



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

QUARTER III - 2026

BE IN THE KNOW

Winter Vacation Monday, February 23rd - Tuesday, March 3rd

Academic Course Fair
Friday, March 6th

Friendly Reminder for Seniors
Check the Senior Google Classroom & Order Your Cap/Gown Gown by Monday, March 13th

Launch of Course Selection For Students
Week of March 16th

VTCAP Testing for Freshman & Juniors
Week of March 16th

Family/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, March 19th & click on this [link](#) to access Pick A Time. If you are having IT Issues with Pick A Time, reach out to Natalie Soffen at nsoffshs@buusd.org

Professional Development - NO School for Students Friday, March 20th

Spring Sports Tryouts
Week of March 23rd

Professional Development: Early Release Day Tuesday, March 24th

Norwich University Early College Visit on Tuesday, March 25th

Quarter III Marking Periods Ends
Friday, April 3rd

Extracurricular/Club Picture Day
Wednesday, April 8th

Recipients of the Dr. Reynolds & York Scholarships will be announced the Week of April 13th

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Members of the BUUSD Community,

Our school budget reflects our community's shared commitment to students, fiscal responsibility, and long-term stability. This proposed budget is designed to protect high-quality instruction, maintain safe and supportive learning environments, and responsibly manage rising costs while being mindful of the impact on taxpayers.

At its core, this budget prioritizes students. It sustains classroom learning, academic supports, and essential services that help every child succeed. It also preserves critical staffing, supports student well-being, and ensures our schools remain safe, welcoming places for learning.

Equally important, this budget represents careful stewardship of public funds. Every dollar has been reviewed with an emphasis on efficiency, alignment to district goals, and long-term sustainability. We have worked diligently to balance educational needs with financial realities, avoiding unnecessary expenditures while planning responsibly for the future.

Strong schools strengthen our entire community—supporting families, local employers, and property values. Your support of this budget is an investment in our children and in the continued vitality of our community.

Thank you for your partnership and your continued support of our schools. Please exercise your right to vote. Our kids, our future!

JoAn Canning
Superintendent of Schools

below VT Air National Guard provides an overview on potential pathways within the aviation and emergency responder fields with JROTC, WBL, & Montpelier students.



right Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors explore their options with Community College of Vermont with Sarah Kresser who is in the center.



Watch Us Rise

Whether it be for a good cause, a chance to explore potential pathways, and/or learn about subject matter, students will rise for the occasion as members of Modern Band: Gavin, Andy, & Seamus (**left**) did for the VT Foodbank.





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY



Family first is always at the forefront for **Emilia Poczobut**, Class of 2028. Even though, her brother Alex is an Early College Student at *Norwich University*, she appreciates the academic options that *Spaulding High School* provides her, along with having the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

"I want to be challenged and I enjoy my courses, especially starting my day with **Mr. Booth** (known to many students as Bobby) in Band. Emilia quantifies Bobby's approach to teaching as a blend of artistic flair, practicality in terms of learning how to play an instrument, and embracing life's lessons. She credits Bobby in terms of inspiring her to become a multi-instrumentalist and making powerful connections with his students as if Band was their own unique family.

"I want classes where I can learn, engage with my teachers, and increase my knowledge or skill set," such was the case with Emilia joining volleyball. This was the start of a new beginning, not just for Emilia but for *Spaulding High School's* sports program. Again as her face lights up, "I love **Dawn Poitras & PJ LaPerle** (her Volleyball coaches) because they take the time out to make connections with us as new players." She mentioned that both coaches meet her teammates where they are with the hopes of making progress not only as a skilled athlete, but as a student athlete who demonstrates sportsmanship. She encourages others to join because its an inclusive group of people who continue to grow as a team.



"I enjoy being active and outdoors!" stated Freshman **Owen Thompson**.

So much so, you can often find him at Trow Hill Park for pick up games with his neighbors or his peers that he has formed relationships with this past semester.

"Trow Hill Park has been a great outlet during the warm weather," stated Owen. In his opinion it gives him the chance to improve upon his skills and encourages him to focus. He also referenced his time being outdoors with his dogs, especially Sage, who is only 4 years old and she is still learning.

He recognized even though school at times may not be his jam, he appreciates his teachers like **Ms. Coleman** because she took the time to help him with Algebra I and she did not give up on him. As for having Study Hall this year between Blocks 1 & 2, Owen stated, "**Mr. Holmes** is chill" as his Study Hall Teacher because he respects all of his students by providing words of encouragement and modeling what it means to be a student athlete. But what he truly likes is being in Mr. Holmes Physical Education Classes and hopes to join another class taught by **Ms. DiFilippo**, so he can continue to maintain a healthy and an active lifestyle, especially if you are someone like Owen who wants to keep moving.

For Owen, he has begun to foster relationships with his teachers and recognizes they do care. He gives a shout out to **Mrs. Bonoyer** or fondly referred by many students as Tracy from Tide Pool because she helps students be academically and socially successful. And this means the world to Owen and his peers.

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

A Rock Solid Education for a Lifetime of Discovery Our Seasoned *History & Social Sciences Teacher, Ms. Buck* is on a mission... to not only educate and foster future historians, but having students be better informed about their academic options as they plan out their futures.

Over the years, she has seen changes within departments and felt that this year would be a great chance for her to seek out support from her colleagues in order to create an Academic Fair.

Why? Well why not?

"It's time for us to promote what is available within our own building, along with educating our own colleagues of the variety course offerings," stated Ms. Buck.

In turn, Ms. Buck has set up a series of events for students to learn about what education, experiences, and training are available to Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors as they plan out their high school career. She credits the support of the entire school and Administration.

"It may be our 1st pancake," stated Ms. Buck, "but at least we are trying" by having the first Academic Advisory Kickoff before vacation on Monday, February 16th as the kickoff to get students to start thinking what is possible.

Let's just say it gave colleagues like **Mrs. Carpenter** a chance to educate students about how *Spaulding* offers Driver's Education to students free as long as they meet course requirements and adhere to professional expectations in regards to safety.



In addition, Seniors **Ella Collins** & **Mia Dolan** shared out their academic experiences at the Academic Advisory Kickoff. They attributed their academic success was due to taking advantage of *Flexible Pathways* whether it be using a Dual Enrollment Voucher in order to take a college class, spending one's Junior Year at a CTE Program, or experiencing your Senior year at *Spaulding* and joining Work Based Learning Programming.

Underclassmen: **Andy Evans, Leah Spaulding, & David Valsangiacomo** concurred and

also cited the valuable experiences of being involved in the school community by taking advantage of not only course offerings, but the variety of extracurriculars and using AM Block as another way to seek academic support.

Mr. Dunlea echoed this again, noting "we; including **Mrs. Franks** from the *Phoenix Program* are here to serve you." He noted through collaboration and referral with a student's School Counselor, the *Phoenix Program* may be a pathway for some students by reducing barriers.

In the end, Director of School Counseling, **Mr. Cate** reminded students to seek out their School Counselor and start planning their future by checking out the Program of Studies and participate in the planned Academic Fair on Friday, March 6th to learn about course offerings from each department.

As Ms. Buck continues to state, "*Spaulding* has great course offerings, amazing teachers, and wonderful students. Let's celebrate and highlight all that gives us Tide Pride."



What **E²T**s are available to me at Spaulding? education, experiences, & training

Our mission is to prepare YOU for success in an ever-changing world.

We do this by providing a wide range of learning opportunities for **YOU** to engage in rigorous & meaningful coursework, learning experiences to enhance **YOUR** interests and skills, and flexible opportunities to access **YOUR** education.

In turn, check out the Program of Studies, engage in conversation with your School Counselor, and start planning **YOUR** future.

Academic Courses	Career Technical Education	Early College	Virtual Learning	Work Based Learning
 <p>Challenge YOURSELF by enrolling in an Advanced Placement Course and/or take advantage of using 2 Dual Enrollment Vouchers during your Junior or Senior years by enrolling in a college course either on campus (Concurrent), virtually, or in person at a local post secondary institution.</p>	 <p>Opportunity for YOU to gain the knowledge, training and skills within a technical field based upon YOUR career aspirations.</p>	 <p>For SENIORS who are Academically ready to enroll in a full year of college schedule outside of your courses at an accredited regular school day? then college, such as with <i>Norwich Virtual Learning</i> is an option for those who may have a scheduling conflict.</p>	 <p>Are YOU interested in supplementing YOUR Aspirations & participate in programming on/off campus throughout the year.</p>	 <p>Enroll in a WBL Course that supports YOUR Aspirations & participate in programming on/off campus throughout the year.</p>
ECCPS	Extracurricular Activities	Field Trips	Governor's Institutes of Vermont	
 <p>Participate in a 1 day on campus/offsite Employee, Career/College Panels to help YOU make clear, informed choices about YOUR future by learning about the process needed to obtain the skills to be a part of the 21st century workplace through Work Based Learning.</p>	 <p>Do What You Love & Engage in YOUR confidence by participating in an off campus experience - a few clubs and/or organizations that keep your spirit going and test out a few leadership positions within and beyond the walls of <i>Spaulding High School</i>.</p>	 <p>Expand YOUR horizons & further build YOUR interests beyond the academic classroom.</p>	 <p>Empower YOURSELF through the Winter/Summer by applying to either an Art, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Global Issues & Youth Activism, Health & Medicine, Mathematical Sciences, Technology & Design, or Weather & Climate Science Institute.</p>	

SPREADING TIDE PRIDE



The Way We See It Even though the holiday season has passed, members of *Spaulding High School* are cognizant of the needs within their community, especially around food insecurity and those who are experiencing health issues.

Member of Modern Band, **Gavin Sickles**, *Class of 2026* encourages all students to participate in performances whether it be acting, being a stagehand for productions, embracing one's talent with an instrument, or singing.

He noted Modern Band meets daily and it's "just a great way to be with like minded people who support YOU," but he recognized they also wanted to make an impact too. In turn, members of Modern Band and their creative minds began to brainstorm programming by sponsoring a benefit concert.

When asked why this type of performance, *Junior & Student Council Officer*, **Andy Evans** stated with a strong conviction, "...it's for a great cause and why not showcase my classmates' talents, such as **Jericho Beaudoin**, *Class of 2027* who performed a solo and awed the crowd. Check out his soulful performance by clicking on this [link](#).

"I wanted the community to come out for an evening, enjoy some music, and help out the *Vermont Foodbank*," stated Andy.

And let's just say their peers and community rocked the Don Lessard Auditorium out and raised \$1,772 and 872 lbs of food for the *Vermont Foodbank*. For those interested in viewing their performance, click on this [link](#) provided by **Mr. Eaton**, *Our Echo photographer*.

In addition in the spirit of *Think Pink/Nights of Hope* during Winter Sports, alumni, **Jess Van Orman**, *Class of 2001* & **Tina Lunt**, *Class of 1998* and several hockey parents like them, spearheaded a series of Pink the Rink events from Chuck A Puck, Basket Raffles, I Honor Signs, and 50/50 Raffles. They did this not for recognition, but like Modern Band because they care. Over the years, Winter Athletes have rallied for raising awareness about breast cancer, but in the past 6 years, we have focused within Tide Nation by helping our own. Funds often have gone to a family by either honoring their privacy, helping a student earn a *Make a Wish*, honoring a longtime *Spaulding* colleague & alum, **Al Wilmott**, donated to *American Cancer Society*, or supported a love's request for an In Memory Scholarship.



After chatting with Jess on the phone, we all concur - we are better together with giving families time with their loved ones and helping them out during a time of need. At press time, the amount of funds raised for this cause totals over \$2,450 and funds will be donated to *Cancer Patient Support Fund* and/or remain in the *Nights of Hope Fund* for a future family in need.

Again, we are so fortunate to have amazing community who cares.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

You can request an Absentee Ballot to be mailed to you through the City & Town Clerk or the My Voter Page online at mvp.vermont.gov

- Call the Barre City Clerk at (802) 476-0242 OR Call the Barre Town Clerk at (802) 479-9391

Budget History Over Time

	Estimated Tax Rate					
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Expenses	\$46,352,501 2.9% Increase	\$47,254,319 1.95% Increase	\$49,615,634 4.5% Increase	\$53,308,337 7.4% Increase	\$55,949,143 4.95% Increase	\$57,829,257 3.36% Increase
Per Pupil	\$15,334	\$16,252	\$17,978	*\$11,415	\$11,476	\$12,982
Tax Rates						
BC	1.426	1.31	1.40	1.416	1.393	1.457
BT	1.228	1.17	1.21	1.248	1.199	1.428

*Equalized Pupils changed to LTWADM Yield determined in May by Legislature
 The reassessment to determine Barre City CLA will be completed in late spring

Do you Qualify for a Tax Credit?

Scan to use the 2026
Property Tax Credit Calculator



For details and questions about the proposed FY27 budget:

buusd.org/budget

SAVE THE DATE Wednesday, March 2nd | Spaulding High School Library | 155 Ayers Street in Barre at 5:30PM

Annual Meeting where the community will have the opportunity to vote on important articles that are not included in the Australian Ballot. This is a significant event for the community, as it allows residents to directly participate in our local governance and decision making. During the meeting, the Moderator will present the articles, and community members present will vote on the floor. **Must be present to vote.**

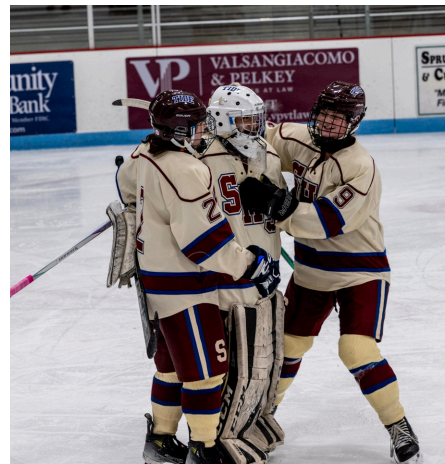
SNAPSHOTS FROM WINTER SPORTS



above Leaps and bounds from Noah as he goes for the shot. **left** Adeline not only soars through her Freshman year, but also at the annual UVM Indoor Track competition.



above Boys corner and crush their opponent on the ice. **below** Eva & Tayla hug Gabby after a successful save.



left Quinn focuses at the foul line as Mia provides back up after the shot.



above Max embodies the tenets of the wrestling program and continues to leave an indelible mark on the program. **left** Unsure what will happen next, #4 from North Country is not willing to let Keino to capture the ball.

Semester I Robert Burdett Recipients



Spaulding High School was pleased to recognize the following recipients of the *Robert M. Burdett Memorial Award* for Semester I from 2025. This award is named after former Principal Robert M. Burdett (1971-1979), who believed in the “unsung hero.” The award is presented each semester to students who contribute to the positive atmosphere of the school. It recognizes students in four different categories:

- Unsung Hero
- Good Citizen
- Exceptional Growth/Improvement
- Exceptional Perseverance/Resilience

12th Grade Onyx Lewis **11th Grade** Lily Charbonneau, Halie Dezotell, Tristannah Dodge, Nick French, Abbey Glassford, Cailea Hosking, Easton Lewis, Rylee Pelletier, Zachary Premont, Kamryn Soffen, & Audrey Valle **10th Grade** Bentley Bancroft, Jordan Blondin, Mya Grandfield, Zeke Harrell, Ava Hull, Joss Jewett, Isabella Johnson, Rosie Johnson, Phalyn Larrabee, Ava Morey, Mia Vitagliano, & Gavin Walther **9th Grade** Brayden Berard, Ziva Covey, Wyatt Fuller, Astella Godwin, Emmett Hellien, Kaitlyn Howard, Shaelyn McGowen, Max Pelletier, Kyla Plant, Bridget Sheeran, Alice Smith, & Eva Van Orman

We are constantly amazed and proud of our community.



This year **Jason Perez** (Band), **Emilia Poczobut**, **Sydney Schaller** (Band), **Leah Spaulding** (Chorus), & **Lilah Thurston** (Chorus) were selected to participate in either of the annual music festival: *All State New England Music Festival of the Arts* and/or *Winooski Valley*. These types of experiences give our students the chance to engage with peers across the region, to perform, and learn from respected directors and conductors.

