



THE QUOTE

West Irondequoit Central School District Newsletter

westirondequoit.org

#AllMeansAll

May 2026

Key Dates

- May 7 Budget Hearing, 7 p.m.
- May 11 Candidates' Night, 6:30 p.m. at IHS
- May 19 Budget Vote & Board of Education election

**VOTE FROM 6 A.M. – 9 P.M.
ST. PAUL BLVD. FIRE DEPT.**

Special District Budget Edition



From the Superintendent, Aaron Johnson

As we present next year's proposed budget, we do so with a deep awareness of the economic strain felt across our community. Rising costs are stretching household budgets, and we know those pressures are real and personal for our families, and they are felt within our schools as well. In this moment, building a responsible budget means more than balancing numbers; it demands empathy, discipline, and a steadfast commitment to protecting the opportunities and supports our students depend on every day.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE PROPOSITION
(see back page fold-out section)

Our core responsibility is to balance a peak-performing educational program with disciplined, responsible spending. Each year, we build a budget that reflects our community's values, preserves strong learning opportunities, and maintains long-term financial stability. A significant factor in that work: Personnel and benefits make up the largest portion of our budget, with healthcare costs representing a major and growing expense. This year, those costs have risen well beyond recent trends, placing added pressure on school systems. For many districts, that has meant difficult decisions, such as reducing staff or scaling back programs that directly impact students.

SCAN CODE TO READ THE QUOTE IN ANY LANGUAGE



Because we have carefully planned and managed our finances over the past few years, we have avoided those tough cuts. Our long-term approach has helped us manage these pressures without detracting from our

students' learning or support services. Still, we know these challenges are ongoing, so we need to keep planning ahead to stay stable in the future.

Three years ago, we promised to strengthen leadership and support in our elementary schools by adding assistant principals. We started this last year, and it is already making a real difference for students, staff, and families. At the same time, we are seeing more students needing help with mental health and social-emotional issues, more complex

continued on page 4

QUICK FACTS:

- 4.93%** Budget Increase
- 2.04%** Tax Levy Increase
- \$0.44** Estimated Tax Rate increase per \$1,000 assessed value

PROPOSED BUDGET:

\$105,572,417

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT:

2026-27 School Budget:

The district will be authorized to expend the sum set forth in its estimate of expenditures for the 2026-27 school year in the amount of \$105,572,417 and levy the necessary taxes therefore.

Maintenance Capital Project:

Proposition #1 will spend up to \$1.85 million for work at Dake Jr. HS, Irondequoit HS, and Seneca School.

Energy Performance Contract Aid:

Proposition #2 will authorize the district to access an additional 10% in state aid.

Board of Education election:

There are two candidates for two seats. Read more on page 6.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

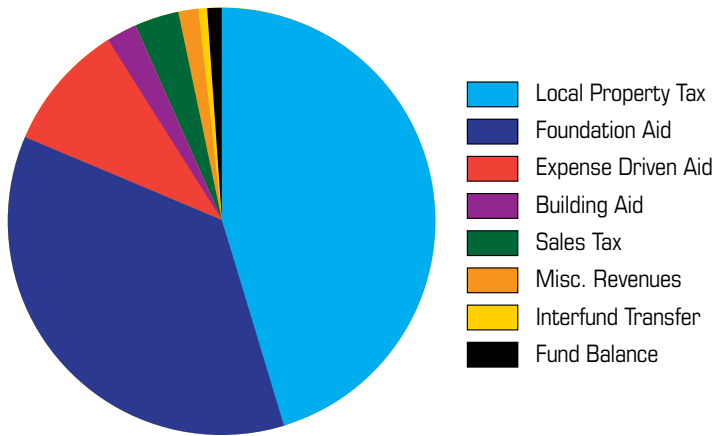
- Expanded Budget Section 2-5
- Promise Project 2027 Update 7
- District Highlights 8-9

Pictured above: Briarwood Pre-K students Tizano and Livia with teacher, Jennifer Bonfanti.

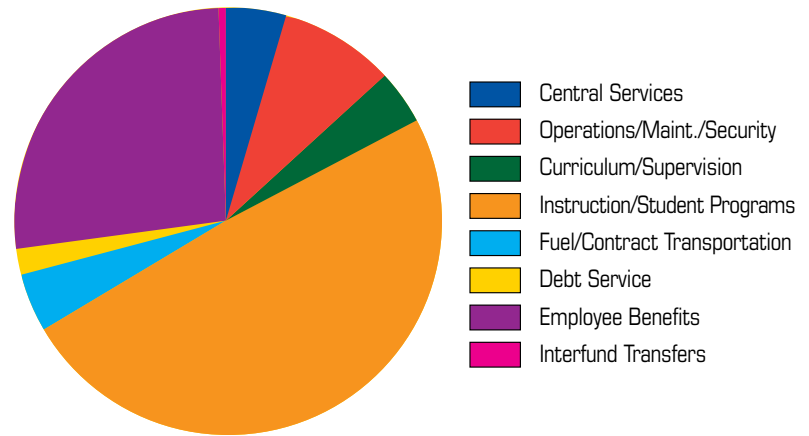
Proposed 2026-27 Revenue Budget

Revenue	2025-26	2026-27 (est.)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Local Property Tax	\$45,666,465	\$46,598,023	\$931,558	2.04%	44.1%
Foundation Aid	\$36,449,374	\$36,987,779	\$538,405	1.5%	35.0%
Expense Driven Aid	\$9,796,196	\$10,175,711	\$379,515	3.9%	9.6%
Building Aid	\$1,484,332	\$2,654,191	\$1,169,859	78.8%	2.5%
Sales Tax	\$4,000,000	\$4,100,000	\$100,000	2.5%	3.9%
Misc. Revenues	\$1,893,064	\$2,047,229	\$154,165	8.1%	1.9%
Interfund Transfer	\$189,451	\$598,750	\$409,299	216.0%	0.6%
Fund Balance	\$1,132,453	\$2,410,734	\$1,278,281	112.9%	2.3%
TOTAL	\$100,611,335	\$105,572,417	\$4,961,082	4.93%	100.0%

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Proposed 2026-27 Expense Budget

Expenses	2025-26	2026-27 (proposed)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Central Services	\$5,377,379	\$5,644,549	\$267,170	5.0%	5.3%
Operations, Maintenance and Security	\$9,629,730	\$9,375,086	-\$254,644	-2.6%	8.9%
Curriculum and Supervision	\$3,502,983	\$4,121,730	\$618,747	17.7%	3.9%
Instruction and Student Programs	\$48,895,093	\$50,253,895	\$1,358,802	2.8%	47.6%
Fuel and Contract Transportation	\$5,655,199	\$6,055,199	\$400,000	7.1%	5.7%
Debt Service (Mortgage)	\$1,445,254	\$2,674,092	\$1,228,838	85.0%	2.5%
Employee Benefits (Health, Retirement, FICA, Disability)	\$25,770,697	\$27,162,866	\$1,392,169	5.4%	25.7%
Interfund Transfers	\$335,000	\$285,000	-\$50,000	-14.9%	0.3%
TOTAL	\$100,611,335	\$105,572,417	\$4,961,082	4.93%	100.0%

Expenditures in Three Components

TOTAL BUDGET = \$105,572,417

12.0%
OF BUDGET

Administrative

\$12,714,666

Provides general support and management for the District

- Board of Education and Superintendent's Office
- Finance, Personnel and Public Information
- Technology infrastructure
- Legal services and liability insurance
- Auditing services
- Curriculum development
- Supervision of the schools by principals and assistant principals

13.8%
OF BUDGET

Capital

\$14,587,849

Maintaining the infrastructure and facilities for the District

- Upkeep of 134 acres of District property
- Maintenance of 10 schools and 8 additional buildings
- Utility bills (natural gas, electric, fuel, telephone)
- Refund of property tax claims
- Principal and interest payments on District debt for previous capital improvements

74.1%
OF BUDGET

Program

\$78,269,902

Provides instruction and support services to schools

- General education faculty and staff
- Special education faculty and staff
- Co-curricular and extra-curricular programs
- Transportation
- Health services
- Guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists
- School supplies, textbooks, library books, software, instructional computers

Facts and Information

Tax Levy

The amount of money needed to balance the budget between expenditures and all other revenue. It is the total amount of revenue raised through property taxes.

Proposed Tax Levy Increase

The proposed tax levy increase to support the District Budget for the 2026-27 school year is 2.04%.

Projected Tax Levy	\$46,598,023
Projected Rate per \$1000 Assessed Value	\$22.21
STAR Savings	
Basic	\$601
Enhanced	\$1,724

The estimated basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. The numbers listed above come from the NYS Office of Real Property Services website: www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/max-savings/school-district/sd26.htm

What if the district budget is not approved by voters?

A simple majority vote is required for the proposed budget to be approved, as the proposal meets the acceptable tax levy threshold for West Irondequoit with a 2.04% tax levy increase. The Board of Education could propose one more budget for voter approval, or it could elect to adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget cannot contain a tax levy that is greater than the levy of the previous year.

School District Budget Notice

You will find the School District Budget Notice, as required by state law, on page 5 of this newsletter. School districts must present their costs in three prescribed components, as defined above. A more detailed breakdown of expenses and revenues is provided on page 2.

Budget Details

Budget information is on our website, westirondequoit.org. Look for "2026 Budget Vote" tab on the main page. For more information, call (585) 342-5500.


2026-27 Budget Objectives

Development of the 2026-27 budget centered on the following objectives:

- Balance enrollment changes at grade levels to maintain class sizes
- Continue to follow Special Education mandates
- Align curriculum and instruction resources as stated in the district’s Strategic Plan
- Restore elements of the budget that had been reduced in the past or included in Federal Stimulus funding
- Maintain a sustainable 5-Year Financial Plan while staying within the Tax Levy Cap.

Included within the budget is the addition of three assistant principals at the K-6 grade level. They will serve Iroquois Middle School, Brookview/Seneca schools and Briarwood/Colebrook schools, assisting the needs of those buildings, and replace three existing “lead teacher” positions. To augment our special education programs, there will be an increase of two special education teachers, as well as

one teacher assistant, plus a special education teacher on special assignment (TOSA). Our Community Schools initiative that was started in 2025-26 at Rogers/Southlawn will expand to Iroquois with a new coordinator there, contracted through BOCES. Finally, a full-time physical therapist position will be reallocated from BOCES to improve both financial efficiency, as well as improve delivery of services.

The budget also includes \$100,000 for a Capital Outlay Exclusion Project (COEP) to make improvements at Irondequoit HS. The proposed project will refurbish the electrical, mechanical and hydraulic systems in the elevator at the south end of the building. Ensuring elevators are in good working order in our buildings has been identified as a priority by our Facilities Planning Committee. We anticipate receiving more than \$80,000 in state aid on this project, for the following budget year. 

Superintendent’s Message *continued from cover*

learning programs, and more students needing special services. As local service providers face their own challenges, schools are being asked to step in and help even more.

Our district has been intentional in preparing for this moment. The strategic plan we are now completing has not only guided our programs and financial decisions but has also kept us grounded in what matters most: delivering a strong educational experience for every student. At the same time, we are looking ahead, finalizing a five-year plan and a comprehensive facilities master plan designed to elevate and modernize our learning environments to reflect the high standards our community expects and deserves.

West Irondequoit has long been a destination district, one that families seek out for its reputation for excellence, opportunity, and care for the whole child. In an era when families have more choices than ever about where to live and where to educate their children, we take that responsibility seriously. Our goal is not simply to maintain that legacy, but to build on it to ensure our schools and community continue to stand out across the region as a place where students thrive, staff excel, and pride runs deep.

This year’s budget reflects our efforts. We have tried to use our reserves only when necessary, focusing on maintaining our buildings and meeting important needs. We have also stayed within the tax cap, which is part of our goal to offer a budget that is responsible and has community support. You will also see two additional propositions that support improved energy efficiency, sustainability, and long-term investment in the health of our schools. These steps will ensure the viability of our schools for years to come.



Superintendent Aaron Johnson high-fives some students at an assembly in the Rogers Middle School gymnasium. (photo by Riley O’Connor, IHS senior)

Collectively, we are proud of our accomplishments and thankful for our community’s ongoing support. In West Irondequoit, education is foundational, and our schools are the heart of our community. This budget shows both the challenges we face now and our shared promise to give every student the opportunities and supports they deserve to succeed, now and in the years ahead.

In partnership,


Aaron R. Johnson
Superintendent of Schools
aaron_johnson@westiron.monroe.edu

2026-27 School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 100,611,335	\$ 105,572,417	\$ 104,640,859										
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 4,961,082	\$ 4,029,524										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.93%	4.01%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount		\$ 45,666,465	\$ 46,598,023										
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 45,666,465	\$ 46,598,023	\$ 45,666,465										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 45,666,465	\$ 46,598,023											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 45,666,465	\$ 46,598,023											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
Administrative Component	\$ 11,455,595	\$ 12,714,666		\$ 12,086,886									
Program Component	\$ 75,534,098	\$ 78,269,902	\$ 78,094,845										
Capital Component	\$ 13,621,642	\$ 14,587,849	\$ 14,459,128										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>A contingency budget would be one developed with a zero levy increase from the prior year, the administrative component being an equal or less than the percentage as the prior year and elimination of all equipment not required for health and safety needs.</p> <p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2026 Capital Improvement Project (IHS, Dake, Seneca)</td> <td>\$ 1,855,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy Performance Contract</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	2026 Capital Improvement Project (IHS, Dake, Seneca)	\$ 1,855,000	Energy Performance Contract	N/A		\$		\$
Description	Amount												
2026 Capital Improvement Project (IHS, Dake, Seneca)	\$ 1,855,000												
Energy Performance Contract	N/A												
	\$												
	\$												

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 601

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the West Irondequoit school district, Monroe County, New York, will be held at the St. Paul Fire Department in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Board of Education Candidates

Two candidates are running for two seats on the Board of Education. The seven-member board is made up of community volunteers who serve three-year terms. All candidate biographical information appears in *The Quote* as it was submitted by each candidate. Names will appear on the ballot in the following order as drawn by lottery.



Gary Adams

135 Glenmont Drive
garyadams6278@gmail.com

Age: 46

Family:

Son – Isaac, 10th grade, Irondequoit HS
Daughter – Elle, 8th grade, Dake Jr. HS
Son – Eli, 5th grade, Iroquois MS
Son – Ari, 3rd grade, Southlawn ES

Occupation:

Engineering Manager at Baldwin Richardson Foods

Education:

B.S., Mechanical Engineering, RIT
M.B.A., Master of Business Administration with leadership focus, RIT

Community Involvement:

- Town of Irondequoit Conservation Board Member, 2018-2020 and 2025-present
- Town of Irondequoit Audit Committee Member, 2017-present
- Genesee Conservation Foundation Board Member (secretary) - 2024-present
- Asst. Cubmaster, Irondequoit Cub Scout Pack 420, 2024-present
- New York State Wedding Officiant, 2015-present
- Various school activities/events
- Volunteer for Sunset House 5k & Johnny's 5k races

Candidate Statement:

“My name is Gary Adams, and I am running for the school board because I believe that our children deserve the best possible education. As a parent of four children in the district, I’m aware of the challenges that our students and teachers face. I believe that providing a comprehensive education that includes both academic and real-world skills is critical. I’m committed to promoting innovative programs that promote creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will prepare students for a rapidly changing world. I plan on leveraging my experiences as a technical leader in business to be a good steward of the district’s finances, which includes identifying, prioritizing and executing Capital Projects, including long and short-term maintenance plans for the buildings. I believe it’s important for members of the school board to collaborate with others, ask tough questions, listen and learn. This will allow us to make decisions that benefit all the children in the district. I appreciate you considering me for school board, and I look forward to earning your vote.”



John Vay

25 Parr Circle
johntvay@gmail.com

Age: 58

Family:

Spouse – Colleen Vay, Rogers Middle School teacher for 29 years
Son – T.J., 2016 IHS graduate
Daughter – Maggie, teacher, Southlawn School; 2019 IHS graduate
Daughter – Becca, 2020 IHS graduate

Occupation:

Assistant Director, Clinical Engineering, University of Rochester Medical Center

Education:

Degree from Simmons School of Mortuary Science
NYS Licensed Funeral Director
Apprenticeship from Kodak in Electrical Instrumentation

Community Involvement:

- West Irondequoit CSD Board of Education member since 2007
- West Irondequoit CSD Board of Education President 2017-20
- West Irondequoit CSD Board liaison to Helmer Nature Center
- IHS Lacrosse Booster club member
- IHS Volleyball Booster club member
- Helmer Nature Center member & volunteer
- St. Kateri Parish member
- Son of American Legion Post 468 member

Candidate Statement:

“I am proud to seek continued service on the West Irondequoit Board of Education, a role I have held since 2007. As a graduate of Irondequoit High School’s Class of 1986, this district is not just where I work – it is where I was shaped, and it remains close to my heart. For nearly two decades, I have worked tirelessly alongside fellow board members, administrators, educators, and families to ensure West Irondequoit remains a district known for excellence in learning, thoughtful decision-making, and strong community values. I am deeply committed to providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students while maintaining fiscal responsibility and respecting the trust placed in us by taxpayers. As a lifelong member of this community, I bring experience, continuity, and a steadfast focus on what matters most: student success, responsible stewardship of resources, and a school district that reflects the pride and values of West Irondequoit. I would be honored to continue serving our schools and our community.”

WICPTSA CANDIDATES' NIGHT IS MONDAY, MAY 11

Candidates' Night is Monday, May 11 at 6:30 PM in the Campus Center (small cafeteria at IHS). To watch a video replay of the West Irondequoit Central PTSA Candidates' Night after May 11, go to the district YouTube channel at bit.ly/WICSD_YouTube.

Transformative Promise Project 2027 work underway

With the Rise Project complete, work has started on the \$24.6 million Promise Project 2027, the district Capital Improvement Project approved by voters in December of 2024. It encompasses a major renovation and modernization of the Pinegrove Learning Center, 154 Pinegrove Ave., and the addition of a multi-purpose athletic complex at our main campus behind Irondequoit High School and Dake Jr. HS featuring new turf baseball and softball fields, plus a new grass baseball diamond at Iroquois Middle School.

The transformation of the Pinegrove facility, adjacent to the Helmer Nature Center, will allow the district to add three Pre-Kindergarten/UPK classrooms, so we can get more children/families off our annual Pre-K/UPK waiting list and into modernized classrooms. The work will also add a STEAM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) for district-wide use, including use by Helmer Nature Center. This will be a full gut and renovation of the existing building including:

- Secure entrance and vestibule
- Administration and Nurse offices
- Restrooms, staff break room and custodial room

Work began in March on a reconfigured drop-off/pick-up loop in front of the building. Oh, we can't forget this addition: A new age-appropriate playground, too!

Construction on the state-of-the-art turf fields on the main campus will begin after the IHS baseball/softball seasons conclude later this spring. Below is an estimated work timeline:

Spring 2026:

- Begin work on Pinegrove Learning Center
- Mobilize to IHS (main campus turf) and middle school (grass) fields for construction; expect to happen in late May/early June 2026

Summer 2026:

- Mobilize to Iroquois MS for corridor renovations and elevator modernization
- Continuing work at middle school field
- Continuing work at main campus turf athletic complex

Fall/Winter 2026:

- Turnover interior renovations at Iroquois MS
- Continuing work at Pinegrove Learning Center and both fields

Spring 2027:

- Final preparation of Pinegrove LC and Pre-K/UPK building
- Final preparation of main campus turf athletic complex and Iroquois fields
- Project Closeout

For a complete list and project updates, go to westirondequoit.org

Pinegrove Learning Center



WICSD Senior Citizen Gold Card Program

West Irondequoit residents who are at least 62 years old are invited to join our Gold Card Program. The card is free and entitles holders to:

- Discounted fees for select Community Education courses
- The opportunity to participate in the Senior Lap Swim Program at a discounted rate
- A special invitation and free admission to select student theater performances
- A special invitation to our Senior Citizen Dinner Theatre
- Free admission to regular-season home sports events

Please call the Public Information Office at 585-336-3067 with questions about events or the Community Education Office at 585-336-3014 with questions about adult classes and opportunities. [»](#)

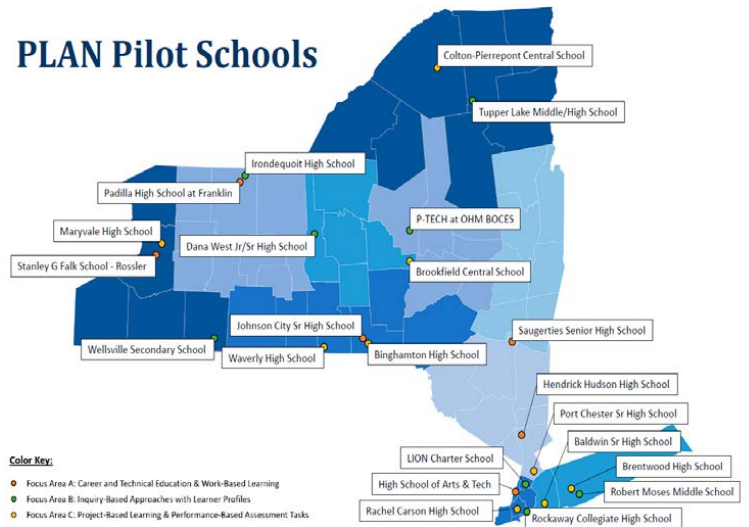
TOGETHER WE RISE

WHAT IS THE “PLAN PILOT” PROGRAM?

We are one of just 23 districts participating in the NYS Education Department’s Performance-Based Learning and Assessment Networks Pilot, or PLAN Pilot. The goal of this pilot is to help schools develop Performance-Based Learning and Assessments (PBLA) and explore whether students can show readiness for life after high school through projects, presentations, work experiences, and hands-on learning – instead of just testing. It’s tied to NYSED’s Portrait of a Graduate initiative, which redefines what a student should be able to do when they finish high school. This was introduced at Irondequoit HS in 2024-25 for Global I (Grade 9 social studies) and expanded this school year to Biology (Grade 9 science) and for Grade 12, classes in Government, Economics and English Humanities.

To learn more, go to nysed.gov/plan-pilot/pilot-school-spotlight

PLAN Pilot Schools



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

For the 19th straight year and 25th time in the past 27 years, West Irondequoit has earned the distinction as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America! The designation is from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation and it’s announced each spring. Congratulations to our talented students and hard-working music staff!

Pictured: The Irondequoit High School Jazz Choir “Gold N’ Blues,” at its annual performance in the Monroe County Holiday Concert Series in downtown Rochester.



THEY’RE ALL “BUSINESS”

For the 14th straight year, Irondequoit HS earned a Top 100 ranking from WISE for excellence in teaching financial literacy. The recognition was based on work submitted for the 2024-25 school year by students in the IHS Career & Financial Management Class. WISE stands for Working In Support of Education. IHS has been teaching personal finance for decades in the CFM course, so it is well-positioned to meet new expectations in the “Portrait of a Graduate” initiative. Learning for students who join the IHS DECA club is also beneficial. Seven members earned spots in the DECA International World Conference in Atlanta in late April. They are front row (left to right) Brooke Trovato, Gianna Geesler, Elena Lamanna; back row, Isaac Amymerich, Isaac Nielsen, Ben Long and Ben Loomis.



TOGETHER WE RISE

PERFORMING ARTS

Did you know West Irondequoit Performing Arts has expanded its production schedule in recent years from four to seven shows? In addition to the traditional performances of the Dake (fall) and IHS (spring) musicals and the IHS fall and spring plays, Rogers and Iroquois middle schools have added musicals. This spring, Rogers performed “Lion King Kids” (pictured at right) and the Iroquois musical was “Seussical Kids.” The IHS Spring play is “The Bookstore,” and on stage May 29-31; the Dake Drama Club presents, “Hard Boiled: A Nursery Crime,” June 4-6. Tickets will be available at westironpa.ludus.com.



GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

Congratulations to Irondequoit High School teacher, Peter Chupak (left, middle), and Rogers Middle School teacher, Alyssa Arcarisi (right), on recently receiving the prestigious Golden Apple Award from WROC-TV (Channel 8). Our district has had 13 teachers earn the honor in the past seven years! Mr. Chupak, who has specialized in teaching auto mechanics for 25 years, is also advisor to the IHS “Torque Club.” Miss Arcarisi, who teaches fourth grade, has taught at Rogers for 12 years and actually attended the school as a child.



WICPTSA

West Irondequoit’s annual PTA Honorary Life Awards will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 16 at the IHS Campus Center (small cafeteria). Please join us as special individuals from our school and community are recognized with the highest honor a PTA can bestow. Last year’s honorees were Kathryn Copeland, a former West Irondequoit Central PTSA President, and current School Board Member; longtime IHS Business Teacher and DECA advisor, Lou DiCesare and Monica Suter, who has handled auditing and taxes for the WICPTSA for 26-plus years for free. Joining WICPTSA is a powerful way to demonstrate your support for a high quality of education for our students and a meaningful partnership with parents/guardians, teachers, and administration. Eleven of your \$15 membership fee stays here in West Irondequoit and supports students and families at all 10 schools. Join via this link: wicptsa.org.

A banner for the WICPTSA Honorary Life Award. The banner features the WICPTSA logo with a star, the text "Honorary Life Award", the date and time "7 p.m. Tuesday, June 16th", the location "IHS Campus Center", a QR code, and the website "wicptsa.org". The text "JOIN or LEARN MORE" is also present.

District Snapshot

94%

Graduation rate by IHS students over the past 5 years

94%

2025 graduates who earned Advanced Regents and Regents diplomas

79%

Class of 2025 graduates to access college coursework at IHS

25

Number of times in past 27 years WICSD has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America

30

Number of IHS business students who competed in the 2026 DECA State Career Conference

17

Consecutive years IHS has been honored by WISE for excellence in teaching financial literacy

14th

WICSD rank among 17 Monroe County Districts for per-pupil-spending (\$23,074)

Achieving Peak Performance!

Comprehensive education: We offer one of the area's most comprehensive high schools with programs in art, building trades, business, music, performing arts, technology and vocational automotive.

Neighborhood schools: Average enrollment of 167 among our six K-3 schools.

Career Connections Program: Helps students thrive in work-study jobs, internships & career shadowing.

Fine arts: Offer 21 courses in art; students regularly have work displayed in local exhibits.

Performing arts: Four major dramatic presentations annually by IHS and Dake Jr. High students. One musical each for Iroquois and Rogers middle schools.

1:1 technology: Laptop computers for grades K-12, which started in the 2020-21 school year.

Professional Development: For 35-plus years we have provided a teacher learning center.

Athletics: Varsity teams in 28 sports, including girls flag football and girls wrestling.

Unified Sports: Inclusive co-ed basketball/bowling teams that unite students with and without disabilities.

Helmer Nature Center: Our District-owned 45-acre "outdoor classroom" teaches environmental awareness to our students and is a widely used community asset offering exposure to woods and wetlands. HNC celebrated its 50th anniversary and Eclipse Fest in the 2023-24 school year.

West Irondequoit Foundation: Has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to the District for educational programs and equipment.

Welcome. Nurture. Inspire.

West Irondequoit CSD 2026-27 School Calendar



■ Superintendent's Conference Day
■ Parent-Teacher Conference Day
■ Holiday/Recess
■ Regents Exams
■ Regents Rating Day

July

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

December

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

June

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

Sept. 2-3	Superintendent's Conference Day - No School Pre-K-12
Sept. 4	12 Month Staff Report - No School Pre-K-12
Sept. 7	Labor Day - No School Pre-K-12
Sept. 8	First Day of School - Grades Pre-K-12
Oct. 9	Superintendent's Conference Day - No School Pre-K-12
Oct. 12	Indigenous Peoples' Day - No School Pre-K-12
Nov. 6	Pre-K-6 Parent-Teacher Conference Day - No School Pre-K-6
Nov. 11	Veterans Day - No School Pre-K-12
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Recess - No School Pre-K-12
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Holiday Recess - No School Pre-K-12
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School Pre-K-12
Jan. 26-28	Regents Exams
Jan. 29	Rating Day - No School Grades 9-12
Feb. 6	Lunar New Year
Feb. 15-19	Winter Recess - No School Pre-K-12
Mar. 19	Pre-K-6 Parent-Teacher Conference Day - Half Day Grades Pre-K-6
Mar. 22-26	Spring Recess - No School Pre-K-12
May 31	Memorial Day Recess - No School Pre-K-12
June 14	Last Day of school for Grades 9-12
June 15-24	Regents Exams
June 19	Juneteenth
June TBD	Graduation-TBD
June 23	Last Day of School Grades Pre-K-8
June 25	Last Day all Faculty

Faculty Days 187 Student Days 181
 includes 1 discretionary day to complete mandatory annual trainings no later than 10/1/26 (10 month staff)

PROPOSITION 2 ON BALLOT:

Energy Performance Contract Aid

Proposition #2 will authorize our district to access an additional 10% in the form of state aid.

Investing Smarter: Understanding our Energy Performance Contract

Over the past year, our Board of Education has been pursuing a long-term Energy Performance Contract (EPC) with a company called, Energy Systems Group. Voter approval of Proposition #2 will authorize our district to request an additional 10% in state aid for the contract. If approved, the contract would mean approximately \$2.5 million in savings over the next 18 years.

What is an EPC?

It's a long-term contract and strategy to improve facilities while controlling costs. An EPC allows us to make capital improvements to enhance energy efficiency through upgrades to lighting, heating and cooling systems, insulation and building controls, **without increasing the financial burden on taxpayers** as we maintain and enhance high-quality learning environments. Another benefit: Work on enhancing our systems would be done in the coming years, not over the length of the contract.

It means adding roof-mounted solar panels. It means replacing old lights with new, LED lights (think about how many lights are needed each day in each room of our 10 schools). It means more modern and efficient HVAC and control systems, among other enhancements. These improvements reduce electricity and gas expenses and decrease water use and the cost of upgrades is paid over time using guaranteed savings from lower energy bills. Instead of paying high utility costs for outdated systems, we invest in efficient equipment and infrastructure that lowers bills and use those savings to fund upgrades.



Roof-mounted solar panels

School buildings are valuable community assets, but many essential systems are aging and costly to maintain. An EPC enables us to proactively address these needs, avoiding costly breakdowns, emergency repairs, and interruptions to instruction and operations.

Forward-Thinking Approach

A key EPC feature is accountability. Energy savings are measured and guaranteed in future years, protecting the district if projected savings are not achieved. This structure enables us to make meaningful improvements now without increasing the community's financial burden or taxes, while also supporting environmental sustainability by reducing energy use. EPCs help us do what we strive for daily: Make thoughtful, efficient decisions that support our students, respect our taxpayers, and invest wisely in the future of our schools.

SAVINGS PROJECTIONS

Estimates are based on an 18-year Energy Performance Contract.

IF PROP #2 PASSES, the district would receive an additional 10% in state aid (88.1% savings):

- \$806,803 annually
- \$17,351,393 over 18 years

IF PROP #2 FAILS, the district would receive only 78.1% back:

- \$635,000 annually
- \$14,775,312 over 18 years

PROJECT SCOPE

ECM ID	Energy Conservation Measure "ECM" Description	Briarwood Elementary	Brookview Elementary	Colebrook Elementary	Dake Junior High	District Office	Irondequoit High School	Iroquois Middle School	Listwood Elementary	Rogers Southlawn School	Seneca Elementary	Sproule Field House
01	LED Lighting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
02	Building Infiltration Sealing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
03	Insulate Existing Heating Piping	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
04	RTU Replacements						✓		✓			
05	Boiler Replacements						✓	✓		✓		
06	DHW Replacements				✓			✓		✓		
07	Steam Traps						✓					
08B	Building Controls Upgrades - Day Automation			✓					✓		✓	
09	Building Controls Upgrades RCx	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10A	Solar - Roof Mounted	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Plug Load Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

PROPOSITION 1 ON BALLOT: Maintenance Capital Project (2026)

WHAT:

For the third straight year, we have an annual **Maintenance Capital Project (MCP)** on the ballot (Proposition 1). The MCP is targeted for smaller projects for our schools and buildings, such as new roofs or heating/cooling upgrades. These projects are limited in scope and cost to ensure no impact on taxes.

We need voter approval to receive building aid from the state, which covers most of the cost, and allow us access the district's capital reserves to pay for the remaining portion. Last year's MCP allowed us to repair the roof at Briarwood School. This year, it focuses on improvements at three schools: Seneca elementary (ceiling of foyer), Irondequoit High School (roof) and Dake Jr. High School (roof).

WHY:

By proactively addressing maintenance issues and not allowing buildings to deteriorate, we avoid higher costs of future repairs. Smaller projects, such as the Maintenance Capital Project, allow us to address maintenance projects that are too large for the Capital Outlay Exclusion Projects (limited to \$100,000). They also better position us for larger projects, such as the R.I.S.E. Project and Promise Project 2027, and can address improving instructional spaces, facilities and programs.

2026-27 PROPOSITION:

The MCP proposal for 2026-27 will address issues at three schools:

- **Dake Jr. HS:** The main roof and cafeteria roof were installed in 2003 and are beyond their 20-year warranty. Due to severe deterioration, including visible holes, full replacement is required.
Cost: \$573,890
- **Irondequoit HS:** The raised roof over the Library/Media Center, installed as part of the 1999 Capital Improvement Project, shows yellowing due to deterioration. Visible cracking in the exterior skin is also present. Given the extent of wear and damage, resurfacing is not recommended, and full replacement is required.
Cost: \$1,062,000
- **Seneca:** Ceiling tiles in the foyer of this 103-year-old elementary school building have fallen. The tiles and mastic (glue) have asbestos. Abatement and replacement is necessary.
Cost: \$177,111



Dake Jr. HS main roof

**\$1.85 million
Capital Project
NO TAX
IMPACT!**



IHS Library/Media Center roof (interior and exterior)



Damaged ceiling tiles in the foyer of Seneca School



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Superintendent
Dr. Aaron Johnson

Board of Education
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Mrs. Victoria Bournival, Vice President
Mrs. Melissa Bohrer
Mrs. Kathryn Copeland
Mr. Kevin Schoepfel
Ms. Tamara Wall
Mr. John Vay

Mrs. Jenna Lustig, District Clerk

Rourke Hickey, Student Representative
Bree Hunley, Student Representative
Richard Maulfair III, Student Representative

Newsletter Editor
Mr. Jeff DiVeronica

DISTRICT VOTE: MAY 19 at St. Paul Blvd. Fire Dept., 433 Cooper Road

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen; you have lived in the West Irondequoit School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote; you are at least 18 years of age by the day of the vote. The West Irondequoit Board of Education requires proof of residency at the polls. Examples include a driver's license or other documentation proving residence in West Irondequoit.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified voters unable to vote in person because of disabilities, illness, travel or other valid reasons listed under election law may vote by Absentee Ballot. Residents may request an application for an Absentee Ballot in person weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from District Clerk, Jenna Lustig, at District Office, 321 List Ave.

EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Qualified voters may request an application for an Early Mail Ballot in person weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from District Clerk, Jenna Lustig, at District Office, 321 List Ave.

ABSENTEE/EARLY MAIL SUBMISSIONS

Applications for both Absentee and Early Mail ballots are available at westirondequoit.org. Completed applications must be received in the District Clerk's office at least 7 days before the vote (May 12) if the ballot is to be mailed, or by 4 p.m. the day prior to the vote (May 18), if the ballot is to be picked up. Absentee/Early Mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 19. 📄



Four Odyssey of the Mind teams qualify for World Finals!

Good luck to the four Odyssey of the Mind teams from our district that are headed to the World Finals in Ames, Iowa from May 27-30! They qualified by turning in strong performances at the state competition in Syracuse in late March. Squads have been working together since October. Six teams from West Irondequoit competed at states and all represented our district and Region 14 well! The four below qualified:

- Iroquois 4th & 5th grade (1st at states): Lucas Boehm, Mason Chadwick, Elliot Fadden, Jonas Stone, Duncan Newell, Charlie Pryce, Benny Rivera.
- IHS 10th & 11th grade (2nd): Susan Bondi, Madison Daly, Lillian Gilbert, Bree Hunley, Thora Moore, Everleigh Stoffel.
- Dake 7th grade (3rd): Ella Chadwick, Azalea Paredes, Ella Scafetta, Arabella Stone, Charlotte VanEpps, Rylee Westra, Angelina Yandow.
- IHS 9th grade (3rd): Mitchell Getz, Conrad Kamola, Marta Kauffman, Isabella Randisi, Peter Rinella, Oliver Sherwood.

Pictured above: The IHS 10th & 11th grade team 📄



The day of the vote, **Cordello's Pizzeria** and **Frios Gourmet Pops** will be serving food and refreshments in the front loop of **Dake Jr. HS** and **Irondequoit HS** from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.