

WHITESBORO

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER



WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RENAISSANCE RALLY

On February 13, the Whitesboro High School Renaissance Club hosted its Winter Renaissance Rally in the high school gymnasium, honoring students for strong academic performance.

Turn to page 6 to read more!

MAY 2026

**SPECIAL
BUDGET ISSUE**



**PUBLIC BUDGET
HEARING**

**TUESDAY,
MAY 5, 2026**

7:00 p.m., High School Cafeteria

**BUDGET VOTE
AND BOARD
OF EDUCATION
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY,
MAY 19, 2026**

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 5, 2026 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 19, 2026. 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

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WHITESTOWN'S
STUDENT OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

On February 4, 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 Avery Heretz, Amelia Sheldon and Olivia Strife. 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, Avery, Amelia and Olivia!



PROPOSED BUDGET

The District budget vote and Board of Education election will be held on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 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 2026-27 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 19, 2026:

Budget Proposition

Shall the budget for the school year 2026–2027, in the amount of \$89,965,591, 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 resolution authorizing the Board of Education of the Whitesboro Central School District to undertake the acquisition of school buses, including, without limitation, five (5) 66-passenger diesel school buses, all at an estimated maximum cost of \$960,000, and three (3) 30-passenger gasoline school buses, all at an estimated maximum cost of \$355,000, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$1,315,000, 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, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$1,315,000 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, be approved?

Proposition 2 – 2017 Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the resolution authorizing the Board of Education of the Whitesboro Central School District to withdraw and expend from the "2017 Capital Reserve Fund" a sum of money not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000), to purchase information technology equipment and safety/security equipment, be approved?

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

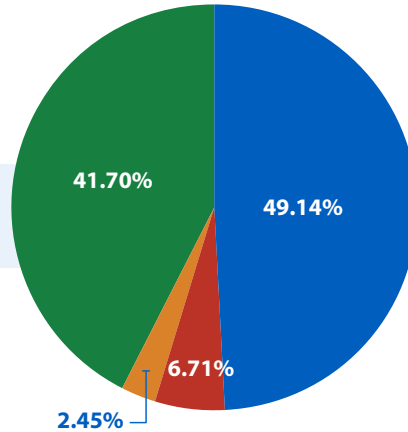
1. Mr. Brian McQueen
2. Dr. Jonathan Henderson
3. Ms. Erica Schoff

ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

2026-27 ANTICIPATED REVENUES

	2026-2027 Estimates	%
New York State Aid	\$44,205,941	49.14%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$6,040,705	6.71%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$2,203,091	2.45%
Tax Levy	\$37,515,854	41.70%
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$89,965,591	100%

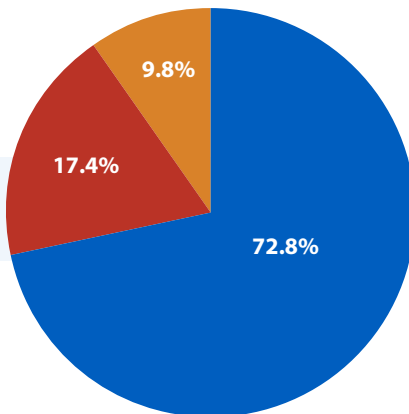
REVENUES



2026-27 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2026-2027 Estimates	%
Program	\$65,528,358	72.8%
Capital	\$15,654,284	17.4%
Administrative	\$8,782,949	9.8%
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$89,965,591	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	9.8 %	2025-2026 APPROVED BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Board of Education		\$77,677	\$86,281	\$8,604
Central Administration		\$2,358,283	\$2,279,987	(\$78,296)
Business Administration		\$831,880	\$866,082	\$34,202
Legal		\$172,920	\$174,788	\$1,868
Personnel		\$311,308	\$295,337	(\$15,971)
Records Management		\$22,050	\$22,932	\$882
Public Information		\$209,668	\$275,035	\$65,367
Other Central Services		\$1,355,674	\$1,387,931	\$32,257
Other Special Items		\$1,299,948	\$1,329,319	\$29,371
Employee Benefits		\$1,973,992	\$2,065,257	\$91,265
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION		\$8,613,400	\$8,782,949	\$169,549

CAPITAL	17.4 %	2025-2026 APPROVED BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Operation of Plant		\$3,419,606	\$3,445,462	\$25,856
Maintenance of Plant		\$882,685	\$1,026,954	\$144,269
Refund on Real Property Taxes		\$12,000	\$25,000	\$13,000
Employee Benefits		\$2,784,223	\$2,912,948	\$128,725
Debt Service - Capital		\$9,296,393	\$8,143,920	(\$1,152,473)
Transfer to Capital Fund		\$100,000	\$100,000	-
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$16,494,907	\$15,654,284	(\$840,623)

PROGRAM	72.8 %	2025-2026 APPROVED BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Inservice Training - Instruction		\$94,019	\$415,963	\$321,944
Teaching - Regular School		\$42,577,493	\$42,932,407	\$354,914
District Transportation Services		\$4,120,440	\$4,668,142	\$547,702
Employee Benefits		\$16,723,649	\$17,496,846	\$773,197
Transfer to School Lunch Fund		\$15,000	\$15,000	-
TOTAL PROGRAM		\$63,530,601	\$65,528,358	\$1,997,757
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		\$88,638,908	\$89,965,591	\$1,326,683

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY COMPONENT			
Total Budget 2026-2027 \$89,965,591	Program Component \$65,528,358 72.8%	Capital Component \$15,654,284 17.4%	Administrative Component \$8,782,949 9.8%
Budget-to-Budget Increase 1.49%		2026-2027 Tax Levy Increase 2.100% Tax levy limit is 2.100%	
<p><i>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 2.100% does not exceed the tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority of votes for approval.</i></p>			

475 STUDENTS HONORED AT WINTER RENAISSANCE RALLY

Students were invited to attend the school-day celebration if they earned a grade point average of 80 or higher in each class during the second marking period or maintained perfect attendance for the school year. An astonishing 475 students met the criteria and qualified to participate in the event.

In previous years, eligibility was based solely on marking-period grades. This year, perfect attendance was added as a second pathway to qualify, resulting in increased student participation compared to past rallies.

Students celebrated their accomplishments alongside friends while enjoying pizza, nachos, drinks and a sundae station, along with prizes and “W’boro” lanyards and keychains. Gluten-free options were available to accommodate dietary needs. More than 40 prizes, donated or purchased by teachers and administrators, were awarded during the event.

“The mission of our program is to recognize, reward and celebrate academic excellence,” said Renaissance Club advisor Mr. David Jecko. “We strive to increase student performance and foster a partnership between Whitesboro High School and our community.”

The rally provided a well-earned break in the school day while reinforcing the value of consistent effort and achievement. Congratulations to all students who qualified for, and in many cases exceeded, the standards set by the Renaissance Committee.

Special thanks to the Whitesboro Alumni Association for sponsoring the event as well as the many volunteers who helped make the rally a success. Appreciation is also extended to local business partners for providing food and refreshments at discounted or no cost including Big Jay’s Pizzeria, Dean’s Concessions and Catering, Fratello’s Pizzeria, Stewart’s Shops, T.J. Sheehan Distributing and Tony’s Pizzeria of Utica.

The Spring Renaissance Rally is scheduled for Friday, May 15 at Wadas Field.



WHITESBORO CELEBRATES 51ST FOREIGN STUDENT DAY



On March 13, the Whitesboro International Club proudly hosted its 51st Foreign Student Day, continuing a half-century tradition of global connection. This year’s event welcomed 14 exchange students from across the globe who are currently studying throughout New York State. To ensure a warm welcome, the visitors were paired with Whitesboro juniors and seniors who served as personal guides for the day. The festivities began at 7 a.m. with a “Taste of Central New York” breakfast featuring local favorites like Half Moon cookies and fresh bagels.

The morning continued with a schoolwide assembly where the exchange students were introduced to the Whitesboro student body. The highlight of the presentation was an energetic performance by the Mohawk Valley Latino Association, who showcased traditional dances that captivated the audience. Following the assembly, the cultural exchange moved to the cafeteria for a lunch featuring iconic regional dishes including chicken riggies and tomato pie. Throughout the afternoon, the visiting students toured the building, meeting with teachers, staff and local peers to share stories from their home countries.

The landmark day culminated in a celebratory dinner dance held from 5-8 p.m. at Monarch Banquets. It was a night filled with music, laughter and high energy as students from around the world bonded on the dance floor. By the time the music stopped, the Whitesboro High School’s International Club had once again succeeded in turning a single school day into a lifetime of long-lasting memories and international friendships.

Class of 2026 Highest Honors Students Announced



Whitesboro Central School District is proud to announce the following students as the highest honors graduates for the Whitesboro High School Class of 2026:

Amelia Sheldon – **Valedictorian**
 Olivia Strife – **Salutatorian**

Alexandria Barone
 Alizay Meerub Bilal
 Liam Buckley
 Madeline Clancy
 Jacob Dam
 Joseph Drager
 Scott Eberley
 Chayse Fischer
 Edin Hadzimujic
 Avery Heretz
 Michael Hill

Kristina Kachanovich
 Ella Lachevet
 Owen LaShure
 Katie Martin
 Genevieve Michel
 Sophie Nowak
 Tyler Quackenbush
 Zana Seferagic
 Andrey Sidorevich
 Lucianna Walsh
 Hailey Warmuth



Congratulations to these students on this well-deserved recognition!

FRESH MILK, LESS WASTE:

NEW MILK DISPENSERS INSTALLED AT WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL

Thanks to grant funding secured by New York State Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon, Whitesboro High School has installed two milk dispensing machines in the cafeteria. Students at both breakfast and lunch can now enjoy freshly dispensed, perfectly chilled milk.

Buttenschon visited the high school March 6 to see the machines in action. During her visit, she witnessed an enthusiastic response from the student body, with approximately 200 students using the dispensers that morning alone.

Each machine holds 15 gallons of milk, providing a modern and efficient beverage experience. This upgrade enhances student choice while supporting sustainability efforts by significantly reducing the use of individual milk cartons. By cutting down on packaging, the system reduces waste, streamlines service and delivers a product that many students say tastes even better. Students may choose between white or chocolate milk from the new units.

The initiative, promoted in partnership with local dairy farmers, highlights the importance of supporting the regional agricultural community while improving the quality and freshness of the milk served to students.

The Whitesboro Central School District Food Service program remains committed to offering locally sourced, nutritious options. The program prioritizes New York-grown fresh fruits and vegetables year-round. While New York milk has long been a cornerstone of the District's offerings, this new service model has already proven to be a hit among high school students.

The District extends its gratitude to Assemblywoman Buttenschon and local dairy partners for their continued support of student wellness and environmental sustainability.





WHITESBORO STUDENTS DELIVER POWERFUL PERFORMANCE OF “HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION”

On March 5-7, Whitesboro High School proudly presented a modified version of Anais Mitchell’s award-winning folk opera, “HadesTown: Teen Edition.”

More than 65 students in grades 9-12 contributed to the production, including 40 cast members and 25 students working behind the scenes on set construction, painting, lighting and stage crew. In just eight weeks, students brought the production to life under the direction of Mrs. Sarah DePalma.

Their dedication paid off with a highly successful run, as parents, families and community members enjoyed an engaging performance filled with dynamic choreography, powerful vocals, creative costumes and compelling storytelling.

The production provided a valuable opportunity for students to explore the performing arts and showcase their talents. A special thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to make this production a success.



2026 SCHOLASTIC ARTS AWARD WINNERS

The Whitesboro Art Department proudly recognizes the 2026 Scholastic Arts Award winners and celebrates the exceptional accomplishments of its student artists. This year, 42 Whitesboro students earned an impressive total of 63 awards, including nine Gold Key honors. All Gold Key recipients advance to compete at the national level.

The District is especially proud to recognize Hadley Dellecese, who received the Sage Award for Best Overall Junior High 3D Piece, an outstanding distinction in this year's competition.

Award recipients were formally recognized during an awards ceremony held on January 20.

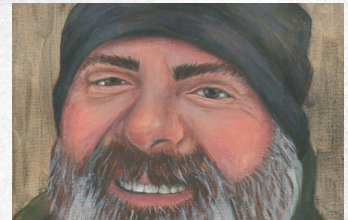
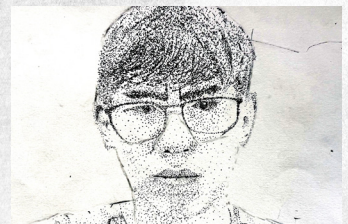
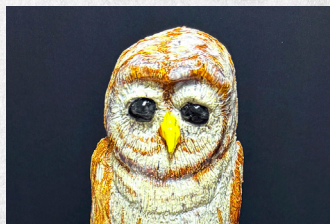
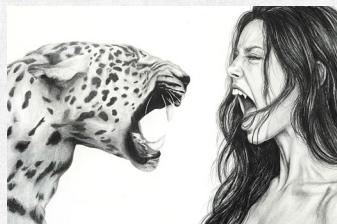
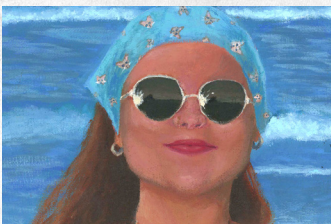
2026 Scholastic Arts Award winners:

Faith Anderson
Giovanni Benner
Maya Capri
Sophia Carlson
Alisa Chapple
Ace Cieslak
Madeline Clancy
Emma Collea
Peyton Delahunt
Hadley Dellecese
Tyler Dockstader
Scott Eberley
Violet Engelbrecht
Isabella Esford

Vivianni Fedele
Dinella Femia
Adriana Fowler
Jackson Glod
Allison Gorden
Kenan Hadzimujic
Emilee Hawks
Sara Horning
A'Nya Jackson
Hana Kadic
Brooke Killino
Anthony Klotz
Averi Kraeger
Addison Lansing

Meghan Millar
Mariana Molina
Mireya Pinkos
Matthew Slatton
Reagan Synakowski
Kaitlyn Szatko
Natalie Terebey
Griffin Visalli
Claire Vulcano
Shelby West
Isabella Wilkosz
Su Ya Di
Yahna Zarnoch
Gia Zegarelli

Congratulations to all of our talented students on this remarkable achievement!



WHITESBORO STUDENTS EXCEL AT OCMEA JUNIOR HIGH ALL-COUNTY FESTIVAL



On March 27 and 28, talented musicians from Whitesboro Middle and High Schools joined forces with students in grades seven through nine from across Oneida County to participate in this year's OCMEA Junior High All-County Festival. Hosted at Adirondack High School, the event served as a prestigious showcase for the region's top young performers. Selection for the festival is a rigorous process that began this past January, requiring students to perform a solo piece and demonstrate sight-reading proficiency before an adjudicator. Only those achieving the highest scores were invited to participate, subsequently spending weeks preparing a challenging repertoire alongside their music teachers.

The festival intensive began on March 27, as students gathered at Adirondack High School for their first full-ensemble rehearsals. These rehearsals culminated in a grand concert performed before a capacity audience on March 28. The ensembles were led by distinguished guest conductors, including orchestra director Mrs. Karen Veverka from Skaneateles, choral director Mr. Mark Bunce from Central Valley and band director Mr. Matthew Donaleski from Camden.

Participating Whitesboro students:

Orchestra: Juliana Busch, Rachael Higgins, Alexander Jenne, Leo Jerome, Ella Kendic, Derek Laskowski, Bryce Marleau, Daniel Matev, Renny Schleicher, Alana Sodaro, Kaylee Willson

Chorus: Valerie Antanavige, Stella Bepko, Anna Bick, Eden Buley, Audrey DeGrace, Hadley Dellecese, Zoey Frick, Morgan Gaspa, Giuliana Griffo, Logan Hagadorn, Violet Kimball, April LaPage, Josie Leone, Grace Merchant, Kambria Occhipinti, Avrie Park, Deborah Root, Piper Scalise, Trinity Stacy, Hayden Warren, Madison Williams

Band: Josie Crescenzo, Olivia Stewart

The success of these students was made possible through the dedicated instruction of the Whitesboro music faculty. Students were mentored and prepared by Mrs. Chantelle Nobis, Miss Danielle Hughes, Mrs. Erin Joslin, Mrs. Millicent Ruggio, Miss Janelle Ostrander and Mrs. Sarah DePalma. Their commitment to musical excellence continues to provide students with premier opportunities for artistic growth and community performance.



Parkway Students

EXPLORE WORLD LANGUAGES

On February 6, Parkway students attended a presentation showcasing the world language options they will have next year in seventh grade. The students were greeted by the World Language Department Chair Mme. Cidzik as well as the middle school world language faculty members. The sixth grade school counselor Ms. Dockstader will be meeting with students in the upcoming weeks, so the language instructors shared some important information and thoughtful insight to assist the students in their language pursuits.

Students entering seventh grade are able to choose between American Sign Language (ASL), taught by Ms. Ofalt; Spanish, instructed by Sra. Discavage and Srta. Murphy; and French taught by Mme. Cidzik and Mme. Kostolecki. The middle school teachers mentioned some of the benefits of learning a world language, including the potential for more job offerings in the future, the ability to acquire a better understanding of other cultures and people, as well as the opportunity to make stronger connections between other middle school courses they will be taking.

Additional details shared in the presentation included the number of countries that speak Spanish and French, cultural interests (art, sports, cuisine, etc.), as well as landmarks, special events and celebrated holidays. The faculty members emphasized that choosing a language is an exciting time, and it may help to think about areas one may aspire to travel to, whether a student has family members who speak a particular language, ideas about a future career and connections to hobbies and other interests. Furthermore, students were reminded that studying a language is about all of these aspects, not just the actual language itself! Students can see this in action by attending the monthly International Club meetings held at the middle school.



Monthly Therapy Dog Visits Promote Wellness at Hart's Hill

Since October, the hallways of Hart's Hill Elementary have been filled with wagging tails and smiling faces. Students and staff alike have come to look forward to monthly visits from two very special four-legged guests, Xena and Willa.

These visits are made possible through Cornell Companions, an animal-assisted activity and therapy program sponsored by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. The program focuses on strengthening the human-animal bond while sharing the comfort and positive impact animals can bring to communities.

Each visit is led by Cornell Cooperative Extension NYSERDA Hub Operations Coordinator Brittany Amore and 4-H Supervisor Lisa Farney. Through their interactions with Xena and Willa, students and staff experience a variety of emotional and wellness benefits, including stress reduction, anxiety relief and enhanced well-being.

Over time, these visits have become a cherished part of the Hart's Hill community. A special thank you to Ms. Amore and Ms. Farney for their continued commitment and dedication to supporting our students.



HART'S HILL HOSTS INFORMATIONAL EVENING FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

On March 25, Hart's Hill Elementary School welcomed parents and guardians of the incoming kindergarten class for an essential informational evening. Held in the school cafeteria, the event provided families with a comprehensive overview of the upcoming 2026–27 school year and offered a first look at the elementary school experience.

The evening opened with a detailed presentation led by Principal Mr. Manolescu, alongside kindergarten teachers and various support staff. The session covered critical topics designed to ensure a smooth transition for new students, including an overview of daily schedules, kindergarten academic expectations and the core curriculum. Additionally, staff shared practical strategies for how parents can help prepare their children for the excitement of starting school in the fall.

Following the formal presentation, parents and guardians transitioned to the gymnasium for a dynamic meet-and-greet session. This allowed families to circulate the room, meet the staff members who will be supporting their children and ask specific questions regarding school services. To conclude the evening, attendees were invited to participate in a self-guided tour of the building to become better acquainted with the Hart's Hill facilities.

Meet & Greet Participants

The following teams and departments were available to provide insight into the student experience:

- **Kindergarten Team:** Curriculum, daily routines and classroom expectations
- **Student Support:** School social worker, school psychologist and ICAN Behavioral Support Services
- **Instructional Support:** Academic Support Services and Special Education
- **Related Services:** Speech, occupational and physical therapy
- **School Operations:** Food Services and Transportation
- **Community:** Hart's Hill Elementary PTO

The teachers and staff at Hart's Hill are eager to begin the 2026–27 school year and remain committed to fostering a positive, collaborative relationship with all of our new parents and guardians.



MARCY FOURTH GRADERS VISIT NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

On March 19, fourth grade students at Marcy Elementary School traded their classrooms for the historic halls of the New York State Capitol in Albany. This immersive field trip provided a powerful real-world connection to their social studies curriculum on state government.

During the visit, students explored the Capitol's architecture while learning about its history as the center of New York's government. They also had the opportunity to meet with Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon and Senator Joseph Griffo, participating in an engaging question and answer session about how laws are made and what it means to serve the community. The day concluded with a memorable visit to the Assembly Chamber, where the Marcy Elementary group received a special recognition.

The trip provided students with a deeper understanding of how their state government works and how elected officials serve their communities. A special thank you to our elected officials and the staff at the State Capitol for providing such an educational and memorable experience for our students!



WEST. ROAD KIDS NIGHT OUT

On February 26, Westmoreland Road Elementary hosted its annual Kids Night Out in the school cafeteria, welcoming fourth and fifth grade students for a fun-filled evening.

Students enjoyed spending time with friends as they sang and danced the night away, creating lasting memories together.

A special thank you to the Westmoreland Road Elementary PTO for making this event possible.



WESTMORELAND ROAD TAKES ON THE KIDS HEART CHALLENGE

On February 13-27, Westmoreland Road Elementary School proudly participated in the American Heart Association (AHA) Kids Heart Challenge.

Through peer-to-peer fundraising, the Kids Heart Challenge supports the AHA's mission, including life-saving research, educational resources and initiatives to fight heart disease. However, it is more than just a fundraiser — the program serves as a meaningful service-learning experience, teaching students the importance of caring for their physical and mental health.

During the two-week challenge, students deepened their understanding of heart health through interactive lessons in physical education classes. They practiced hands-only CPR, took part in a heart obstacle course and learned about how the heart works — all while staying active and engaged.

By the end of the challenge, the school raised an impressive \$3,205 in support of the American Heart Association! To celebrate the students' hard work, physical education teacher Coach Temple dressed up in a dog costume for the day, bringing smiles and excitement throughout the building.

Participating in the challenge not only raised vital funds for an important cause but also empowered students with essential knowledge and skills to lead healthier lives. A special thank you to Mrs. Laurie Schmidt from the American Heart Association for her continued support and to Coach Temple for organizing this impactful event!



American Heart Association.

**KIDS
HEART
CHALLENGE**™

**AMERICAN
HEART
CHALLENGE**™

MARCY ELEMENTARY

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA AND BAND CONCERT



On February 11, the Whitesboro Music Department proudly presented the annual Marcy Elementary Beginning Orchestra and Band Concert at the school cafetorium. Beginning orchestra and band students proudly performed for friends and family, showcasing the skills they have developed since starting their musical journeys in September.

Under the direction of Mrs. Charity Dreier, the beginning orchestra delighted the audience with selections including “Up the D Scale, Down the D Scale,” “Lightly Row” and “Hot Cross Buns.” Students demonstrated their growing talents on violin, cello and string bass.

The beginning band, led by Mrs. Elissa May Murphy, performed familiar favorites such as “First Flight,” “Au Claire de la Lune” and “March Steps.” Band students played a variety of instruments, including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, low brass and percussion.

In just a few short months, these young musicians have made tremendous progress! The concert was a wonderful celebration of their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. A special thank you to all staff and administration who made the evening possible, including the Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian Bellair, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Accountability Mr. Dave Russo and Marcy Elementary Principal Mr. Eric Rothdiener. Thank you especially to all parents/guardians for your continuous encouragement of our young musicians!

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA AND BAND CONCERT

On February 11, the Whitesboro Music Department proudly presented the annual Deerfield Elementary Beginning Orchestra and Band Concert at the school gymnasium. Beginning orchestra and band students proudly performed for friends and family, showcasing the skills they have developed since starting their musical journeys in September.

Under the direction of Mrs. Lauralee Driscoll, the beginning orchestra delighted the audience with selections including “Two’s A Team,” “Mix ‘Em Up” and “The Ants Song.” Students demonstrated their growing talents on violin, cello and string bass.

The beginning band, led by Mrs. Jessica Decker, performed familiar favorites such as “The Five Note Scale,” “Hot Cross Buns” and “Lightly Row.” Band students played a variety of instruments, including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, low brass and percussion.

In just a few short months, these young musicians have made tremendous progress! The concert was a wonderful celebration of their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. A special thank you to all those who made the evening possible, including parents/guardians for your continuous encouragement of our young musicians!



Deerfield Fifth Graders

EXPLORE SCIENCE AT HAMILTON COLLEGE

Fifth grade students from Deerfield Elementary recently traded their classroom desks for a day of discovery at Hamilton College, where science came to life through hands-on exploration. The visit allowed students to step into real college laboratories and learn directly from professors across a variety of scientific disciplines, including geology, chemistry, physics, biology and psychology.

The day was packed with high-energy demonstrations designed to spark curiosity. In the chemistry lab, students witnessed a dramatic “elephant toothpaste” reaction that illustrated the power of chemical processes. Biology lessons became tangible as students built simple models of diaphragms to visualize how human lungs function during respiration. The physics department provided one of the most amazing highlights of the trip: A professor demonstrated the principles of force and pressure by lying on a bed of nails while a teacher broke a cement block on top of him with a sledgehammer.

Beyond physics and chemistry, students explored environmental science by examining how water runoff and erosion shape the land. The experience concluded with a volcanic eruption experiment, where students observed a model volcano demonstrate the powerful reactions occurring beneath the Earth’s surface. This immersive trip was more than just a day away from school; it provided Deerfield students a unique opportunity to ask questions, experience science in action and imagine themselves as the next generation of scientists.



PAWLOWSKI EARNS SPOT AT INDOOR TRACK STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Whitesboro boys varsity indoor track team member Xavier Pawlowski competed at the state championships following a record-breaking season! He represented the District at the 2026 NYSPHSAA Indoor Track and Field Championships on Saturday, March 7 at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island.

Xavier secured the top qualifying spot in the 300-meter dash with an outstanding performance at the State Qualifiers Meet on February 11. This achievement follows a record-breaking season for Xavier and secured his place among the state’s top competitors.

Throughout the 2025–26 indoor season, Xavier earned several notable honors. He was named the Track Performer of the Meet at the 2026 Utica Challenge Indoor Track Invitational and claimed both the 55-meter dash and 300-meter dash titles at the Tri-Valley League Conference Championships, where he first set the new District and Tri-Valley League records in the 300-meter dash. He also captured the Section III Class AA Championship in the 300-meter dash.

Continuing his strong momentum, Xavier delivered another remarkable performance on February 24 at the Elite Meet held at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex. Competing against some of the top runners in the country, he posted a blistering time of 35.15 seconds in the 300-meter dash, breaking his own Whitesboro school and Tri-Valley League records in the event.

Congratulations, Xavier, on your many accomplishments this season!



2026 NYSPHSAA INDIVIDUAL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



Whitesboro varsity gymnast Genevieve Michel delivered a standout performance against the top gymnasts in New York during the 2026 NYSPHSAA Individual Gymnastics Championships. On February 28, Genevieve represented both the District and Section III at the state level during the competition held at Valley Gymnastics.

Competing in the floor exercise, Genevieve demonstrated exceptional skill and grace, securing an impressive 22nd-place finish.

In addition to her competitive success, Genevieve was honored with the Sportsmanship Award. This prestigious recognition is a testament to her character, leadership and the positive impact she has made on the sport and her fellow competitors throughout her career.

Congratulations, Genevieve, on these outstanding achievements and a remarkable high school career! Your hard work and dedication have made the Whitesboro community incredibly proud.

2026 NYSPHSAA State Wrestling Championships

Joe Dare and Giovanni Lang proudly represented Whitesboro at the 2026 NYSPHSAA State Wrestling Championships at the MVP Arena in Albany. Competing in the challenging double-elimination format, both wrestlers went 1–2, bringing their outstanding seasons to a close against the best competition in New York State. Their appearance marked the first time since 1994 that Whitesboro has sent two wrestlers to the state championships in the same year — a significant milestone for the program.

Joe concludes his historic career as Whitesboro's all-time leader in wins, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, leadership and perseverance. Giovanni gained invaluable experience on the state stage and will carry that momentum into what promises to be an exciting senior season. We are incredibly proud of both athletes for the way they represented our school and community.





WHITESBORO ICE HOCKEY PROGRAM ACHIEVES HISTORIC SECTIONAL WIN

The Whitesboro varsity ice hockey team has been named the Section III Division II Boys Ice Hockey Champions! On March 2, the team traveled to the Upstate Medical Arena at The Oncenter War Memorial in Syracuse, delivering a monumental victory for the District.

In a close game, Whitesboro outlasted a late comeback from reigning state champions Skaneateles to secure a thrilling 5-4 victory. This historic win marks the first time in 23 years that the Whitesboro hockey program has claimed a sectional title.

Congratulations to the varsity ice hockey team on a monumental win!

NEW ATHLETIC FIELDS

The recent installation of the new turf fields at both the middle school and Westmoreland Road Elementary is the culmination of a multi-year journey defined by strategic planning and expert collaboration. The primary source of funding for these upgrades comes from our current Capital Project. By utilizing these dedicated funds, the District has successfully modernized its athletic infrastructure, providing a professional-grade environment for students to compete, practice and grow.



WHITESBORO UNIFIED BOWLING TEAM COMPETES AGAINST Faculty and Staff

On March 5, the Whitesboro Unified Bowling team competed against Whitesboro faculty and staff in a match held at Vista Lanes. The Unified team was crowned the champions of the match with a pin total of 3,617. Faculty and staff finished with a total of 2,992 pins.

Congratulations to all participants and thanks for a great day!



VARSITY SKI TEAMS COMPETE AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Whitesboro athletes delivered strong performances against the top skiers in New York State at the NYSPHSAA Alpine and Nordic Skiing Championships. On February 23 and 24, select members of the boys and girls varsity Alpine and Nordic ski teams traveled to Bristol Mountain Ski Resort to represent the District at the state level.

In the boys Alpine competition, Sawyer Dote placed 25th in the giant slalom (GS) and 35th in the slalom. In the boys Nordic races, Evan DeStefanis finished 37th and Alex Phelps placed 39th. In the girls Nordic competition, Elizabeth Friot earned a 37th place finish, Abigail Friot placed 43rd and Ashley Attilio finished 45th. Additionally, each Nordic skier competed as part of a Section III relay team that contributed to a fourth place overall finish for Section III.

To round out the teams' competitive success, boys varsity Alpine skier John Bradley was honored with the Section III Sportsmanship Award. This prestigious recognition reflects his character, integrity and positive impact on the sport and his fellow competitors.

Congratulations to all of our state qualifiers on an outstanding season! Your hard work and dedication have made the Whitesboro community incredibly proud.

WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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65 Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, New York 13492

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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.

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PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026,
AT PARKWAY, DEERFIELD OR MARCY SCHOOLS.