



**SAUQUOIT VALLEY™**

**Central School District**

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**David Stayton**

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January 13, 2026

Dear Red Hawk Families,

As we continue to look for ways to strengthen our district while being responsible stewards of district resources, we are exploring a proposal to move our 7th and 8th grade students into the high school building beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. This change would allow us to use our campus more efficiently, provide new opportunities for students, and generate additional revenue for our district.

Currently, our district operates three buildings on one campus: the elementary school (K–4), the middle school (5–8), and the high school (9–12). Under this proposal, grades 7 and 8 would shift into the high school, creating a dedicated “junior high” space within that building. Grades 5 and 6 would remain in the middle school at this time, but will likely relocate into the elementary building in the near future.

We know that middle school is a unique and important stage in a child’s development. To protect that experience, 7th and 8th graders would have their own area within the high school, including classrooms and lockers. They would continue to enjoy middle-level activities, extracurriculars, and athletics designed specifically for their age group, while benefiting from access to high school resources.

This move also brings exciting academic advantages. Students would have the opportunity to begin advanced coursework earlier, take part in specialized electives, and connect with teachers across grades 7–12 more seamlessly. In short, it allows us to better prepare our students for the future.

While this proposal will create long-term financial efficiencies, it is important to emphasize that our primary goal is not simply to save money. We are pursuing this course to ensure the long-term sustainability of SVCS— to protect our programs, retain our talented staff, and maintain our identity as an independent district. By using our space and resources more strategically, we can strengthen our financial footing and proactively guard against potential mergers that could compromise our local control and community character.

In addition to these sustainability benefits, we would also be able to rent a portion of our middle school to OHM BOCES, generating revenue to support our programs and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers.

We recognize that any change comes with questions and concerns, and we want to approach this process with full transparency and community input. On **January 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium**, we will host an information session and the opportunity for families to ask questions and share feedback. Later this week, we will distribute a survey to obtain your thoughts and to help inform our discussion on January 27.

Our goal is simple: to ensure that our students receive the very best education in an environment where they feel safe, supported, and challenged. We believe this proposal can strengthen our district educationally and financially, and we look forward to working together as a community to make the best decision for our children.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools.

Sincerely,

David Stayton