



WC Wildcat Connections

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

Tuesday
May 19, 2026
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

2026-27 Budget



Superintendent's Message

Dear Community Members,

The District has engaged in an extensive and thorough process to prepare a budget for the 2026–27 school year that supports our mission to partner with the community to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, and reach their fullest potential.

The proposed budget allows the District to continue to leverage its strength as a small district by offering a responsive and relationship-centered learning experience. Our focus on strong adult–student connections and individualized learning ensures that every student is seen, heard, and supported by the caring adults who guide their educational journey.

The budget also maintains our commitment to providing students with diverse and enriching learning opportunities. Students will continue to have access to rigorous academic courses, including Advanced Placement classes; intensive academic support through specialized instruction; robust music and theater programs; interscholastic athletics; and a wide range of clubs and extracurricular activities. Our dedication to a balanced educational program is reflected not only in our academic offerings but also in our student performances, such as the recent production of *The Little Mermaid*, and the District's continued recognition for excellence across multiple areas.

The Wheatland-Chili Board of Education and I remain committed to developing a budget that sustains these opportunities for students while maintaining fiscal responsibility. The 2026–27 budget was strategically crafted to ensure that we can continue offering diverse programming options that meet the needs of all learners.

The Wheatland-Chili School District strives to be the heart of the community we serve. Through collaboration and shared purpose, we continue to strengthen the connections that make our District special. In my short time as Superintendent, I have come to deeply appreciate that Wheatland-Chili is truly a unique gem—one defined by its people, its values, and its unwavering dedication to children.

This newsletter was designed to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision when voting on the school budget and Board of Education elections on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Thank you for your partnership, trust, and continued support of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District.

Stephen J. Kenny, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Underwater Magic Brought to the Stage in "The Little Mermaid"

The Wheatland-Chili Drama Club brought *"The Little Mermaid"* to life with a vibrant and engaging performance that captured the magic of Ariel's underwater world. Audiences followed Ariel's journey as she dreamed of life beyond the sea, striking a daring deal with the sea witch Ursula in exchange for the chance to walk on land. The cast delivered memorable musical numbers and energetic choreography, bringing colorful characters like Sebastian, Flounder, and Prince Eric to the stage with enthusiasm and charm.

It was a fun and heartfelt performance that reflected the hard work of over 60 students and staff members.



Inside this issue:

- 2026-27 Proposed Budget
- Capital Project Update
- Board of Education Candidates
- Upcoming Events

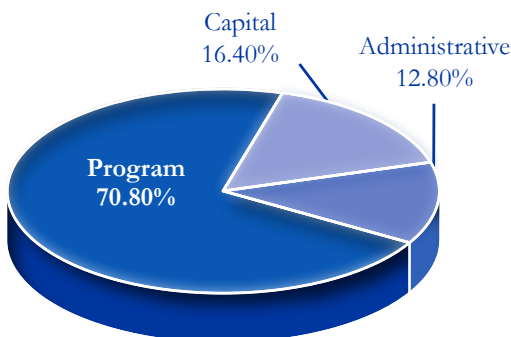
Budget Basics

Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget	\$25,617,986
Budget-to-Budget Increase	\$2,018,789
% Budget-to-Budget Increase	8.55%
Estimated Tax Levy	\$11,198,789
Estimated % Change in Tax Levy	3.50%
2025-26 Blended Tax Rate per \$1,000/Assessed Value	\$17.90
2026-27 Projected Blended Tax Rate per \$1,000/Assessed Value	\$18.35 *
Estimated % Change in Tax Rate	2.54%

* Dependent on final assessed valuations provided by towns of Brighton, Chili, Wheatland, and Caledonia.



2026-2027 Three-Part Budget



Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories: administrative, program and capital.

Total Budget:	\$25,617,986	
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Administrative	2025-26	2026-27
Amount	\$3,191,650	\$3,278,137
Percentage of Budget	13.52%	12.80%

Provides overall general support and management services, including employee benefits for administrative and clerical support staff, costs for administration and supervision of T. J. Connor Elementary and the Middle/High School, staff development, business operations, central administration, BOCES administrative costs and administrative computing.

Program	2025-26	2026-27
Amount	\$16,964,040	\$18,138,263
Percentage of Budget	71.88%	70.80%

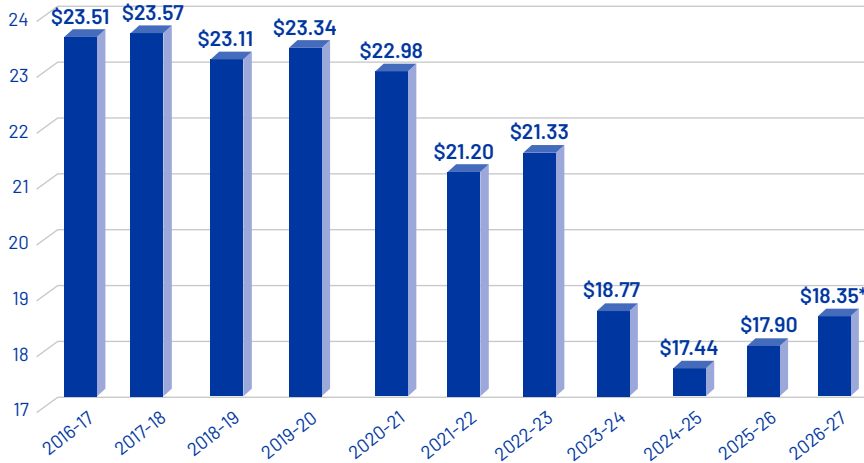
Provides overall instruction and educational support services for the District's students. This includes transportation costs, special education services and benefits for instructional and non-instructional program staff.

Capital	2025-26	2026-27
Amount	\$3,443,507	\$4,201,586
Percentage of Budget	14.59%	16.40%

Provides maintenance and custodial services for T. J. Connor Elementary and the Middle/High School. It includes the costs associated with the surrounding property, utility services, debt service payments and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

Administrative	12.80%
Program	70.80%
Capital	16.40%

Full Value Tax Rates (Blended)



*Projected blended tax rate is an average of all projected tax rates in the Towns of Brighton, Chili, Wheatland, and Caledonia.

Projected Tax Bill Changes

Hypothetical home with \$100,000 assessed value

Impact on Homeowners	Per Year	Per Month
Increase on tax bill (full value on \$100,000)	\$45.48	\$3.79
Increase on tax bill (full value with STAR on \$100,000)	\$31.84	\$2.65

Blended rate for Brighton, Chili, Wheatland, and Caledonia

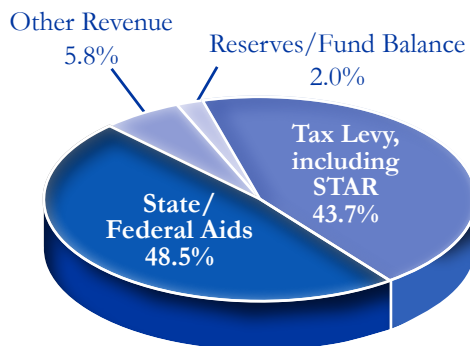
Utilice el código QR para acceder a la traducción al español de nuestro aviso de presupuesto.



Projected Revenue Summary

	2025-26 Adopted Revenue	2026-27 Budgeted Revenue	% Change
Property Tax Levy	\$10,820,086	\$11,198,789	3.50%
State/Federal Sources	\$11,149,611	\$12,430,007	11.48%
Other Sources	\$1,429,500	\$1,488,565	4.13%
Appropriated Reserves	\$100,000	\$400,000	300.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$100,000	\$100,625	0.63%
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$23,599,197	\$25,617,986	

2026-2027 Revenue



2026-27 Proposed Budget

Administrative Budget	2025-26	2026-27	Change
Board of Education	\$65,413	\$57,645	\$(7,768)
Central Administration	\$326,956	\$334,854	\$7,898
Finance	\$423,635	\$421,265	\$(2,370)
Legal, Personnel, and Information	\$213,138	\$215,540	\$2,402
Central Data Processing	\$211,489	\$221,527	\$10,038
Insurance, BOCES Administrative/Capital	\$369,401	\$382,148	\$12,747
Instruction, Administrative	\$568,584	\$582,038	\$13,454
Curriculum	\$222,851	\$228,503	\$5,652
Employee Benefits	\$790,183	\$834,617	\$44,434
Total Administrative (2.71%)	\$3,191,650	\$3,278,137	\$86,487

The **ADMINISTRATIVE** component provides for overall general support and management of the operations of the District and includes:

- Board of Education costs
- Central and school administration
- Finance, including tax collection, purchasing, legal and auditing expenses
- Curriculum development
- BOCES administrative expenses

Program Budget	2025-26	2026-27	Change
In-Service Training	\$66,620	\$68,791	\$2,171
Instruction, Other than Administrative	\$8,724,692	\$9,349,068	\$624,376
Library and Computer Instruction	\$1,200,230	\$1,157,338	\$(42,892)
Counseling, Support and Health Services	\$652,806	\$718,487	\$65,681
Co-Curricular and Athletics	\$456,163	\$488,009	\$31,846
Pupil Transportation	\$1,168,940	\$1,305,280	\$136,340
Employee Benefits	\$4,577,744	\$4,976,290	\$398,546
Special Aid and Food Service Transfer	\$116,845	\$75,000	\$(41,845)
Total Program (6.92%)	\$16,964,040	\$18,138,263	\$1,174,223

The **PROGRAM** component is the largest portion of all planned expenditures for instruction and support services and includes:

- Instructional, co-curricular and athletic programs
- Counseling and health services
- Pupil transportation

Capital Budget	2025-26	2026-27	Change
Central Services, Maintenance and Operations	\$1,270,494	\$1,260,864	\$(9,630)
Employee Benefits	\$341,221	\$345,590	\$4,369
Debt Service, Energy Performance Contract	\$1,831,792	\$2,595,132	\$763,340
Total Capital (22.01%)	\$3,443,507	\$4,201,586	\$758,079

The **CAPITAL** component includes costs associated with maintaining facilities and grounds:

- Building and equipment repairs
- Custodial and maintenance supplies
- Utilities
- Debt service

Total Budget	\$23,599,197	\$25,617,986	\$2,018,789 (8.55%)
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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	\$23,599,197	\$25,617,986	\$25,045,356
Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$2,018,789	\$572,623
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.55 %	6.13%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,820,086	\$11,198,789	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-		
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	-		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$10,820,086	\$11,198,789	\$10,578,888
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$198,559	\$409,910	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,656,431	\$10,834,208	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$10,621,527	\$10,788,879	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$34,904	\$45,329	
Administrative Component	\$3,191,650	\$3,278,137	\$3,229,674
Program Component	\$16,964,040	\$18,138,263	\$17,801,207
Capital Component	\$3,443,507	\$4,201,586	\$4,014,475

* 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.

The contingency budget was calculated under NYS Education Law, section 2023. Actual line item appropriations under a contingency budget will be determined by the Board of Education. Certain equipment purchases and capital projects not necessary to maintain the health and safety of the students, and some raises for non-union employees, must be eliminated under the Education Law. (For the Wheatland-Chili Central School District, that would mean a minimum \$535,969 reduction in the budget.)

** 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)

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition	\$ 215,0000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 448
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held in the district's gymnasium at the High School on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., 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.

Mini-Renovation Project

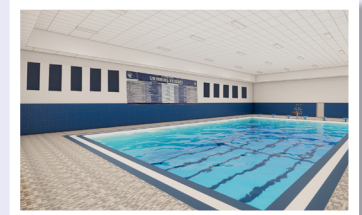
Wheatland-Chili CSD seeks to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the district's tax dollars. The proposed 2026-27 mini-renovation project will be used for Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School updates. This mini-renovation project takes advantage of capital project aid from the state. If this work was not performed as part of a capital project, the district would incur the full cost of the work. By including the \$100,000 budget for this work in a mini-capital project within the proposed annual budget, the district will receive approximately \$68,800 in additional aid during the 2026-2027 school year. This is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year will continue to fund additional mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the district's budget.



Capital Project Update

Work continues at Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School as several key improvements move forward as part of the capital project approved by voters in 2023. Crews are making steady progress on replacing hallway tile, giving high-traffic areas a refreshed and more durable finish, while work in the pool area includes a full re-tiling to enhance both safety and appearance. In addition, renovations to the counseling suite are underway, creating a more welcoming and functional space to better support student needs.

This work is being carefully coordinated to minimize disruptions to daily school operations, and project timelines continue to be monitored closely, with a focus on maintaining safety and staying on schedule. As progress continues, these upgrades will provide long-term benefits to the school community by improving functionality, aesthetics, and the overall environment.



What's on the Ballot

Proposition 1:

Budget Resolution

SHALL the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District be authorized to spend for school purposes during the 2026-2027 fiscal year \$25,617,986 and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

Proposition 2:

School Transportation Purchases

SHALL the following proposition be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District be authorized to withdraw and expend from the District's existing "School Transportation and Grounds Equipment Reserve" a sum of money up to Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$215,000) to be used for the purchase of one (1) replacement vehicle for the transportation of District students, that vehicle being one (1) 42-passenger gasoline bus.

Proposition 3:

School Equipment Purchases

SHALL the following proposition be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School be authorized to withdraw and expend from the District's existing "Capital Reserve Fund 2021 (School Equipment)" a sum of money up to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be used for the Middle/High School updates.



Annual Budget Vote

BUDGET INFORMATION

Copies of the budget document will be available in the District, T. J. Connor Elementary and Middle/High School offices.

Additional questions may be addressed to Superintendent Dr. Stephen Kenny, by phone at 585-889-6246 or email at stephen_kenny@wheatlandchili.org.

School Board members are also eager to help constituents understand the spending plan and revenue picture and will be pleased to talk with community members.

RESIDENTS UNABLE TO VOTE BECAUSE OF MILITARY SERVICE

Residents unable to vote because of military service (as defined under the Commissioner's Regulation Part 122, and by reason of such military service, is absent from the school district in which he or she is qualified to vote on the day of registration or election; or a spouse, parent, child or dependent of a voter as described above, accompanying or being with such voter, if a qualified voter of the State of New York and a resident of the District) may request applications for absentee ballots.

Applications may be requested from District Clerk Diane Stocking by phone at 585-889-6247 or email at diane_stocking@wheatlandchili.org. Applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 25 days prior to the vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Residents who may qualify can vote by absentee ballot in the budget vote to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Residents unable to vote in person because of disabilities, illness, travel or other reasons listed as valid under Election Law, may request applications for absentee ballots by contacting District Clerk Diane Stocking by phone at 585-889-6247 or in person at 13 Beckwith Avenue, Scottsville, NY 14546 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Requests for applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote if mailed and the day prior to the vote if in person. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Applications for early mail ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the Clerk of the District at the District Office, 13 Beckwith Avenue, Scottsville, NY 14546. Requests for applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote if mailed and the day prior to the vote if in person. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Voters must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least eighteen years of age
- A legal resident within the District for at least 30 days prior to vote

Board of Education Candidates

Three candidates will be elected to the Board of Education during the District's annual vote on Tuesday, May 19. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Below are statements from each candidate in ballot order.



Shanna Fraser

Please state your background which may include both personal and professional information:

My husband, Andy and I moved to Scottsville 16 years ago to raise our children. Now, our daughter is a graduating senior and our son is in 8th grade at Wheatland-Chili. I work for the Town of Wheatland as the Recreation Supervisor and Senior Center Coordinator. I am currently finishing my twelfth year as a member of the Wheatland-Chili Board of Education, for the last eleven years I have also served as the Vice President of the Wheatland Chili Board of Education. During this time, I have been

an active member of the WC PTA and WC Sports Boosters also. It is my pleasure to serve our community in all of these different roles.

Why are you running for election to the Board? I am running for re-election to the WC BOE because I am a strong advocate for our students.

Every decision that I make as a BOE member starts with one question – “What is best for our students?” I research the topics and collaborate with other stakeholders, including my fellow BOE members to be certain we are making well informed decisions.

What do you see as the major challenges facing the Wheatland-Chili Central School District over the next three years? Public education in New York State faces several significant challenges, including outdated tax cap and state aid formulas and the costs associated with the electric vehicle (EV) bus mandate. At the same time, students’ academic, social, and emotional needs continue to grow, increasing the need for support for both students and their families. Schools are navigating financial pressures, staffing shortages, enrollment shifts, and rising student needs simultaneously. These challenges are not caused by a single issue, but by long standing structural problems in public education that have been intensified by the pandemic and changing demographics.



Courtney Panek

Please state your background which may include both personal and professional information:

My name is Courtney Panek, a West Henrietta native who frequently visited Scottsville from a young age. I loved the small, close-knit Wheatland-Chili community so much that when I had the opportunity to raise my family here, I jumped at the chance.

I am the proud parent of a Wheatland-Chili graduate, a 6th grader and a 1st grader in the District. My experiences as a parent and community member give me a meaningful perspective on our schools.

I earned my bachelor’s degree in business management from Roberts Wesleyan University and work as a Benefits Specialist at a nearby school district, supporting staff and operations.

Why are you running for election to the Board? I am running for the Board of Education because I care deeply about the future of our schools and our community. As both a parent and a school district professional, I understand how important it is to create an environment where students can succeed, all staff feel supported, and families feel heard.

I want to contribute to thoughtful, transparent decision-making that prioritizes student outcomes while being mindful of community needs. I believe in collaboration, open communication, and working together to ensure that every student in Wheatland-Chili has access to a high-quality education and the opportunities they deserve.

What do you see as the major challenges facing the Wheatland-Chili Central School District over the next three years? Over the next three years, I believe the Wheatland-Chili Central School District will face important challenges, including maintaining strong academic outcomes, addressing evolving student needs, supporting and retaining quality staff, and managing financial resources responsibly.

Balancing budgets while continuing to provide high-quality programs will require careful planning and community engagement. Ensuring students receive the academic, social, and emotional support they need will remain a priority.

Strong communication and trust between the district and community are essential. By working together and staying focused on students, the District can navigate these challenges and continue to grow.



James Musshafen

Please state your background which may include both personal and professional information:

My wife and I have been proud to reside in the community of Wheatland, NY for 30 years, and our two children graduated from WCCSD. I have been an active member of the community participating in activities and functions specifically related to the school district, as well as committees associated with the Town of Wheatland and my local church. My professional career involved working for great companies such as Bosch and Eastman Kodak; over that 40 + year timeframe I have had the opportunity

to develop and lead teams responsible for servicing and supporting customers across the U.S. and worldwide. I hold a Bachelor’s degree in Business, Economics and Marketing.

Why are you running for election to the Board? I am seeking re-election to the Wheatland-Chili Board of Education because, as a committed resident and current board member, I believe it is my responsibility to dedicate my time and experience to ensure every student can achieve college and/or career-ready aspirations. Our school district and its students are the community’s most important assets, and I am devoted to protecting and enhancing those assets through thoughtful, responsible governance.

I hold myself accountable for the oversight of our schools, prioritizing policies that promote academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and equitable opportunities for all learners. If re-elected, I will continue to work collaboratively with families, staff, and community stakeholders to prepare our students for success as young adults and contributing members of society.

What do you see as the major challenges facing the Wheatland-Chili Central School District over the next three years? Public education is confronting significant challenges — unfunded mandates, diminishing political consensus, gaps in accountability, and evolving ideologies — that place strain on teaching and learning. The Wheatland-Chili Central School District community must provide high quality programs and learning solutions that enable every student to meet or exceed their goals, supported by rigorous measures to monitor student progress and program effectiveness.

We must foster learning environments that accommodate both collaborative and independent thinkers and ensure safe classrooms in which teachers can thrive professionally. Building a stronger, more understanding, and unified partnership among parents, teachers, administrators, and students is essential; this community must hold itself accountable for delivering the highest educational outcomes and responding promptly to opportunities and challenges. These commitments must all be pursued with careful fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers we serve.

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

13 Beckwith Avenue
Scottsville, NY 14546
585-889-6247

Board of Education (2025-2026)

James Musshafen, President
Shanna Fraser, Vice President
Gregory Berl
Adria Callery
Stephanie Ely
Courtney Panek
Heather Woerner

Superintendent

Stephen J. Kenny, Ed.D.

School Business Official

Jessica Jackson

Contributors

Evan Mikoll

Graphic Design

Betsy Martin

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Henrietta, N.Y.
Permit No. 7

Upcoming Events

Check out the online calendar at wheatlandchili.org for a full list of events

May

4-8	Advanced Placement Exams	
5, 6	NYS Grades 3-5 Math Assessment	
5	Meet the Board Candidates	6:30 p.m.
5	Budget Hearing	7 p.m.
5	Board of Education Meeting	7:30 p.m.
8	NYS Grade 8 Science Assessment	
12	NYS Grade 5 Science Assessment	
12	HS Spring Concert	7 p.m.
14	PTA Meeting - Budget Overview	6 p.m.
14	MS Spring Concert	7 p.m.
19	Budget Vote and Board Election	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
19	Elementary Spring Concert	7 p.m.
20	Kindergarten Information Night	6 p.m.
21	Grade 6 Early Dismissal	10:40 a.m.
21	Elementary Early Dismissal	11:20 a.m.
22	Memorial Day Recess — No School	
25	Memorial Day Recess — No School	
27	PreK Information Night	6 p.m.

June

1	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
5	Grades 6/7 Band Exchange	1 p.m.
5	PTA Meeting	6 p.m.

9-10	Regents Exams	
12	T. J. Connor Field Day	
15	Audit Committee Meeting	6 p.m.
15	Finance Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
15	Board of Education Meeting	7 p.m.
17-18	Regents Exams	
18	Seabreeze Band Trip	
19	Juneteenth — No School	
22	PreK Celebration	
22-26	Regents Exams	
23	Grade 6 Early Dismissal	10:40 a.m.
23	Elementary Early Dismissal	11:20 a.m.
23	Kindergarten Moving Up	9:15 a.m.
24	Grade 5 Moving Up	11:20 a.m.
24	Elementary Early Dismissal	11:20 a.m.
25	Elementary Early Dismissal	11:20 a.m.
25	Last Day of School for PreK-6	
26	Graduation Rehearsal	10 a.m.
26	Regents Rating Day	
27	Graduation Ceremony, Roberts Wesleyan University	2 p.m.
29	Elementary Report Cards Mailed Home	
30	MS/HS Report Cards Mailed Home	

