issue, you will see much attention paid to the financial plan for the upcoming year. Our goal was to develop a budget driven by our Five-Year Plan that addresses the needs of all our students and provides equitable opportunities for success.

The public budget hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. This is an opportunity for our community to learn more about our financial plan for next year and to hear from candidates seeking election to the Board of Education. The budget vote and Board of Education election will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Parkway School

65 Oriskany Blvd., Whitesboro, NY 13492

Deerfield Elementary School

115 Schoolhouse Rd., Deerfield, NY 13502

Marcy Elementary School

9479 Maynard Dr., Marcy, NY 13403

As always, thank you for your unwavering support of our District and programs. Together, we will continue to provide the best opportunities for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian K. Bellair

Superintendent of Schools



FOREIGN STUDENT DAY

On March 7, the Whitesboro High School International Club commemorated the 50th Annual Foreign Student Day.

The event welcomed 16 exchange students from diverse nations, including Thailand, Spain, France, China and Germany. The program featured a comprehensive itinerary, beginning with a welcome breakfast and introductions at Whitesboro High School, followed by a schoolwide assembly showcasing student introductions!

There was a documentary presentation by Universal Language Solutions' Kaylie Sweet and a cultural fashion show highlighting traditional attire from countries such as Afghanistan, Bosnia and Morocco. Students also participated in a traditional Moroccan game.

The afternoon included a catered lunch and classroom visits. The day culminated with a dinner dance at Club Monarch, fostering intercultural connections through dining, music and entertainment.

It was a busy day that ended in many long-lasting friendships!



PROPOSED BUDGET

The District budget vote and Board of Education election will be held on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.** at Parkway, Deerfield and Marcy schools. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, it will be enacted for the 2025-26 school year. If not passed, the Board of Education can:

- Place a revised budget before District residents for a vote.
- Place the same budget before District residents for a vote.
- Immediately adopt a contingency budget.

If a contingency budget is adopted, only ordinary contingent expenses necessary to provide the minimum services legally required to operate and maintain school buildings and the educational program, preserve the property of the District and ensure the health and safety of students and staff, are budgeted. Additionally, when on a contingency budget, school districts must charge fees to non-district organizations that use school district facilities, including groups such as little league, biddy basketball, boy scouts and girl scouts.

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

THE BALLOT WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

Be It Resolved, that the District voters be asked to approve the following propositions at the Special District Meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Election on May 20, 2025:

Budget Proposition

Shall the budget for the school year 2025–2026, in the amount of \$88,638,908, as adopted by the Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education, be approved, and a tax be levied upon the taxable property of the school district to raise same.

Proposition 1 – School Buses

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Whitesboro Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of eight (8) school buses and one (1) Suburban vehicle, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$1,494,766, less trade-in value, if any, and that such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$1,494,766 shall be issued, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method.

At such meeting, taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$1,494,766. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.

VOTER INFORMATION

TO VOTE YOU MUST BE:

- A U.S. citizen;
- A resident of the Whitesboro Central School District;
- At least 18 years old; and,
- Registered to vote with the Oneida County or Herkimer County Board of Elections

TO VOTE YOU:

- Do NOT have to own property
- Do NOT have to be a parent/guardian
- Do NOT have to have children in the school district

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

There are two (2) candidates running for two (2) seats, each for a three (3) year term.
The candidates will appear on the ballot in the following order:

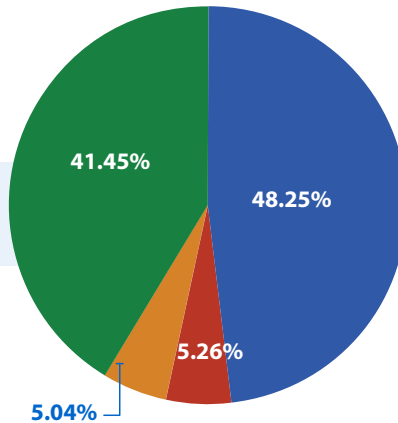
1. Steven Farr
2. Cheryl LaValley

ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

2025-26 ANTICIPATED REVENUES

	2025-2026 Estimates	%
New York State Aid	\$42,764,474	48.25%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$4,665,000	5.26%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$4,465,235	5.04%
Tax Levy	\$36,744,199	41.45%
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$88,638,908	100%

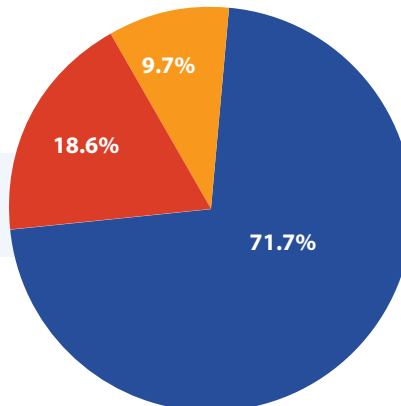
REVENUES



2025-26 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2025-2026 Estimates	%
Program	\$63,530,601	71.7%
Capital	\$16,494,907	18.6%
Administrative	\$8,613,400	9.7%
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$88,638,908	100%

EXPENDITURES



NOTICE

The Dunham Public Library budget vote and trustee election is separate and distinct from the school district propositions.

The proposed operating budget and proposition for Dunham Public Library is available at www.whitesborolibrary.org.
Please contact April L.R. Bliss at abliss@midyork.org or call (315) 736-9734 if you have questions.

BUDGET DETAIL

ADMINISTRATION

9.7 %

	2024-2025 APPROVED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Board of Education	\$72,302	\$77,677	\$5,375
Central Administration	\$2,320,328	\$2,358,283	\$37,955
Business Administration	\$791,178	\$831,880	\$40,702
Legal	\$174,147	\$172,920	(\$1,227)
Personnel	\$276,069	\$311,308	\$35,239
Records Management	\$19,080	\$22,050	\$2,970
Public Information	\$234,353	\$209,668	(\$24,685)
Other Central Services	\$1,207,859	\$1,355,674	\$147,815
Other Special Items	\$1,222,886	\$1,299,948	\$77,062
Employee Benefits	\$1,792,194	\$1,973,992	\$181,798
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$8,110,396	\$8,613,400	\$503,004

CAPITAL

18.6 %

	2024-2025 APPROVED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Operation of Plant	\$3,355,463	\$3,419,606	\$64,143
Maintenance of Plant	\$862,142	\$882,685	\$20,543
Refund on Real Property Taxes	\$15,000	\$12,000	(\$3,000)
Employee Benefits	\$2,527,805	\$2,784,223	\$256,418
Debt Service - Capital	\$8,845,563	\$9,296,393	\$450,830
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$15,705,973	\$16,494,907	\$788,934

PROGRAM

71.7 %

	2024-2025 APPROVED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Inservice Training - Instruction	\$110,200	\$94,019	(\$16,181)
Teaching - Regular School	\$40,932,484	\$42,577,493	\$1,645,009
District Transportation Services	\$4,033,107	\$4,120,440	\$87,333
Employee Benefits	\$15,183,456	\$16,723,649	\$1,540,193
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	\$15,000	\$15,000	-
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$60,274,247	\$63,530,601	\$3,256,354

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

\$84,090,616

\$88,638,908

\$4,548,292

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY COMPONENT

Total Budget 2025-2026 \$88,638,908	Program Component \$63,530,601 71.7%	Capital Component \$16,494,907 18.6%	Administrative Component \$8,613,400 9.7%
Budget-to-Budget Increase 5.41%		2025-2026 Tax Levy Increase 2.887% Tax levy limit is 2.887%.	

While the tax levy limit is often referred to as a "2% tax cap", each district is required to annually calculate their specific tax levy limit in accordance with a formula that accounts for individual district conditions and variables. For districts across New York State, this calculation rarely results in a limit of exactly 2%; calculated rates can vary as high as 6% or more. For Whitesboro CSD, the proposed tax levy increase of 2.887% does not exceed the tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority of votes for approval.

WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL RENAISSANCE CLUB HOSTS WINTER ACADEMIC RALLY

Whitesboro High School is making sure that academic excellence does not go unnoticed.

On February 28, the Winter Renaissance Rally was held in the high school gymnasium for students who had at least an 80% average in each of their classes during the second quarter. Perfect attendance was added this year as another mode of qualifying for the rally. Over 400 students who met the criteria were recognized and rewarded with pizza, nachos, a sundae station, drinks, prizes and music. Additionally, gluten free options were offered for students with dietary restrictions.

"The mission of our program is to recognize, reward and celebrate academic excellence," said David Jecko, advisor of the Renaissance Club and math teacher at the high school. "We strive to increase student performance and foster a partnership between Whitesboro High School and our community."

Fratello's Pizzeria (Marcy), Big Jay's Pizzeria (Marcy) and Tony's Pizza (Whitesboro Street in Utica) provided the pizza at a discounted rate. Stewart's Shops donated the ice cream and toppings for the sundae station, Dean's Concessions (Lisa and Tim Dean) donated the nachos and cheese, Keurig/Dr. Pepper (Charlie Canestrari) donated Snapple and Coca-Cola (Larry Deck) donated a variety of sodas. There were 42 prizes from local businesses that were given away during the event.

A big thank you to the Whitestown Youth Optimist Club for their monetary donation and assistance serving the pizza. Over 40 teachers and 16 student club members volunteered their time during the rally to check students in, scoop ice cream, serve nachos and distribute drinks.

"I would like to thank our administration, teachers and staff for their continued support of the Renaissance Rallies because without them, it would not be possible to hold these events," added Jecko.

The spring rally is scheduled to be held at Wadas Field on May 16.

Congratulations to all of the students who qualified, and in many cases, exceeded the standards set by the Renaissance Committee.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF WHITESTOWN'S STUDENT OF THE MONTH PROGRAM



On February 5, three Whitesboro students were recognized by the Optimist Club of Whitestown's Student of the Month Program at Michael T's Restaurant. The three students were Erin Gaffney, Sarah Mullen and Sawyer Michel. These students were chosen based on their academic standing, participation in school activities, community service/volunteering and for taking on leadership roles in their school and community.

Congratulations, Erin, Sarah and Sawyer!

Class of 2025 Highest Honors Students Announced



It is my pleasure to announce the following students as the Highest Honors Graduates for the Whitesboro High School Class of 2025:

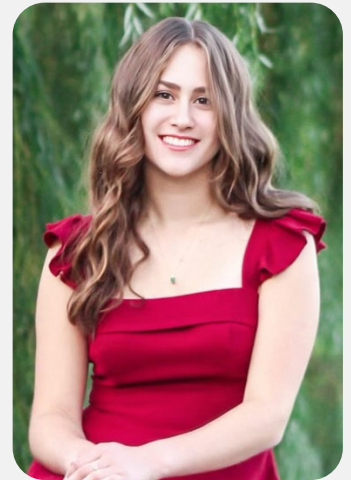
Erin Gaffney – **Valedictorian**

Sarah Mullen – **Salutatorian**

Madeline Aiello
Hailey Attilio
Kaidan Fischer
Kathleen Gaffney
Erin Howlett
Daniel Kiszelewski
Avery Klein
Gabriella Kuliesius

Olivia Maynard
Sawyer Michel
Reid O'Bryan
Seth Stevens
Anthony Tobiasz
Tiffany Warner
Connor Wiggins
Matthew Yardley

Congratulations to all of you on this accomplishment.
- Mr. Cognetti



HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION INFORMATION SESSION

In conjunction with the OHM BOCES Teacher Ambassador Program, Whitesboro High School science teacher Sean Ryan hosted a meeting for students considering a career in education. During his presentation, he shared his positive experiences as an educator and emphasized some of the benefits of considering a career in public education.

In addition to sharing his own experiences, Mr. Ryan took time to interview teachers from throughout the Whitesboro CSD, including middle and elementary school educators. Mr. Ryan also highlighted former Whitesboro students who have returned to work in the District. High School Principal Dave Cognetti also joined the discussion to share his experiences and answer any questions from students.

The group will meet again in upcoming weeks to continue the conversation and discuss potential internship or job shadowing opportunities.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESENTATION

On April 11, Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol, joined by members of the Sheriff's office as well as Whitesboro Superintendent Dr. Brian Bellair and other school officials, held a press conference at the Whitesboro High School to inform the public about the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's 2025 "No Empty Chair" campaign, designed to keep young drivers safe.

Dr. Bellair opened up the event by emphasizing the importance of avoiding destructive decisions while driving. He also made sure to remind students of how proud he is of them and what exciting events are in their near future, such as prom, graduation and moving into the next steps in their lives.

Several Whitesboro High School students spoke at the event, reinforcing messages from the Sheriff and Dr. Bellair. Student speakers were introduced by high school Principal Dave Cognetti, and included Brian Withers (senior class president), Gavyn Burgdoff (student council officer) and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) members Noah Dow, Skye Buffa and Joey Perras.

Thank you to the Oneida County Sheriff's Department and all Whitesboro students and faculty that participated!



BALL IN THE HOUSE CONCERT

On March 25, the Whitesboro music department proudly presented the 11th installment of the Richard and Helen Robinson Concert Series.

This year's performance featured the return of Boston-based a cappella group Ball in the House. The group held workshops during the day with all music students from Whitesboro High School, choral students from Whitesboro Middle School and visiting chamber choirs from Clinton, Holland Patent, Sauquoit Valley, Waterville and Westmoreland.

The evening concert included a performance by each chamber choir, a set from Ball in the House and a grand finale with all singers performing together.

The Richard & Helen Robinson Concert Series began in honor of a beloved educator and administrator in the Whitesboro Central School District, Mr. Dick Robinson. The music department was especially close to his heart, as Dick was an avid musician throughout his life. Because of that, he worked tirelessly to promote music education for students. Donations from Dick's family, following his passing in 2011, sparked the idea for the inaugural concert in 2012. After Helen's unexpected passing in June of 2014, it seemed fitting to memorialize both Dick and Helen through this concert series.

We hope to continue this tradition in Whitesboro for many years to come!



WHITESBORO VISUAL ARTS

On January 21, out of around 4,500 pieces, 50 awards were received by Whitesboro students in the Annual Scholastic Art Competition. The artworks were displayed at Onondaga Community College and many of these works will be displayed in our District Art Show at our high school on May 9.

Two students were acknowledged with special awards. Madeline Aiello, a senior, received a Silver Key Award for her portfolio. Eighth grader Trinity Stacy received the Sage Scholar's Best 3D Jr. High Award.

All Gold Key pieces will go on to be judged at the national level. All of the hard work and efforts of our students, parents, faculty, department, administration, Board of Education and the community create the atmosphere for this to happen. We appreciate everyone's support and guidance and those who volunteered for judging, hanging the show and working at the award ceremony.

Congratulations!

MOHAWK VALLEY STEM EXPLORATION SHOWCASE

On March 18, Whitesboro Middle School technology students attended and competed in the 21st Annual Mohawk Valley STEM Exploration Showcase at Mohawk Valley Community College. Students exhibited their work and participated in various competitions, including 3D Printing, Computer-Aided Design, CO2 Cars, Balsa Bridges and Projectile Devices.

Students in attendance: Ryan Antanavage, Brennan Belfield, Freddie Castronovo, Shayne Cavanaugh, Ethan Chicherchia, Ella Cidzik, Ronnie Ellis, Felix Hallam, Cooper Hirschey, Caleb Ingro, Leo Jerome, Jason Malagese, Jack Murphy, Michael Piekelnik, Haris Sahnici, Allison Williams



Competition winners:

Projectile Devices

Third place - Leo Jerome, Jack Murphy

Balsa Bridges

Second place - Jack Murphy

Third place - Caleb Ingro



Whitesboro Middle School Hosts Powerful Holocaust Presentation by 3GNY

On March 27, the Whitesboro Middle School hosted a guest speaker from 3GNY. This non-profit organization was founded by the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors to honor and preserve their legacies. Dillon Horowitz spoke to eighth grade students about his grandmother's life and explained why he continues to share her story.

Having newly started their social studies WWII and English Holocaust units, this assembly was very engaging and impactful for all. One student said, "I felt very touched by hearing this real life story. When the speaker was telling us the story about his grandma, it made me think about the reality of what people had to go through." Another shared, "When we were learning about the horrible things that happened during the Holocaust, I couldn't really put it into perspective until we went to the assembly and heard someone's story."

The District would like to thank 3GNY for bringing primary sources to life. Integrating this presentation into our curriculum this year was an invaluable educational experience.

OCMEA Elementary All-County Festival

On March 4 and 5, select fifth and sixth grade students from Whitesboro Elementary and Parkway Schools proudly represented their schools at the 2025 OCMEA Elementary All-County Festival, joining peers from across Oneida County for this exciting musical event held at Sauquoit High School.

Over the course of the weekend, these talented young musicians collaborated with a guest conductor and participated in one of three ensembles: orchestra, chorus or concert band. It was an incredible opportunity for our students to showcase their skills, learn from new experiences and make music with fellow students from across the county. Bravo to all who participated!



-2025 MIOSM CONCERT-



On March 10, members of the Whitesboro fifth and sixth grade orchestra/band and eighth grade wind ensemble performed their annual Music in Our Schools Month concert.

The orchestra, directed by Mrs. Millicent Ruggio, was comprised of select fifth and sixth grade students from Deerfield Elementary; Hart's Hill Elementary, taught by Mrs. Lauralee Driscoll; Marcy Elementary, taught by Mrs. Charity Dreier; Westmoreland Road Elementary, taught by Mrs. Margaret Tallman; and Parkway Middle School, taught by Miss Janelle Conklin. The orchestra was accompanied by Mrs. Cate Jerome of Hart's Hill.

The Whitesboro band, directed by Mrs. Erin Joslin, was comprised of select fifth and sixth grade students from Deerfield, taught by Mrs. Jessica Decker; Hart's Hill; Marcy; Westmoreland Road, taught by Miss Elissa Murphy; and Parkway Middle School, taught by Mrs. Erin Joslin.

The eighth grade wind ensemble, directed by Mrs. Nicole Williams, ended the evening's concert.

Congratulations to all students and teachers on a wonderful evening of music!



Deerfield Elementary LEPRECHAUN MARCH

Kindergarten students at Deerfield Elementary School celebrated St. Patrick's Day with their traditional Leprechaun March!

Students worked together to practice and review our weekly poem in a rhythmic tune. Using their developing listening skills, students followed step-by-step directions to make their own mask to wear. Kindergarten students showcased their speaking skills by performing the march through the school in front of various groups of students.

The students and teachers in different grade levels look forward to this kindergarten tradition each year.



Deerfield Students Celebrate Music in Our Schools Month



March is Music in Our Schools Month, and Deerfield third and fourth grade students took some time to reflect on why music is important in their lives. Students were asked to decorate a shamrock to represent why music is important to them, and their creations were put on display on a bulletin board in the hallway for all Deerfield students and staff to enjoy. Students chose to draw their favorite instruments or music symbols they have learned in class, and some chose to write down their personal feelings about music or their favorite singer. It's not a "sham" - music rocks!

HART'S HILL KINDERGARTEN READINESS NIGHT

On March 26, parents and guardians of incoming kindergarten students for the 2025-2026 school year were invited to Hart's Hill Elementary School for Kindergarten Parent Readiness Night.

The event aimed to provide a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where parents could access instructional resources, learn about kindergarten readiness and ask questions in preparation for a successful parent-school partnership.

The evening began with a presentation by Principal Mr. Manolescu, who outlined district and school procedures. Following the presentation, parents were given a tour of the school and had the opportunity to meet and greet with both teachers and support staff at designated tables in a casual, open environment within the gymnasium.



COFFEE CUP FLOOR HOCKEY GAME

On March 21, Westmoreland Road Elementary School held their annual fifth grade floor hockey Coffee Cup Championship game. Prior to the game, students played hard during a round-robin tournament in physical education classes and during recess. Heart and hustle went into many hard-fought games.

Representing the boys in the Championship game were the Underdogs vs. the Sharkinators. The girls game was between the California Girls and the Cacaws. Congratulations to the winners, the Sharkinators and the Cacaws!

Coach Temple, Coach Lenard, players and spectators would like to thank the Utica Comets for teaming up with us this year and sending two Comets players to help with the Championship games.



KINDNESS BAGS

**HART'S HILL DONATES 80+ KINDNESS
BAGS TO HOPE HOUSE**

With the help of generous contributions from parents and the community, Hart's Hill has donated over 80 Kindness Bags to men and women at the Hope House in Utica.

Thank you to the New Hartford Hannaford for their donation of reusable bags. Additionally, thank you to Mrs. Ryan and Ms. Castano for their time and effort putting the bags together and dropping them off at the Hope House.



All About the Heart at **THE ROAD**



On February 24, Westmoreland Road Elementary School kicked off their participation in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge!

The Kids Heart Challenge is more than just a fundraiser; it's a powerful service-learning program that empowers students to make a difference while learning about the importance of taking care of yourself, in body and mind. By joining forces with the American Heart Association, we're not only raising vital funds for their mission, but we're also equipping our students with essential knowledge and skills to lead healthier lives.

During the two weeks of fundraising, students learned all about the heart in physical education classes. Each student practiced in hands-only CPR, heart obstacle courses and learned about general heart health!

Westmoreland Road's Kids Heart Challenge Finale was on March 10. Westmoreland Road raised an amazing \$4,074 for the American Heart Association. To celebrate, teachers and students participated in relay races against one another. During the assembly, there was a classroom Warmie giveaway along with other special prizes for those who registered.

Over the past two years, Westmoreland Road has raised over \$10,000. Way to go! Special thanks to Mrs. Laurie Schmidt from the American Heart Association for all of her help and support, as well as Coach Lenard for organizing this phenomenal event!



MARCY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Shine at The Brain Show!

Marcy Elementary students gathered for a one-of-a-kind assembly that turned learning into an unforgettable gameshow experience! The Brain Show, an engaging and educational event, took center stage to showcase how education can be both cool and fun.

The Brain Show brought the thrill of a live TV gameshow right into the school's gymnasium. With colorful podiums, flashing lights and energetic sound effects, students were immediately transported into the world of fast-paced trivia, laughter and learning. The atmosphere was electric, and it was clear that every student was eager to participate. The students even learned some new dance moves!

The gameshow format kept everyone engaged. As students buzzed in to answer questions, they not only tested their knowledge but also demonstrated teamwork, quick thinking and problem-solving skills. Teachers got in on the fun too by supporting the students and creating a collaborative atmosphere that united the whole school.

Marcy Elementary School's fun continued into the evening event where all families were able to participate and compete against each other! The students, staff and parents had an unforgettable time during The Brain Show!



CANVAS & COOKIES EVENT CULMINATES PARP AT MARCY ELEMENTARY



On February 7, Marcy Elementary's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) organized a special event called "Canvas and Cookies" to tie into our Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) theme, "Groovin' to Reading."

About 120 students from grades K-5 participated in the evening event. The students were split into six different rooms with directed paintings that consisted of a groovy sun, lava lamp, disco ball, swirls and flowers, shiny sun and a peace sign hand! Our young artists enjoyed delicious cookies while they worked on their masterpieces. The event was a wonderful success and it provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to unleash their creativity. It was truly a joy to see our students express themselves and explore their creativity!

Thank you to our volunteers who led a painting tutorial and assisted with the event. It also served as a way to culminate our two weeks of PARP. Over 150 students read nightly for at least 20 minutes for two weeks straight!

Congratulations to our Marcy students for their hard work!

2025 MARCY KINDERGARTEN INCOMING PARENT NIGHT

On March 13, incoming kindergarten students enjoyed pizza, vegetables and cookies while getting to see their new classmates for next year.

The kindergarten teachers are Miss Smith, Miss Sherline and Mrs. Leogrande. Marcy Principal Mr. Rothdiener kicked off the night with a group welcome. Then, each of the three current kindergarten teachers shared some information with the parents, such as what kindergarten screening will consist of, upcoming events to look forward to in the fall and what the kindergarten curriculum will entail for them.

The students were welcomed into a classroom and the library where they participated in a variety of activities. In the classroom, they listened to the story, "The Very Lazy Ladybug," and then helped to act out the story. They were also able to take turns touching the dice on the smartboard to get dots to put on their ladybug. In the library, students made ladybug hats and beaded bracelets.

While the kids were busy, the parents were able to go on a tour of the school and visit staff members that had stations set up around the cafeteria. The stations included math, OT/PT, speech and language, reading, meeting the school nurse, social/emotional support staff and an ICAN specialist.

The event is held as a way to make a positive first impression on the students to help ease their nerves about starting kindergarten in the fall.



THE WHITESBORO BOYS NORDIC SKI TEAM ARE SECTION III CHAMPIONS!

On February 15, the Whitesboro boys Nordic ski team competed in the Section III Championships. The students who competed were Tyler Burt, Evan DeStefanis, Calvin Cooley, Alex Phelps, Nick Phelps, Matthew Ryan and Seth Stevens, led by Coach Mike Fahy.

Seth Stevens took first place as the overall boys individual champion!

Congratulations to Coach Mike Fahy and his team!



AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION KIDS HEART CHALLENGE MARCY ELEMENTARY PIE IN THE FACE CHALLENGE

Marcy Elementary School was one of the many schools that participated in the Kids Heart Challenge for the American Heart Association this year!

Marcy set the ambitious goal of raising \$1,500 for the American Heart Association, attempting to beat last year's fundraising efforts. We not only surpassed our goal, but raised an astounding \$6,469! To celebrate our efforts, Marcy students and faculty gathered in the gymnasium to attend a "Pie in the Face" assembly, where top-fundraising students were given the special privilege of "pie-ing" their teachers in the face!

Our efforts also garnered the attention of several local media outlets who covered the event. Fifteen Marcy teachers and staff members volunteered to get in on the fun of being "pied," including Marcy Principal Mr. Rothdiener!

This exciting event was a fun-filled way to end two weeks of fundraising and celebrate our students for far exceeding their expectations. Marcy is looking forward to taking the Kids Heart Challenge next year, in hopes to raise even more money to support the American Heart Association.

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts!



2025 SECTION III GYMNASTICS STATE CHAMPIONS

On March 1, the Whitesboro girls gymnastics team competed with fellow Section III gymnasts at the NYSPHSAA Championship, held at Clarence High School in Buffalo, after qualifying at sectionals on October 25.

Section III won the Team State Championship title with a score of 186.55 over second place Section I with a score of 186.325.

Members of the State Championship team included 12th grader Lily Wehrle, 11th graders Karley Hughes and Genevieve Michel and eighth grader Abby Lipe. Other members of the team were representatives from New Hartford, Sauquoit, Oriskany, Central Square, Jamesville Dewitt and Fayetteville Manlius.



Congratulations to Coach Kelly Smith, our student-athletes and the rest of the Section III team on this amazing accomplishment!



TOBIASZ AND PAWLOWSKI COMPETE IN TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS



On March 8, Anthony Tobiasz and Xavier Pawlowski competed at the NYSPHSAA/NYS Federation Indoor Track and Field Championships at Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island.

Xavier Pawlowski competed in the 300-meter dash. He finished in 17th place overall with a time of 35.41, which is the second fastest time in school history!

Anthony Tobiasz competed in shot put. He finished 15th place overall with a throw of 49-5. During the meet, Anthony was honored with the 2024-2025 NYSPHSAA Section III Sportsmanship Award. The award is voted on by the Section III Indoor Track Committee and is awarded to the student-athlete who exemplifies sportsmanship qualities throughout the season.



Congratulations and thank you to Coach Todd Boudreau and Coach Tyler Sutton for your hard work and dedication to our student-athletes during the winter season!

Whitesboro's Kevin George Picks Colgate, Following Family Legacy

Kevin George, a standout lineman from Whitesboro, had one NCAA Division I football program at the top of his list. He grew up a fan of Colgate University in Hamilton, so unsurprisingly, he always dreamed of becoming a Raider. Kevin (class of 2026) made his college plans official on March 25, 2025, announcing his commitment to Colgate via his social media accounts.

Academically, he plans to focus on finance/economics, and Colgate had top programs in those fields. He made the 45-minute trip from Whitesboro to visit the Colgate campus in early March and met the coaches and players. He found everyone he encountered to be welcoming, and felt an overall strong sense of family at the college.

Kevin's parents are Colgate alumni, which is where his love for the school began. His father Luke George, a standout in the mid-1990s for the Whitesboro football team, earned All-Patriot League honors twice and was named All-American as a senior in 1999 with the Raiders.

On the field, the 6-foot-2, 295-pound Kevin is coming off of his junior season in which he was named to the Section III Class A first-team and second team All-State. He was an anchor on the offensive line for Whitesboro, which racked up more than 3,000 rushing yards and 2,100 passing yards. Defensively, Kevin totaled 35.5 tackles in 2024. In late February, he was named the number one interior offensive lineman in New York State by Prep RedZone, a recruiting resource. Kevin has started 28 varsity games, helping Whitesboro make back-to-back appearances in the state Class A title game. Whitesboro has a 25-3 record over the last two seasons.

Whitesboro football coach Curtis Schmidt said that the timing was right for Kevin to make a decision and that he was proud of his extremely hard work. Coach Schmidt describes Kevin as a great kid, always smiling, but very aggressive when he gets on the field.

With the 2024 season behind him, Kevin now sets his sights on a strong senior year, building towards his Colgate career.



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The Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Meetings are held at the Administration Building at 65 Oriskany Blvd. in Whitesboro, or at one of the school buildings in the District. Visit www.wboro.org/boemeeting for the complete meeting schedule.



PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025,
AT PARKWAY, DEERFIELD OR MARCY SCHOOLS.