HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL

HOME OF THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS

EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR LIFELONG GROWTH

BUDGET HEARING
MAY 5
6 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL
LIBRARY

BUDGET VOTE
MAY 19
10 A.M. - 8 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL
GYMNASIUM

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

PROPOSED 2026-27 BUDGET
$45,330,604

CURRENT 2025-26 BUDGET
$42,007,335

BUDGET INCREASE
$3,323,269

TAX LEVY INCREASE
3.25%

The Holland Patent Central School District is proud to announce the standard-bearers for the Class of 2026. Representing the class as valedictorian is **Teagyn Jones**, daughter of Casey and Gail Jones of Barneveld.



Teagyn will graduate at the top of her class with an outstanding 99.58 weighted grade-point average. She has earned her place as valedictorian while completing an Advanced Regents Diploma and successfully finishing Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) and SUPA dual-enrollment courses, along with multiple Advanced Placement courses. Teagyn has consistently demonstrated academic excellence, earning high honor roll recognition throughout her high school career. Her dedication to learning and willingness to challenge herself academically speak volumes about her determination and commitment to success.

Beyond the classroom, Teagyn has built an impressive record of leadership and service within the Holland Patent High School community. She has served as president of the National Honor Society from 2025–26 and as president of the Class of 2026 since 2022. In addition, she has been an active member of student council and participated in the Elevating Student Voices Committee, helping to ensure that student perspectives are heard and valued. Her leadership roles reflect her strong organizational skills, effective communication abilities, and genuine desire to make a positive impact on her school.

Teagyn has also dedicated her time to serving others through volunteer work. As an assistant dance instructor at Bella Danza Performing Arts in Marcy, she worked with preschool-age children, helping teach ballet and tap while fostering a supportive and encouraging learning environment. She also volunteered with Northern Community Youth Sports, where she operated concessions during youth sporting events, handled transactions and supported community activities. Through these experiences, Teagyn has demonstrated responsibility, teamwork, and a strong work ethic. Teagyn will be truly missed next year at Holland Patent High School, and we look forward to watching all she accomplishes in the future.



Representing the Class of 2026 as salutatorian is **Elijah Allen**, son of Sean and Amanda Allen of Holland Patent. Elijah has built an outstanding academic record during his time at Holland Patent and through the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH OHM) program. He is graduating with an impressive 98.23 grade-point average while successfully completing rigorous high school and college coursework through MVCC. His commitment to challenging himself academically reflects both his determination and strong work ethic.

As part of the P-TECH program, Elijah is currently enrolled in MVCC courses offered through BOCES, which allow students to complete a variety of college credits during their high school years. Throughout his first three years of high school, he earned the Principal's Honor Roll distinction at P-TECH and a Certificate of Achievement at Holland Patent. Elijah was also awarded the prestigious Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award from the University of Rochester.

Continue to page 12



Dear Holland Patent School District Community,
At Holland Patent, our mission and vision continue to guide every decision we make, especially as we plan for the 2026-27 school year. Through strategic budgeting, we remain committed to evolving in ways that support innovative learning, strengthen our programs, and honor the values that define our school community. Our goal is to ensure that every investment we make enhances the student experience and supports the success and well-being of all learners.

The district remains committed to delivering a high-quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility to taxpayers. The Board of Education adopted the spending plan of $45,330,604 for the 2026-27 school year at the February meeting. With limited increases in foundation aid, we have utilized flexible thinking and careful planning to produce a budget that maintains programming in the face of multiple challenges. Through financial planning our district has worked diligently to present a budget that is below our tax levy limit, which supports the District's long-term operational stability at a tax levy of 3.25%.

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 is fiscally responsible in both the short and long term, while preserving the strong educational programs essential to our students' success now and in the years ahead. The wide range of opportunities we offer continue to create meaningful experiences that students will carry with them into the future.

Program highlights and opportunities supported by the budget:

- **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, Introduction 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, Chemistry, 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, U.S. Government, U.S. History and Government, Modern World History, Music Theory, Seminar
- **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 digested the ideas from this plan, focusing on a commitment to student growth, we are proposing a balanced approach to facilities improvement. We are recommending a $30,750,000 Capital Improvement Project that will focus on ensuring our facilities and classrooms are renovated to support the needs of our students. The improvements are centered on both classroom spaces, infrastructure, and athletics. To highlight a few areas addressed, the project will include items such as work in our HS and MS gymnasium, generators, HVAC upgrades, HS pool masonry repairs, baseball field improvements, domestic water piping replacement, toilet room renovations, tennis court reconstructions, MS cupola repairs, concession/restroom facilities and a HS greenhouse. The Capital Improvement Project creates NO ANTICPATED TAX INCREASE, as it is funded primarily by Estimated State Building Aid and utilizing the Capital Reserve. Please feel free to email capitalproject@hpschools.org with any questions.

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

- Investment in early learning — full-day pre-K for all eligible students
- Partnership with Perch Place to support three-year old children for school readiness
- Teacher Center professional learning that supports district initiatives and building instructional capacity
- Differentiated professional learning including technology integration
- Instructional coaching K–12 focused on supporting best-practices in instruction and engagement, and improving literacy across content areas, science, and math

Continue to page 3

Continuing our current points of pride include:

- Connected Community Schools located in every building, including school-based hubs offering food pantries, clothing closets, and school supplies
- Community-based partnerships for mental health, housing, family needs, academics, nutrition, medical needs, transportation, and behavior management
- Resiliency Project collaboration with Oneida County and Connected Community Schools to support children and families in need
- Dual-credit courses through Syracuse University Project Advance, SUNY Cobleskill, MVCC, HCCC, Utica University, and Hamilton College
- Career and Technical Education, P-TECH, MiTech, New Visions, Regional Program for Excellence
- Summer programming for K–5 to support learning and provide enrichment, including arts and athletics at Holland Patent
- Recognized as a Best Community for Music Education for multiple consecutive years
- Mentoring and induction program to support the growth, success, and retention of new staff
- Curriculum updates to align courses to Next Generation NYS standards
- Use of student data to drive instruction and address learning needs

These initiatives are supported by a carefully planned and managed budget that continues to prioritize student-centered learning.

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 5, 2026 at 6 p.m. The budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. – 8 p.m. More information about the budget vote, timeline and election news is available on the budget and finance page of the district website.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cheryl J. Venettozzi
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A HEAD START THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Holland Patent's early college access program offers students the chance to challenge themselves, explore their interests, and build a foundation for long-term success while saving time and money.



Students who participate in early college programs gain:

- Stronger academic readiness
- Increased confidence
- Higher college completion rates
- Lower overall college costs

Students who take college-level courses in high school are more likely to finish college, graduate on time and enter the workforce with lower debt and stronger long-term financial stability.

Holland Patent Offers:

- 124 MVCC credits
- 28 Syracuse University Project Advance credits
- 6 Herkimer College credits
- 15 Suny Cobleskill credits

These courses are offered at no cost to our students allowing them to complete up to two full years of college while still in high school.

This provides significant savings for families, with an estimated $5000 to $15,000 saved for every 15 credits earned. Students who are interested should contact the counseling department.

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 8 and 9)

PROPOSITION NO. 1: Authorize a purchase of four (4) school buses for $573,841

PROPOSITION NO. 2: $30,750,000 Capital Improvement Project

ESTIMATED INCOME			
	Budget		Proposed Budget
	2025-26		2026-27
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	$ 20,000		$ 20,000
Admissions	6,000		6,000
Interest	250,000		250,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	3,252,320		3,777,896
Sale of Equipment	1,000		1,000
State Aid - Basic, Trans, Spec. Aid, etc.	15,649,972		15,768,073
Building Aid	1,706,880		3,051,561
Textbook Aid	120,570		115,048
BOCES Aid	3,317,214		4,081,550
Appropriated Fund Balance	2,300,000		2,400,000
Tuition	5,000		5,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes-Reg. Water Auth.	93,709		82,797
Interfund Transfer	300,000		300,000
Total	$ 27,022,665		$ 29,858,925
TAX LEVY			
	2025-26		2026-27
Budget	$42,007,335		$45,330,604
Non-Tax Income	27,022,665		29,858,925
Tax Levy - Budget	14,984,670		15,471,679
Total	$14,984,670		$15,471,679
	$487,009	or	3.25%
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	2025-26	2026-27	Inc/(Dec)
Board of Education	$ 36,205	$ 37,567	$ 1,362
Central Administration	386,085	400,663	$ 14,578
Finance	604,936	625,692	$ 20,756
Legal Services	98,730	102,631	$ 3,901
Public Information	2,318	2,387	$ 69
Central Printing	46,350	47,576	$ 1,226
Central Data Processing	620,564	657,798	$ 37,234
Unallocated Insurance	162,395	167,267	$ 4,872
BOCES Administration	444,777	471,464	$ 26,687
Supervision Reg. School	1,008,137	1,046,827	$ 38,690
Teaching Special Ed.	138,226	143,755	$ 5,529
AIS	45,090	46,894	$ 1,804
Employee Benefits	1,284,809	1,378,020	$ 93,211
TOTALS	**$ 4,878,622**	**$ 5,128,541**	**$ 249,919**

Program Component

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the districts 1,284 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	2025-26	2026-27	Inc/(Dec)
Teaching Regular School	$ 11,188,258	$ 11,661,068	$ 472,810
Teaching Special Ed.	5,797,386	5,945,806	$ 148,420
Occupational Education	613,486	650,295	$ 36,809
Legal Service	82,033	85,501	$ 3,468
AIS	123,183	127,860	$ 4,677
Instructional Media	353,005	369,054	$ 16,049
Attendance	30,293	31,278	$ 985
Guidance	507,068	526,684	$ 19,616
Health	216,165	223,143	$ 6,978
Co-Curricular	98,205	102,134	$ 3,929
Intersch. Athletics	527,702	545,936	$ 18,234
Transportation	2,372,131	2,443,304	$ 71,173
Employee Benefits	8,348,273	8,954,833	$ 606,560
TOTALS	**$ 30,257,188**	**$ 31,666,896**	**$ 1,409,708**

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	2025-26	2026-27	Inc/(Dec)
Operation & Maint.	$ 3,090,406	$ 3,184,019	$ 93,613
Tax Refund	40,000	40,000	$ -
Employee Benefits	1,059,462	1,135,180	$ 75,718
Debt Service	2,681,657	4,175,968	$ 1,494,311
TOTALS	**$ 6,871,525**	**$ 8,535,167**	**$ 1,663,642**
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 42,007,335**	**$ 45,330,604**	**$ 3,323,269**

BUDGET SUMMARY

BUDGET SUMMARY			
Program Area	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	Description of Budget Areas
Board of Education	$ 36,205	$ 37,567	District Clerk, district mtgs., dues, supplies, State School Boards membership
Central Administration	386,085	400,663	Salaries - Supt./secretary; supplies, travel, journals
Finance	604,937	625,692	Salaries - Asst. Supt. support staff; auditor, audit mandates,treas., tax collector
Legal	180,763	188,132	Legal fees, advertisements, negotiations
Public Information	2,318	2,387	Newsletters, calendars, budget brochure
Operation & Maintenance	3,090,406	3,184,019	Water, tele, custodial-maint., equip., trash, heat fuel, elect., supplies, **Capital Outlay (High School)**
Central Printing	46,350	47,576	Mailing, repair costs, parts, supplies
Central Data Processing	620,564	657,798	Computer services: networks, rpt. cards, attendance, scheduling, payroll, acct.
Unallocated Insurance	162,395	167,267	Property, liability, student accident insurance
Tax Refund	40,000	40,000	Refund of taxes, sewer taxes
BOCES Administration	444,777	471,464	Salaries, supplies, telephones, hiring, space rent, new debt, legal, interest
Supervision - Reg. School	1,008,137	1,046,827	Salaries - Building principals, Assist. Principal, Dean, secretaries, travel
Teaching - Reg. School	11,801,744	12,311,365	Teacher salaries, subs, aides, clerical, equip., supplies, textbooks, BOCES
Students with special needs	5,935,611	6,089,561	Salaries - Sp. Ed. staff, Admin.; equip., supplies, textbooks, BOCES Sp. Ed. Prog.
AIS Instruction	168,273	174,755	Salaries - remedial staff - math, writing, reading; equip., supplies, textbooks
Instructional Media	353,005	369,054	Salaries - staff; equip., supplies, books, magazines, newspapers, BOCES prog.
Attendance	30,293	31,278	Salary - attendance officer, supplies
Guidance	507,069	526,684	Salaries - staff, secretaries, equipment, supplies
Health	216,165	223,143	Salaries - staff, school physician; equipment, supplies
Co-Curricular	98,205	102,134	Salaries - advisors, chaperones, clubs
Athletics	527,702	545,936	Salaries - coaches; officials' fees, equip., supplies
Transportation	2,372,133	2,443,304	Salaries - drivers, mechanics, athletic/field trips, fuel, parts, supplies
Employee Benefits	10,692,542	11,468,030	Retirement, social security, workers' comp., unemployment, health insurance
Debt Service	2,681,656	4,175,968	Principal/interest payments - bldgs (new/existing), buses, short-term borrowing
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 42,007,335**	**$ 45,330,604**	**Total budget increase of: $3,323,269 7.91%**

TAX CERTIORARI IMPACT

The Board of Education adopted the budget in March. After careful review, the budget includes a 3.25% tax levy increase, which is below the allowable tax levy limit of 5.02%. The board has approved this lower tax levy to recognize the importance of weighing high-quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility to taxpayers. The higher allowable tax levy limit is the result of a tax certiorari last year in the Town of Trenton, Erie Boulevard Hydropower. The school does not control property assessments that result in tax certiorari payments. Our Board has chosen to utilize reserves to keep the tax levy at a lower than allowable limit. For further information on tax certiorari impact, see the Q&A below.

Q: What is a tax certiorari case?
A: A tax certiorari case occurs when a property owner challenges their property assessment in court, claiming it is too high. If the court agrees, the property owner may receive a refund of overpaid taxes.

Q: Does the school district determine property assessments?
A: No. Property assessments are determined by each town within the district. The school district does not control property values or assessments.

Q: Why does the district have to pay a refund?
A: Although the towns determine assessments, school taxes are based on those assessments. When a court determines that taxes were overpaid, each taxing entity—including the school district—must refund its share. In this case, the district's share of the refund from 2020-21 through 2024-25 totals $1,340,744.

Q: How is the district paying for this?
A: The state does not provide aid to offset payments related to tax certiorari settlements. Rather than paying the full amount in one year—which would significantly impact the budget—the district issued a five-year bond. This allows the cost to be spread over five years.

Q: Will this impact the budget in future years?
A: Yes. The district will make annual bond payments for five years. Each year's payment must be included in the budget until the bond is fully paid off. After five years, this financial obligation will end.

Q: What does this mean for taxpayers?
A: For the next five years, a portion of the tax levy will go toward paying off this settlement. Once the bond is paid in full, that expense will no longer be part of the budget.

A BALANCED APPROACH TO FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT

Project Goal

This capital project is focused on strengthening district facilities through strategic upgrades to building systems, learning environments, and athletic spaces. The work will modernize heating, plumbing, lighting, controls, and emergency systems. Targeted renovations of classrooms, gymnasiums, and support areas will enhance overall reliability. Improvements to site features, athletic facilities, and new additions such as a greenhouse and field support buildings will expand opportunities for student learning and activities. Together, these investments improve comfort, safety, and functionality while ensuring the district's facilities continue to serve students and the community well into the future.

Proposed Project Scope

GWF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Emergency/backup generator installation
- Select toilet room reconstruction
- Isolation valve and water heater replacement
- Unit heater, pump, and valve replacement
- Select casework upgrades
- Front entrance and select exterior door replacement
- Front entry sidewalk replacement
- Playground improvements

HP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Select domestic water piping, RPZ, and classroom toilet room fixture replacement
- Select ceiling and lighting replacement
- Cubbies replacement
- Exterior stair and railing repairs and resurfacing

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Steam to hot water conversion with associated HVAC upgrades
- Emergency/backup generator installation
- Gymnasium renovations
- Select toilet room renovations
- Terrazzo stair tread replacement
- Cupola repairs and restoration
- Select masonry restoration
- LED site sign installation

HIGH SCHOOL

- Gymnasium renovations
- Baseball infield improvements
- Tennis court reconstruction
- Parking and access drive expansion
- Running track resurfacing
- Heat piping and valve replacement
- Corridor ceiling and lighting replacement
- Select toilet room renovations
- Science Wing crawlspace metal floor deck repairs
- Pool drain line replacement
- Pool building interior and exterior masonry repairs
- Pool pump replacement

ADDITIONAL SCOPE ITEMS

- Bus Garage emergency/backup generator installation
- New greenhouse building at High School
- New toilet room and concessions at Athletic Field
- District-wide HVAC temperature control upgrades
- Asbestos abatement to support project work

Public Hearing

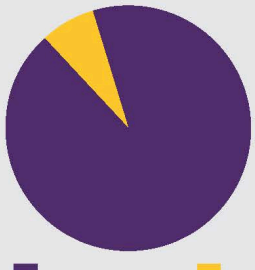
MAY 5TH AT 6:00 PM
High School Library

Financial Information

Total Project Cost: $30,750,000

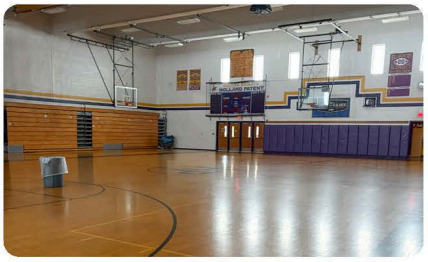
NO ANTICIPATED TAX INCREASE

This project leverages retiring debt, capital reserve funds, and maximizes cost allowances to allow this project to remain at no anticipated tax increase.



93.6% NYS BUILDING AID

6.4% CAPITAL RESERVE



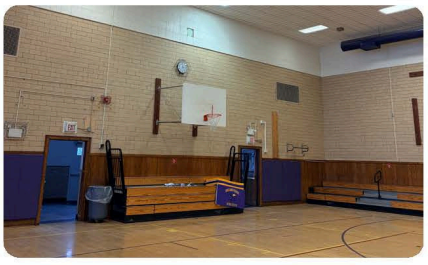
Outdated High School gymnasium



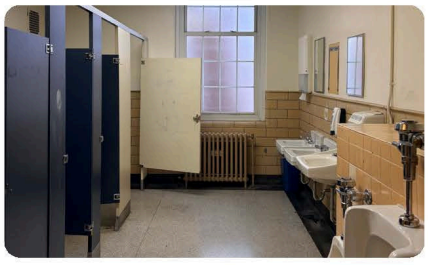
Deteriorated pavement



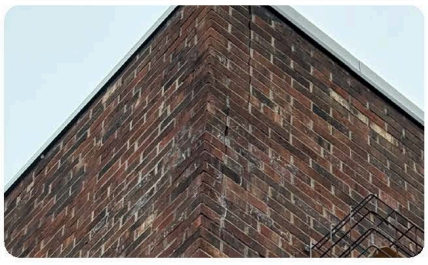
Failing indoor masonry at pool



Outdated Middle School gymnasium



Needed toilet room upgrades



Failing exterior masonry at pool

2026 CAPITAL PROJECT | NO ANTICIPATED TAX INCREASE

VOTE

Tuesday, May 19th | 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
High School Auditorium

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

MIKE GARRETT



My name is Mike Garrett, and I have had the honor of serving on the Holland Patent CSD Board of Education for the past 10 years. During that time, I have been a dedicated member with a proven record of service to this community. I am proud to continue to serve our community. Many of you may know me from the many school and community events I regularly attend, where I am committed to asking and helping answer the hard questions that matter most to our students, staff, and residents.

Twenty years ago, I began a career in selling and marketing organic nutrients to farmers across the United States. In 2009, I moved my family to Remsen, where my two sons and daughter attended Holland Patent schools. All three of my children have since graduated from higher education institutions. I have also proudly served as a trustee in my church for 10 years.

In addition to my work in organic nutrient sales and marketing, I own Simple Farms, where we grow cut flowers and raise sheep. I also work alongside my partner, Jennifer, as we raise pigs, beef cattle, and chickens.

Recently, Simple Farms has expanded, providing new and exciting opportunities for our community, including an annual sunflower festival, pumpkin carving, wine tasting, sip-and-paint, and flower arranging. Through Simple Farms, I have supported the Holland Patent art department by hosting photography students and organizing contests featuring student artwork. I have also worked hard to support students in the FFA program, drawing on my experience as both a farmer and a businessman to champion their efforts in competitions, fundraisers, and educational experiences. I have enjoyed introducing learners of all ages to the world of animals and farming. Most recently, I volunteered my time to educate elementary students using a new lamb, Irish, born on my farm.

Some of the accomplishments I am most proud of during my tenure on the Board of Education include supporting our leadership teams in the following areas:

- The development and implementation of summer school programming that has supported students since 2022.
- Expanding our pre-K program to provide a full-day experience for all district students. Giving all of our students the opportunity to get a strong start to success.
- Securing grants to provide extensive professional development opportunities for our instructional staff.
- Strong supporter of the reintroduction of the FFA program to our district.
- Supporting no-tax-increase capital projects that brought a balanced approach to improvement, including building upgrades, an all-purpose field, building upgrades, HVAC improvements for classroom climate control, renovated art and music suites, and upgrades to the high school library.
- Supporting the implementation of Connected Community Schools in our district, partnering not only with families but also with all members of our community, with evening parental and family events. Organizing food giveaways, school pantry, and prom/school dance assistance.
- Maintaining strong student programming, staffing, and extracurricular activities over the past 10 years while presenting a fiscally responsible and tax levy under the tax levy limit to district residents.

I would be honored to continue serving as a Board member in the community I deeply care about and have proudly supported in so many ways over the years. I remain committed to doing this work for many years to come.







BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

MEGAN GILLEN



My name is Megan Gillen, and I am running for the Holland Patent Board of Education this year. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northeastern University in Boston and have spent more than ten years advocating for others, working in high-pressure environments, and prioritizing safety and communication.

My husband, our two children, and I have lived in Barneveld since 2023. As a military family we have learned the importance of community and since moving here, we have found this area to be welcoming, supportive, and tight knit. From village park clean-ups to neighbors helping neighbors, I feel grateful to call this place home.

As a parent with young children currently in the school system, I see firsthand how important education and safety are for our students and families. It truly takes a village to raise children, and strong schools are an important part of that village. When our schools succeed, our entire community benefits.

If elected, I will prioritize:

- Strong Education - Education is my top priority. Our schools are doing great things, but there is always room to improve and support our teachers.
- Student Safety - Our children must feel safe at school. Meeting basic needs and ensuring a secure environment allows students to learn and grow.
- Transparency - Families, educators, and community members deserve to be informed and heard regarding how decisions are made and how their tax dollars are being used.

I would be honored to serve this welcoming community and advocate for the students, families, and educators who make the Holland Patent School District such a special place.

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 children (12, 13, 15), who are all enrolled in HPSD, and who have been involved in HPSD or HP community sports.

I have over 20 years professional experience working in cross functional team environments working to solve problems and to cooperatively balance goals. Specific areas of professional experience include facilities & maintenance management, capital project management, budget establishment and execution, inventory management, environmental, health, and safety (EHS) management, and several areas of engineering centered on optimization and continuous improvement. I think that these skills and areas of experience offer me an opportunity to add value to our community and school district.

My goals and hopeful areas of contribution are as follows:

1. Simply add value and support in any way that I can.
2. Support clear and effective information exchange with the community.
3. Support academic proficiency
4. Support fiscal efficiency and optimization

I look forward to a chance to help, add value, and do good things for our community and school district.



A MESSAGE FROM THE FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR

Cliff Casab, Food Service Director | Holland Patent Central School District
ccasab@hpschools.org
315-865-7242

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH THE NSLP, SBP AND CEP

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) play a vital role in supporting student health, learning, and well-being. These federally assisted meal programs provide nutritious, balanced meals to millions of children across the United States every school day.

The NSLP ensures that students have access to affordable lunches that meet strict nutrition standards, including appropriate portions of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and dairy. Similarly, the SBP helps students start their day with a healthy breakfast, which research consistently links to improved concentration, better attendance, and stronger academic performance.

Holland Patent CSD participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows eligible schools to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost. CEP reduces administrative paperwork for schools by eliminating the need to collect individual household applications. It also helps remove stigma associated with free or reduced-price meals and encourages higher participation, ensuring more students receive the nutrition they need to succeed.



However, if you feel you would normally qualify for free and reduced status it is still important to submit an application because having free/reduced status carries more benefits that just meals at no cost.

For families and communities, these programs help reduce food insecurity and ensure children have consistent access to healthy meals during the school day. By strengthening participation in the NSLP, SBP, and CEP, schools can better support student wellness, academic achievement, and equitable access to nutritious food.





2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS















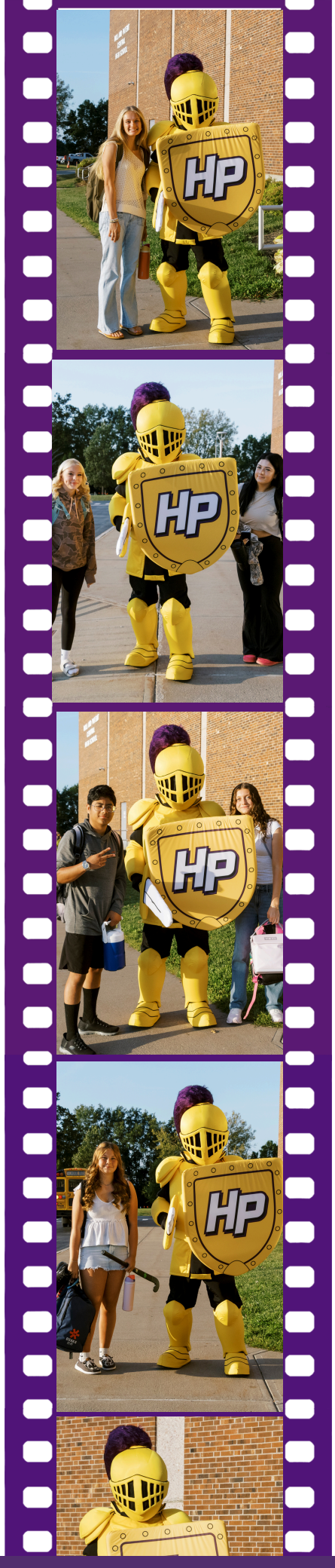
CLASS OF 2026 VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN AND ACADEMIC HONORS

Continue from cover

Outside of school, Elijah demonstrates responsibility and initiative through his work with Allen Yard Maintenance, where he has provided lawn care and snow removal services since 2022. He has also volunteered his time delivering food baskets through the Foothills Food Pantry, tutoring fellow students at P-TECH and assisting with science experiments at children's events at the Utica Children's Museum and Utica Zoo. His contributions to Holland Patent High School and the P-TECH program will certainly be missed next year as he continues his academic and professional journey.

Joining Teagyn and Elijah in graduating with "highest distinction," reflecting an average in excess of 95 percent are: **Elizabeth Buckland**, daughter of Robert and Debra Buckland of Rome; **Julia Rose Callahan**, daughter of Theresa and Steven Carney of Holland Patent; **Claire Favata**, daughter of David Favata of Holland Patent and Katie Kirk of Ava; **August Jones**, son of William and Karla Jones of Holland Patent; **Ariana Kraeger**, daughter of Angela Stickles and Keith Koziarz of Rome; **Nevaeh Lohnes**, daughter of Brandon and Jessica Lohnes of Barneveld; **Francesca Rabbia**, daughter of William and Laura Rabbia of Hinckley; **Sophia Rachon**, daughter of Scott and Lorna Rachon of Marcy; **Jesse Schreyer**, son of Matthew and Tammy Schreyer of Stittville; and **Addison Snider**, daughter of Paul and Mary Snider of Ava.

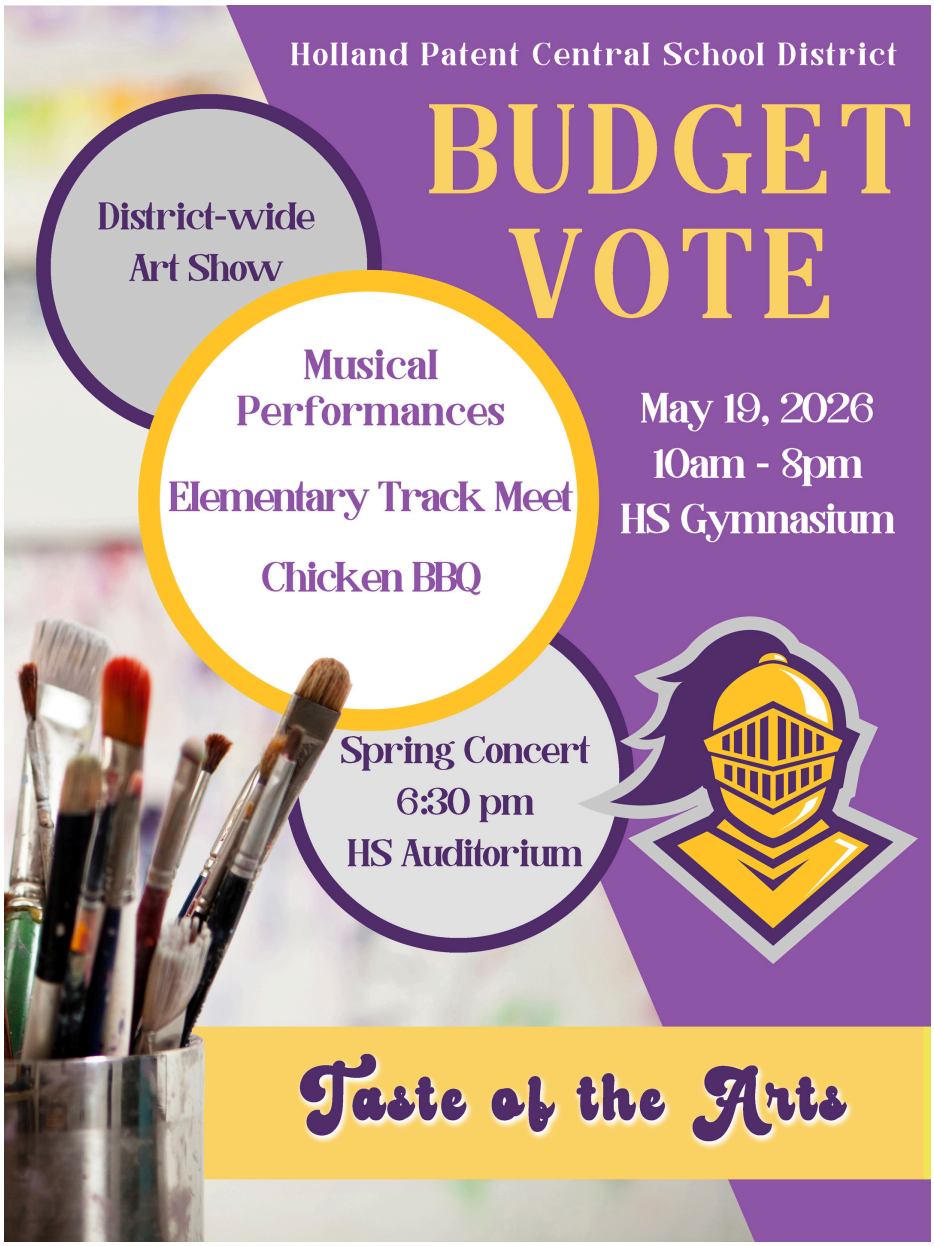
Twenty-two additional students will graduate with "distinction," reflecting an average in excess of 90 percent. Members of the class graduating with distinction are: **Allyson Beiderbecke**, daughter of Bix Beiderbecke of Ashburn, Virginia, and Heather Dubinsky of Holland Patent; **Brodie Clark**, son of Chad and Katie Clark of Holland Patent; **Zachary Earl**, son of Jason and Christina Earl of Westernville; **Delanie Howard**, daughter of Amanda VanNederynen of Westernville; **Gideon Keawpinna**, son of Pichai and Suzanna Keawpinna of Barneveld; **Angelina Kuzmich**, daughter of Valentyn and Nina Kuzmich of Marcy; **Emmarae Little**, daughter of Benjamin and Janine Little of Rome; **Riley Mierek**, daughter of Patrick and Jillian Mierek of Holland Patent; **Joseph Mittiga**, son of Matthew and Alyssa Mittiga of Remsen; **Payton Muha**, daughter of Thomas Muha of Holland Patent and Marie Fazekas of Westernville; **Kaylen O'Brien**, daughter of Dennis O'Brien of Ava and Cori VanHatten of Rome; **Aidan Ostinett**, son of Christian Ostinett of Barneveld and Karen Durant of Ilion; **Gracie Poynter**, daughter of Raymond and Kelly Poynter of Marcy; **Michayla Sandler**, daughter of Evan and Heather Sandler of Holland Patent; **Michael Santa Maria**, son of Dale and Maria Santa Maria of Holland Patent; **Annabella Schrader**, daughter of Joe Schrader of Cherry Valley and Lacie Faulkner of Holland Patent; **Madeline Snider**, daughter of Paul and Mary Snider of Ava; **Trenten True**, son of Stacia True of Remsen and the late Jeff True; **Izabella Walters**, daughter of Patrick Walters and Melissa Ellis of Barneveld; **Kaiden Whaley**, son of Shane and Stephanie Whaley of Holland Patent; **Kahlan Williamson**, daughter of Joshua and Erin Beasock of Holland Patent; and **Faith Zylinsky**, daughter of John and Susan Zylinsky of Westernville.



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 for 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 Pesticide Information Center at 800-858-7378. For additional information on the district's pesticide program, contact Ken Smith at 315-865-7213.



TASTE OF THE ARTS TRACK SCHEDULE

Third and Fourth Grade:
Start time: approximately 9:30 a.m.

Order of events:

- 800m
- 55m hurdles (fourth grade only)
- 100m
- 200m
- 300m
- 400m
- 4x100m relay

All field events (shot put, softball throw, long jump) will start at 9:30 a.m.

Fifth and Sixth Grade:
Start time: approximately 12:15 p.m.

Order of events:

- 1,600m
- 55m hurdles
- 100m
- 200m
- 300m
- 400m
- 4x100 relay

All field events (shot put, softball throw, long jump) will start at 12:15 p.m.

All times are approximate.

TASTE OF THE ARTS MUSIC SCHEDULE

9:30–10 a.m. Middle School Jazz Ensemble
10–10:30 a.m. Grade 7/8 Symphonic Band
10:30–11 a.m. Grade 7/8 Chorus
11–11:30 a.m. Grade 7/8 Sinfonia Orchestra
11:30 a.m.–noon String Ensemble
Noon–12:30 p.m. High School Wind Ensemble
12:30–1 p.m. High School Mixed and Select Chorus
1–1:30 p.m. High School Chamber Orchestra
1:30–2 p.m. High School Jazz Ensemble

Evening Event
6:30–7:30 p.m. Grades 4-12 Spring Chorus Concert in High School Auditorium

- ♪ 4th-6th Grade Chorus
- ♪ 7th and 8th Grade Chorus
- ♪ Select Chorus
- ♪ Mixed Chorus





ARMOR UP: GOLDEN KNIGHTS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

From practice to game day, our students armor up as they showcase their athletic moments on and off the field. Our athletic programs thrive thanks to the collective effort of the Holland Patent community. We are grateful for the enthusiastic spectators who cheer on our athletes, the dedicated coaches who lead and inspire, the committed students who work hard, and the generous volunteers who make it all possible. Together, this team creates a supportive environment where our student-athletes can succeed.




























BUFFALO
WRESTLING
3


5


NYSPHSAA
Section III
CHAMPIONS




KNIGHTS
42
4
5

BUILDING TINY CONNECTIONS FROM THE START

Smiles and connections are stacking up as General William Floyd (GWF) Elementary School welcomes its youngest learners. The "Look at Me, I'm Three" program is back for its second school year.



Holland Patent Central School District and Perch Place are continuing their collaboration to support young learners through fun, age-appropriate activities to foster growth in a school setting. Behavior Intervention Specialist Eric DeCarlis coordinates the program for GWF and develops the evening's activities.

From their very first steps into school, children are embraced by a school community built on care and connection. The program offers a gentle introduction to the school environment, helping children become familiar with routines, group experiences and social interactions.

The district provides monthly sessions that include mindfulness, story time, crafts, snacks and movement activities. These structured lessons help children feel secure, develop a sense of belonging and grow more comfortable in a school setting.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our early learners to become familiar with school and gain confidence," said Kristin Casab, Principal of GWF Elementary School. "Children have the opportunity to make friends and embrace learning in the classroom."

Families interested in learning more or registering may email edecarlis@hpschools.org. You may also contact him to enroll any children under age 5 in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a free program that provides books to children each month.















MAGIC, MUSIC, AND MISCHIEF AT PROCTORS THEATRE



Our chorus and drama students traveled to Proctors Theater in Schenectady to see “Wicked” on the 22nd anniversary of its Broadway debut.

Before the show, students gathered for lunch at 99 Restaurant, where they enjoyed a meal and shared their excitement for the show. Afterward, they headed to the theater for an afternoon filled with music and the unforgettable story behind the witches of Oz.

The trip offered students a memorable experience while expanding their understanding of the performing arts.

ACADEMIC SLEUTHS AT STANLEY THEATRE





On Dec. 15, our juniors solved the mystery of learning and laughter during their visit to the Stanley Theatre in Utica, where they attended “Clue: A New Comedy.”

Prior to the performance, students learned about the history of the board game Clue, which originated during World War II and was played by soldiers as a pastime during air-raid drills.

For many students, it was their first time inside the historic Stanley Theatre, offering them a chance to experience a live performance in one of the region’s most iconic venues.

This trip broadened students’ cultural understanding, strengthened their critical-thinking skills, and deepened their engagement with the performing arts.

APPLAUSE FOR OUR LITERARY KNIGHTS

Our students booked a big win as they turned the Battle of the Books into a real page-turner victory. The Holland Patent Middle School team took first place in the regional competition on March 18. The team, consisting of Samaya Muheljic, Emma Riemenschneider, Summer Southwick, and Lily Toussaint, beat out eight other teams for HP's first title since 2021.



NOTE-WORTHY MOMENTS





























CHESHIRE-SIZED SMILES & TEA-RRIFIC TALENT



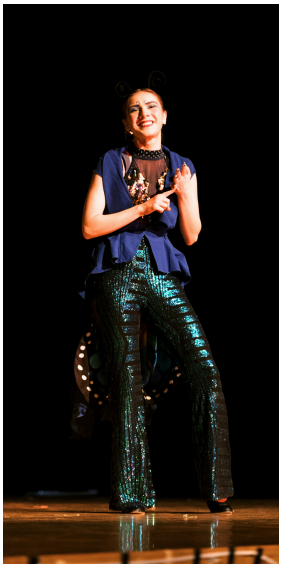


























HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL
HOLLAND PATENT, NY 13554
WWW.HPSCHOOLS.ORG

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Holland Patent, NY 13354
Permit No. 3

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Kathy Smyth, President
Michael Garrett, Vice President
William Paolozzi
Cecil Morris
Colt Brumm
Julia Callahan, Student Board Member

VOTER INFORMATION

What am I voting on?
A budget of $45,330,604 for the 2026-27 school year, a proposition to purchase school buses, a proposition to authorize a capital project, and one candidate for the Board of Education.

When and where is the vote?
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 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 5-106 of the Education Law.

How can I vote by absentee ballot?
Applications for absentee ballots for the 2026 annual meeting will be available beginning April 21, 2026, 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 a ballot delivered to them by mail, completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than May 12, 2026.

For voters requesting a ballot delivered to them personally, completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than May 18, 2026.

All completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk's Office no later than 5 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

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 no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 24, 2026. In 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.