

Briarcliff Manor

Union Free School District



SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

On the Ballot
for 2026-2027

THE BUDGET

- Proposed Budget: \$62,955,547
- Tax Levy Increase: 2.91%
- Complies with the State Tax Levy Cap



VOTE

May 19, 2026 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Briarcliff Youth Recreation Center
5 Van Lu Van Rd, Briarcliff Manor, NY**

Budget Vote and Board Candidate Election





Message from District Leadership

Dear Briarcliff School Community,

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, our goals are to continue to provide an exceptional education for every student, every day, while continuing to steward community resources carefully and responsibly. The proposed budget is **\$62,955,547**, which represents a **tax cap-compliant 2.91% levy increase** and reflects the District's ongoing commitment to academic excellence, environmental responsibility, and long-term fiscal sustainability. It supports high-quality instruction, preserves the programs and opportunities our families value, and positions Briarcliff to enter a new era of energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.

By September, the key components of the District's Energy Performance Contract will be completed. This important work will allow the District to operate with a **zero electrical footprint** and significantly reduce long-term energy costs. Over time, these savings will benefit residents while helping preserve and expand the resources, programs, and opportunities available to students.

Strengthening Student Learning and Opportunity

The proposed 2026–2027 budget reflects a continued commitment to thoughtful investments that support strong teaching, meaningful learning, and student success. Key priorities include:

Supporting Students From the Start: Strengthening our ability to provide personalized, targeted interventions that address individual student needs and foster academic growth from the earliest grades.

Building Strong Readers and Writers: Continuing our districtwide literacy initiative, expanding teacher expertise and instructional resources to ensure that students develop strong foundational reading and writing skills.

Deepening Mathematical Thinking: Supporting math instruction in the elementary grades by increasing teacher capacity and resources, and helping students build deep conceptual understanding, confidence, and flexibility in mathematical thinking.

A "Next Generation" of Rigorous Standards: Continuing to align curriculum and instructional practices at the middle and high school levels with New York State's more rigorous, analytical, and open-ended academic standards.

Protecting Early Elementary Class Sizes: Maintaining small class sizes where they matter most, allowing teachers to know students well, provide individualized attention, and build the strong academic and social foundations that support long-term success.

Balancing Innovation With Human Connection: As artificial intelligence becomes an increasingly powerful part of the world our students will enter, Briarcliff will continue to emphasize what matters most in great teaching and learning: strong relationships, student voice, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and hands-on experiences. Our work with AI will focus on responsible, ethical, and purposeful use while preserving the human connection at the heart of education.

Entering a New Era of Energy Efficiency

In addition to advancing academic priorities, the District is completing an ambitious effort to modernize our facilities, reduce energy consumption, and significantly limit our environmental impact. Thanks to the support of the Board of Education, the BMUFSD Energy Performance Contract has enabled the District to make meaningful improvements to our schools while creating long-term savings.

By the start of the 2026–2027 school year, the major components of this work will be complete, including:

Solar Power Across the District: Solar installations will allow the District to dramatically reduce reliance on the electrical grid and move toward a zero electrical footprint.

High-Efficiency Heating Systems: New boilers and upgraded systems will reduce natural gas use and improve the efficiency of our school buildings.

Districtwide LED Lighting: Energy-efficient lighting will improve classroom and common-area environments while reducing electricity consumption.

Enhanced Climate Control Systems: Modernized systems will create more comfortable, efficient learning spaces for students and staff.

These improvements represent a major step forward for Briarcliff. They reflect our community's shared commitment to sustainability, fiscal responsibility, and the belief that smart long-term planning can benefit both taxpayers and students.

Over time, the savings generated by these projects will help reduce costs for residents and support continued investment in the people, programs, and learning environments that make Briarcliff exceptional.

Your Voice, Our Schools, Their Future

The annual budget and Board of Education election is an important moment for our school community. It provides residents with an opportunity to reaffirm our shared educational values, support thoughtful long-term planning, and invest in a school district that continues to serve students with distinction.

The vote will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM at the Briarcliff Manor Youth Center, 5 Van Lu Van Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York.

We encourage every eligible voter to participate. For more detailed information about the proposed budget, academic priorities, and sustainability initiatives, please review the District's Budget Book, available on the District website or directly at bit.ly/26-27BudgetBook.

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, we do so with gratitude for the continued partnership of our families, staff, students, and residents. Together, we are building schools that are academically strong, environmentally responsible, fiscally sound, and deeply committed to helping every student grow and shine.

Appreciatively,

Dr. James Kaishian
Superintendent of Schools

Michelle Woerner
Board of Education President

Budget/Expense Summary

Category	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed
Salaries & Benefits	\$40,860,244	\$42,747,905	\$43,600,719	\$45,387,262
Equipment	\$1,352,257	\$369,917	\$359,107	\$462,622
Supplies	\$829,734	\$835,864	\$874,793	\$872,178
Tuition	\$836,674	\$805,935	\$567,333	\$1,246,086
Contractual	\$7,476,742	\$7,536,259	\$7,674,804	\$7,477,081
BOCES Services	\$2,267,570	\$2,477,768	\$2,313,406	\$2,378,257
Debt Service	\$3,601,188	\$3,975,137	\$3,843,323	\$4,537,061
Transfers to Other Funds	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
Capital Projects	\$400,000	\$450,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$57,719,409	\$59,293,785	\$59,828,486	\$62,955,547

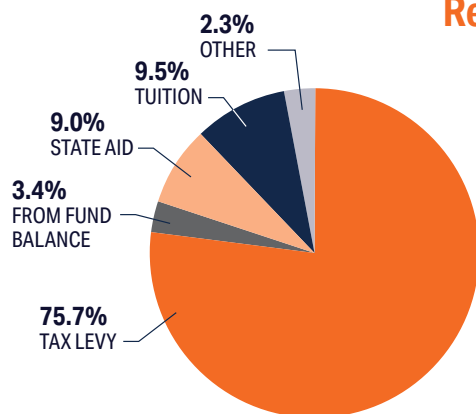
Revenue Summary

Category	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed
State Aid	\$4,219,691	\$4,986,337	\$5,328,559	\$5,647,346
County Sales Tax	\$730,000	\$760,000	\$760,000	\$785,000
Tuition & Charges for Services	\$4,902,356	\$5,076,541	\$4,890,652	\$6,004,641
Interest Earnings & Rentals	\$299,050	\$571,000	\$571,000	\$521,000
Other Miscellaneous	\$177,926	\$158,176	\$158,176	\$162,700
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES	\$10,329,023	\$11,552,054	\$11,708,387	\$13,120,687
TAX LEVY	\$44,982,025	\$45,724,228	\$46,366,945	\$47,663,000
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$2,408,361	\$2,017,503	\$1,753,154	\$2,171,860
GRAND TOTAL	\$57,719,409	\$59,293,785	\$59,828,486	\$62,955,547

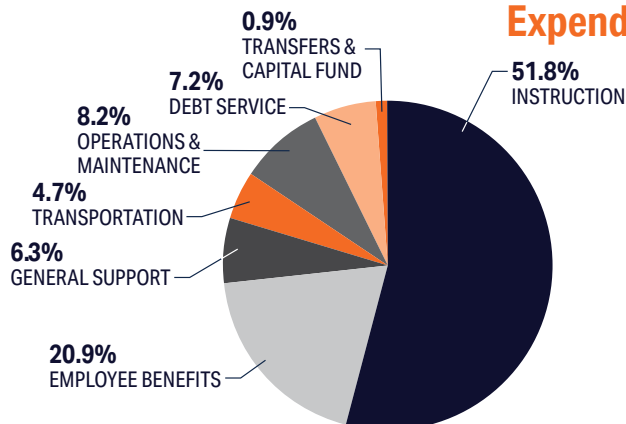
2.91% Tax Levy Increase

2025-2026 Budget Revenues/Expenditures Breakdown

Revenues



Expenditures



BHS Highlights & Accolades

- ▶ Briarcliff High School joined Todd and Briarcliff Middle School in receiving the Apple Distinguished School Designation, making the entire district Apple Distinguished
- ▶ This year's Valedictorian is **Noah Rinke**. Salutatorians are **Chase Duperrouzel** and **Ava Wu**
- ▶ Class of 1965 alum **Elizabeth Rodgers** and Class of 1997 alum **Mary Alice Ackerman** are this year's recipients of the distinguished Alumni Award
- ▶ Performing Arts students put on the play "Brave New World" and the musical "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown"
- ▶ The National Merit Semifinalists and Finalists are **Noah Rinke**, **Ava Wu**, **Meera Desawale**, **Pen Andersen** and **Michael Orlin**
- ▶ Sophomore **Grace Freeman** is the winner of this year's HOBY award
- ▶ Science Research senior **Elias Malioneck** was named as a Scholar in the 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS)
- ▶ The following students made the State and County music honors ensembles:
All-State:
 - Mixed Choir – **Ava Wu**, Alto I
Sasha Johnsen, Soprano II
Band – **Eamon Ragan**, Alternate
Orchestra – **Ava Wu**, Alternate
 - Area All-State:
Mixed Choir
Macallistair Kmeta-Suarez, Bass II
Grace Freeman, Soprano
Ishita Srikantan, Soprano I
Treble Choir – **Sasha Plitt**, Alto II
Nika Moini, Soprano I
Sasha Johnsen, Soprano II
Jasmine Behr, Soprano II
Band – **Eamon Ragan**, Alto Saxophone
 - String Orchestra:
Tristan Tsou – Violin
Zachary Behr – Violin
Rani Benslimane – Double Bass
Noah Rinke – Double Bass
 - Symphony Orchestra:
Emily Isbell – Viola
Stephanie Vargas – Viola
Penn Harris – Double Bass
- ▶ Senior **Finley Reilly** was awarded 2nd Place in the Behavioral and Social Sciences category for her research at the UHS Science Research Symposium at UAlbany
- ▶ The BearBOTS placed ninth in the FIRST Robotics First Tech Challenge (FTC) at the Peekskill High School Qualifier. This is the highest level they have ever placed at a competition
- ▶ Law Enforcement student and senior **Damien White** was honored as a PNW BOCES Student of Distinction

- ▶ "Briars & Ivy" students and staff received the following awards:
 - National Council of Teachers of English PRESLM: 1st Class
 - Columbia Scholastic Press Association – Gold with All-Columbian Honors awarded for Verbal and Visual Sections
 - Gold Circle Awards:
 - Best Computer Generated Single Illustration for Magazine Publications – **Lily Ahmed** – 1st Place
 - Best Illustration Portfolio for Magazine Publication – **Jordan Melnick** – 3rd Place
 - Best Use of Typography on One Page/Spread for Magazine Publications – **Abigail Chung** and **Nila Shaines**
 - Best Traditional Fiction in Magazine Publications – **Zahra Choudhri** – Certificate of Merit
 - National Scholastic Press Association:
 - Individual Awards- Design of the Year—Literary/Specialty Magazine Page/Spread- Honorable Mention: **Meena Chrzanowski**, **Madeline Chu**, and **Abigail Chung**; **Phoebe Rubin** and **Nila Shaines** – Glow of a Fire
 - Empire State School Press Association:
 - Best Overall Literary Arts Magazine – Gold
 - Award for Originality – Gold
 - Best Artwork Portfolio – **Samantha Anisman** – Gold
 - Best Photograph – **Aanya Shetty** – Gold
 - Best Overall Cover Design – Silver
 - Representation in Media – **Michayla Benuscak** – Silver
 - Best Written Work in a Literary Magazine – **Miranda Dempsey** – Silver
 - Best Graphic/Illustration Portfolio – **Lily Ahmed** – Bronze
 - Best Representation in Media – **Eamon Ragan** – Bronze
 - Best Editorial – **Phoebe Rubin** – Bronze
 - Best Illustration – **Samantha Anisman** – Honorable Mention



- ▶ WESEF Winners:
 - **Sinduja Narayanam** - U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize Bianca Jain - Office of Naval Research Award
 - **Aarit Singh** - Ingenuity in Research Award
 - **Jasmine Behr** - Teatown Young Environmentalist Award
 - **Caroline Pastore** - 3rd Place in Cellular and Molecular Biology
 - **Michael Orlin** - 3rd Place in Chemistry
 - **Lily McDermott** - 2nd Place in Behavioral & Social Science
 - **Elias Malioneck** - 1st Place in Behavioral & Social Science
 - **Meera Desawale** - 1st Place in Physics & Astronomy
- ▶ The Debate Team won 2nd place in the final round at the Rockland County Forensic League Debate Tournament held at Suffern High School. Earlier in the year they won the following at the Public Speaking Competition:
 - Drama Category: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
 - Original Oration: 1st and 3rd place
 - Impromptu: 2nd and 4th place
 - Prose: 2nd place
- ▶ The BHS World Language Department established the National French Honors Society and the National Spanish Honors Society
- ▶ Senior **Tyler Gualtiere** was recognized as a 2026 Michael Perry Scholar-Athlete at the National Football Foundation's 52nd Golden Dozen Scholar Athlete Awards
- ▶ Seniors **Noah Rinke** and **Jasmine Behr** wrote plays which were selected by the New York State Theater Education Association Board of Directors and which were performed at the Student Conference in January
- ▶ Several students had their poems or short stories selected to be featured in various anthologies published publicly: **Monica Sesti**, **Ray Sutton**, **Casey Phillips**, **Jui Karande** and **Olivia Woerner**
- ▶ The Coding Café club participated in the Siena Programming Contest and one of the Gold teams won Honorable mention

Briarcliff Middle School

- The Student Council hosted the annual Turkey Ball in celebration of Thanksgiving
- Sixth graders in ELA class participated in an intergenerational pen-pal project with residents at Atria Senior Living, culminating in a special visit to the school
- Students kicked off the year with engaging field trips across all grades, including visits to Taconic Education Center, Teatown Nature Center, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage, as well as a rock-climbing experience. Highlights also included a Día de los Muertos celebration, a visit from storyteller Jonathan Kruk, a trip to Bethany Arts Center during Black History Month, and a schoolwide ice skating outing on Valentine's Day
- Eighth-grade Public Speaking class visited second graders to read picture books and shared poetry with residents at Atria Senior Living
- The school celebrated National French Week with activities highlighting French culture.
- The school celebrated the holiday season with its annual Ugly Sweater Contest
- Sixth graders participated in Community Day, honing skills such as active listening, persistence, teamwork, positivity and a growth mindset
- Clubs hosted the Thanks & Giving event, collecting donations for Feeding Westchester
- Student participation in the All-County Band, Chorus and Orchestra Festival at White Plains High School doubled this year
- Several seventh- and eighth-grade students were accepted into the Honors performance series at Carnegie Hall
- Eighth-grade Theater Enrichment students performed "Alice in Wonderland" for Todd fourth graders
- The school's "One Book One School" initiative encouraged students and families to read "Restart" by Gordon Korman, fostering a shared experience and meaningful conversation
- Students performed in band, chorus and orchestra spring and winter concerts



- Students Council hosted "Shine Day," celebrating student talents and cultures through an International Festival and the Talent Show
- Sixth graders launched an international pen-pal program, grounded in science research, with students from Escola Concept in São Paulo, Brazil

Todd Elementary School

- Fifth graders put on the show "Annie Jr."
- The school celebrated World Read Aloud Day with visits from local dignitaries and community members, as well as virtual author presentations
- The school held a winter concert for chorus, band and orchestra
- Arc Stages held acting workshops at the school
- Students celebrated Halloween and Thanksgiving with the annual parade and Turkey Trot, respectively
- Fifth graders participated in Chalk the Walk and decorated the sidewalk outside the school
- Students participated in the SouperBowl fundraiser and donated canned goods
- The school held a variety of assemblies, such as a Taekwondo presentation, the National Circus project, a Hip Hop assembly and the Healthy Heart Challenge
- Students celebrated Kindness Week by sharing compliments and writing letters to community helpers and school staff.
- Kindergartners and first graders celebrated the 100th day of school, while fifth graders celebrated the 1000th day of school
- Author illustrators Vashti Harrison, Oge Mora and Jerry Craft visited the school
- The Briarcliff Manor Fire Department visited all grades to talk about fire safety



- The school hosted a Multicultural Festival with an assembly featuring Native American dancers
- Many students participated in the All-County Band, Chorus and Orchestra Festival, held at White Plains High School
- PNW BOCES naturalists from the Center for Environmental Education visited students with interactive programs about topics such as recycling, geology and animal conservation
- Students and their families celebrated Family Math Night
- Fifth graders made clay pots in the Day in Clay program
- Students went on multiple field trips, such as to the Center for the Urban River, the Hudson River Planetarium, Teatown Nature Preserve and Hilltop Hanover farm
- Students celebrated Read Across America by reading in the school hallways, as well as with their buddy classes
- The school celebrated the Big Apple Crunch

Briarcliff Athletics Highlights

Briarcliff High School is the recipient of the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award of Excellence for Exemplary Display of Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity

Fall Season

Varsity Cheerleading

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship team
- **Kaylin Wong** – All League/All Section
- **Ava Diaz** – All League/All Section

Varsity Boys Cross Country

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- 2nd Place in League
- 5th Place Class C Section
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Michael Cherubini** – All League
- **Owen Lynch** – All League
- **Dylan Star** – All League
- **Macalister Kmeta-Suarez** – All League

Varsity Girls Cross Country

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- 2nd Place in League
- 3rd Place Class C Section
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Emily Isbell** – All League
- **Madaline Isbell** – All League
- **Keira Kenney** – All League
- **Camilia Lanier** – All League
- **Skylar Feiguine** – All League
- **Hannah Tashiro** – All League
- **Leah Tashiro** – All League

Varsity Football

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Tyler Gualtiere** – All League/All Section/Exceptional Senior Game/Golden Dozen All Academic
- **Robert Leggio** – All League
- **AJ Alomar** – All League – All Conference
- **Max Amador** – Exceptional Senior Game

Varsity Field Hockey

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Ava Golczewski** – All League

Varsity Boys Soccer

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Class B Section 1 Finalist
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Lucas Apter** – All Section/All League
- **Odhran Murray** – All Section Honorable Mention/All League
- **Conall Torres** – All League
- **Rohan Karnik** – All League
- **Eric Kelmendi** – All League Honorable Mention
- **Alex Salvati** – All League Honorable Mention
- **Zach Witkowski** – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Girls Soccer

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- League Champions
- Class B Section 1 Finalist
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Mar Rivera Font** – League MVP/All League/All Section/All State
- **Gemma Fante** – All League/All Section
- **Gabriella Auguste** – All League
- **Lilah Prosperino** – All League
- **Lily Rowe** – All League
- **Emma Bacaj** – All League/All Section Honorable Mention
- **Sadie Levitz** – All League
- **Julianna Labick** – All League Honorable Mention
- **Venice Souza** – All League Honorable Mention
- **Reilly Harkins** – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Girls Swim and Dive

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- 4th Place at League Championships
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Maddie LaFluer** – All League/All Section/Competed at States
- **Sasha Johnson** – Competed at States
- **Allison Gordon** – Competed at States

Varsity Girls Tennis

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Georginia Janos** – All League
- **Anisa Chalabi** – All League
- **Elia Martins** – All League

Varsity Boys Volleyball

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- League Champions
- State Qualifier
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team

Varsity Girls Volleyball

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Camryn Ivler** – All League
- **Morgan Kehoe** – All League
- **Aanya Shetty** – All League – All Conference



Briarcliff has 4 Student-Athletes Moving on to Play Collegiate Athletics

Winter Season

Varsity Cheerleading

NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete team

- 1st Place Regionals
- 3rd Place Sectionals
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Ava Diaz** – All League/All Section
- **Siena Shulman** – All League
- **Kaylin Wong** – All League

Varsity Boys Track & Field

NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete Team

- League Champions
- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Damien White** – All League/All County/National Qualifier
- **Xavier DiMartino** – All League
- **Maximus Amador** – All League
- **Michael Cherubini** – All League/All County/National Qualifier
- **Tristan Tsou** – All League/National Qualifier
- **Alex Holmes** – All League
- **Dylan Star** – All League
- **Kevin Phak** – All League
- **Charlie Foy** – All League
- **Lucas Auguste** – All League/National Qualifier
- **Noah Jaffe** – All League
- **Miles Turner** – All League
- **Owen Lynch** – All League
- **Nate Levin** – All League
- **Jack Hulea** – All League/National Qualifier
- **Ciaran Rynne** – All League

Varsity Girls Basketball

NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Gemma Fante** – All League/All Conference/Section One All Tournament/Isabell Costa All Academic
- **Diya Sood** – All League Honorable Mention
- **Briella Bennison** – All League Honorable Mention
- **Julie Labick** – All League

Varsity Boys Basketball

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Jason Lawler** – All League/All Class
- **Devan Sood** – All League

Varsity Girls Track & Field

NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Keira Kenney** – All League
- **Madeline Isbell** – All League
- **Emily Isbell** – All League
- **Grace Freeman** – All League/All County/National Qualifier
- **Sydney Weiss** – All League
- **Vivian Ellsworth** – All League
- **Sarosh Thahseen** – All League
- **Eva Sara** – All League
- **Sofia Cruz** – All League
- **Hannah Tashiro** – All League
- **Camila Lanier** – All League
- **Leah Tashiro** – All League
- **Jui Karande** – All League
- **Taylor Satran** – All League

Congratulations to BHS students **Grace Freeman, Julie Labick, Robert Leggio, and Sabrina DeRose.**

They were selected to represent Briarcliff at the NYSPPHSA Leadership Summit. This prestigious opportunity brings together top student-athletes from across New York State to build leadership skills, promote sportsmanship and strengthen teamwork both on and off the field.

Varsity Bowling

NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team

Varsity Boys Squash

Scholar Athlete Team

- All Sportsmanship Team

Varsity Girls Squash

Scholar Athlete Team

- All Sportsmanship Team

Varsity Boys Swim & Dive

NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Ben Klein** – All League/State Qualifier
- **Eamon Ragan** – All League
- **Elias Malioneck** – All League

Varsity Wrestling

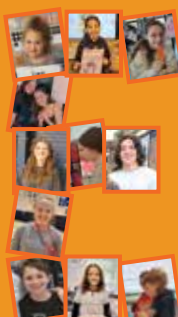
NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team

Varsity Ice Hockey

NYSPPHSA Scholar Athlete Team

- Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team
- **Grayson Kmeta-Suarez** – All League Honorable Mention





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“ENGAGE, INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

To stay abreast of school news, sign up online at
bit.ly/briarcliffnews



Voting Location

- Briarcliff Youth Center at
5 Van Lu Van Road, Briarcliff Manor
- May 19, 6:00 am until 9:00 pm

VOTING INFORMATION

**Budget Vote &
Board Candidate Election
May 19, 2026**

To vote on May 19, 2026 you must be:

- A United States citizen.
- 18 years of age or older.
- A resident within the district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.
- A registered voter of the district and or a registered voter of Westchester County whose name appears on the list supplied by the Westchester County Board of Elections as having voted in a national, state or county election during the past four calendar years.
- For information please call
District Clerk at (914) 488-8324.