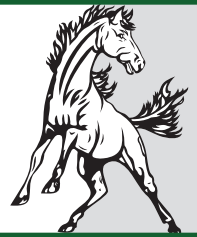




MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Newsletter 2026



Dear Marcellus Central School District Community,

As we approach the annual budget vote, I would like to take a moment to share important information about the proposed 2026–2027 school budget and what it means for our students, staff, and community.

On Tuesday, May 19, residents will be asked to consider a proposed budget of \$43,330,431. This plan reflects a thoughtful and balanced approach to maintaining the high-quality educational programs our community values while remaining fiscally responsible.

The proposed budget represents a 2.34% increase in overall spending. This increase allows us to continue supporting strong academic programming, student services, extracurricular opportunities, and the operational needs required to run our schools effectively.

The plan also includes a 2.7% tax levy increase, which is aligned with the District’s calculated tax levy cap. Staying within this cap demonstrates our continued commitment to responsible financial stewardship while ensuring we can meet the needs of our students.

Our goal throughout the budget development process has been clear: to preserve and strengthen educational opportunities for all students while being mindful of the impact on our taxpayers. This proposal reflects input, careful planning, and a focus on long-term sustainability.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUDGET HEARING

Monday, May 11, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School

Large Group Instruction Room

1 Mustang Hill

Marcellus, New York

DATE OF VOTE AND ELECTION

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Noon to 9:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School

Auditorium

1 Mustang Hill

Marcellus, New York

BUDGET KEY FACTS

Proposed Budget:

\$43,330,431

Spending Increase:

2.34%

Estimated Tax Impact:

(on \$100,000 home)

\$42.87/year

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Residents will also elect three members to the Board of Education, two to three-year terms and one to a two-year term. Their candidate profiles can be seen later in this document. Voters will also decide on a proposition to purchase 5 gas-powered school buses for a combined maximum estimated expenditure of \$867,000, and consider the Marcellus Free Library’s proposition to increase its annual appropriation from \$593,931 to \$608,779.

Voting will take place at the Senior High School Auditorium on Tuesday, May 19 from noon to 9 p.m. Applications for absentee and early voting ballots are available on the district’s website, via email at coleary@marcellusschools.org, or by contacting the district office at 315-673-6009.

We encourage all community members to stay informed, ask questions, and participate in the voting process. Your voice is an important part of shaping the future of our schools.

Thank you for your continued support of the Marcellus Central School District and the students and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Sharlow

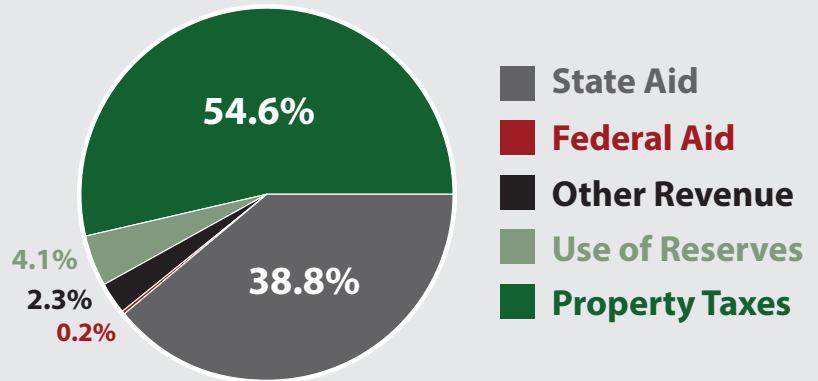
Superintendent of Schools



BUDGET FACTS

Revenue Summary (where the money comes from)

	2025-26 Budget	% of 2025-26	2026-27 Budget	% of 2026-27
State Aid	16,576,225	39.2%	16,803,041	38.8%
Federal Aid	60,000	0.1%	100,000	0.2%
Other Revenue	1,149,283	2.7%	989,283	2.3%
Use of Reserves	1,506,282	3.6%	1,768,234	4.1%
Property Taxes	23,046,773	54.4%	23,669,873	54.6%
Total	42,338,563	100%	43,330,431	100%



Spending Summary (where the money goes)

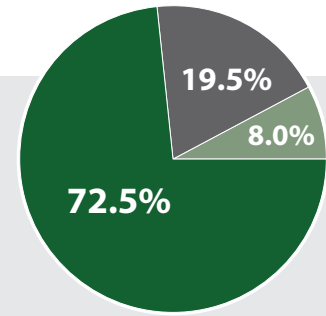
	Three-Part 2025-26 Budget	% of 2025-26	Three-Part 2026-27 Budget	% of 2026-27
Admin.	3,299,619	7.8%	3,455,241	8.0%
Program	30,873,816	72.9%	31,427,403	72.5%
Capital	8,165,128	19.3%	8,447,787	19.5%
Total	42,338,563	100%	43,330,431	100%

Three-Part Budget

All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in three categories:

Administrative, program and capital.

Administrative ■
 Program ■
 Capital ■



ADMINISTRATIVE:

3,455,241 | 8.0%

Includes expenses for Board of Education, central administration, finance and legal services, personnel, public information, some facilities operations, central services, special items, supervision of regular school and some employee benefits.

PROGRAM:

31,427,403 | 72.5%

Includes expenses for curriculum development, instructional programs, supplies, district information, athletic programs, community service, most employee benefits and transfers of funds.

CAPITAL:

8,447,787 | 19.5%

Includes most expenses for facilities operations, all maintenance, debt service principal and interest on all building projects.

Expenditure Summary

	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	\$ Change
Central Administration	195,710	206,803	11,093
Debt Service	4,678,569	4,823,571	145,002
Employee Benefits	10,755,537	11,056,590	301,053
Transportation	1,995,648	2,147,456	151,808
Interfund Transfers	230,000	230,000	-
Board of Education & Annual Meeting	26,235	26,173	(62)
Business & Financial Operations	449,179	437,744	(11,435)
Central Services: Communications, Personnel & Legal Services	210,850	206,076	(4,774)
Central Services: BOCES Services, Data Processing & Insurance	452,511	539,538	87,027
Operations & Maintenance	2,559,859	2,670,157	110,298
Curriculum, Instruction & Supervision	1,100,441	1,141,217	40,776
Instruction: Regular & Special Education	15,521,593	15,451,283	(70,310)
Instruction: Library & Technology	1,665,013	1,782,544	117,531
Pupil Services: Guidance, Nursing, Psychologists	1,387,314	1,446,393	59,079
Extracurricular & Athletics	1,110,104	1,164,886	54,782
Total	42,338,563	43,330,431	991,868

SCHOOL NEWS



DMS RIBBON CUTTING

We cut the ribbon on the renovated auditorium at Driver Middle School in November!

The updates included new curtains, seats, and lights, as well as upgrades to the sound booth.

The 7/8 Drama Club took the stage first for Willy Wonka Jr.!

KCH MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every month, K.C. Heffernan Elementary students get together for an all-school meeting!

The students learn about Positivity Project and receive awards for exemplifying traits such as teamwork and curiosity. Principal Massa mixes in a freeze dance to keep them active, and the students end the assembly with the KCH Pledge, which reminds everyone to be responsible, respectful, caring, and safe.



FCCLA SHOE DRIVE

The Marcellus FCCLA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our entire community for collecting and donating shoes!

The truck picked up all the donations in December, and thanks to your generosity, we were able to support families in our own community and donate over 1,800 pairs of shoes to people around the world.

Your contributions will make a meaningful difference in many lives and support numerous important causes. We are so grateful for your kindness and continued support!



ELLA HAKES' FINANCIAL EXPERTISE IS ALREADY PAYING DIVIDENDS!

Hakes was one of five students selected nationwide to receive the WISE 2025 Financial Literacy Ambassador Award. The freshman will receive a \$1,000 award for demonstrating exceptional knowledge and passion about personal finance, which included a test she took last year as an eighth-grader.

Hakes has begun her tenure as ambassador by helping out in Mrs. Milliken's Family And Consumer Sciences classes at DMS, as well as post weekly Money Monday Tips in the hallways at the high school.

DMS HOVERCRAFT

Our fifth grade students had an amazing time designing, building, and racing hovercrafts with The Hovercraft Project in October!

Along the way, students learned about science, teamwork, and problem-solving in action.



PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Our High School students have been exploring their interests through the Professional Pathways Program!

Students have used the opportunity to learn more about aviation, nursing, music recording, museum curating, and many other topics by interviewing local professionals who are in the field.

We would like to thank all of the mentors who have taken time to meet with our students!

ON THE BALLOT

Board of Education Candidates

On May 19 Marcellus residents will elect three members of the Board of Education. The following candidates filed petitions with the district office by the April 20 deadline. The two candidates with the highest number of votes will serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2029. The candidate receiving the third highest number of votes will serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028.



PETER CHAPMAN, of Marcellus, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. A district resident for 15 years, he is currently an English Teacher at Skaneateles High School.

Peter and wife Melissa have three children, one currently at the Senior High School and two recent graduates now attending LeMoyne College and the University of Delaware. He serves as the Chairperson of the Village of Marcellus Planning Board, is a member of the Sports Booster Committee, serving as the Boys Basketball Representative and has been involved with the Crystal Ball Cruise planning and executing the Senior After Ball Party.

Peter is a graduate of Skaneateles High School and holds a double-bachelor's degree from John Carroll University and a master's degree from LeMoyne College.

"I have tried my hand in many school/community boards/committees (Village Planning Board, Crystal Ball Cruise, Sports Booster, Marcellus Youth Basketball, Optimist/Lakeshore Baseball, Marcellus Youth Soccer), but I have not taken a role so directly related to the school and its operations. With twenty-six years of experience in education, I believe I offer a unique insight to such matters."



SHAWN EDIE, of Marcellus, is seeking his third term on the Board of Education. A district resident for 10 years, he is the Director of Student Orientation, Leadership and Engagement at Onondaga Community College where he oversees campus engagement events, the Student Government Association, student clubs and new student orientation.

Shawn and wife Dianne have three children, two who attend the Senior High School, and one who attends Driver Middle School. He is an active member within Scouting America, where he serves as a Den Leader for Marcellus Pack 166 and is also a Registered Adult for Troop 66. In addition, Shawn serves as a member of the Longhouse Council Executive Board.

Shawn holds a bachelor's degree in Art Education from Manhattanville College and a master's degree in Student Affairs Counseling from Bridgewater State University.

"I was involved at KCH from 2018 to 2021 as secretary and president of the Parent-Teacher Organization," Mr. Edie says. "Since that time I have served as a member of the Board of Education and would be honored to serve the MCSD community again in this role. I believe in the education we provide our community and in the hard work our staff, teachers and administrators put in every day."



JESSICA JOHNSON, of Marcellus, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. A district resident for 11 years, she is the owner of Johnson Ag Consulting, a public relations, event planning, and social media management business that she founded in 2016. Through her work she supports organizations in building community relationships, coordinating events, and developing effective communication strategies.

Jessica and husband Brendt have two children currently attending the Driver Middle School. She was an active member of the KCH PTO from 2016 to 2025, serving as Vice President for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. She has also been involved in the DMS PTA and sat on both the DMS and KCH Principal hiring committees and the Special Education hiring committee. Beyond the schools, Jessica volunteers with the Marcellus Youth Soccer program for photo day and dedicates her time to the Marcellus Food Panty where she volunteers regularly and currently runs the Backpack Program to support local students in need.

"I believe meaningful change starts at the community level. Small, thoughtful actions can lead to lasting and significant impact. Serving on the school board is an opportunity for me to contribute to the place my family calls home and to help shape a positive future for all students. I also want to model for my children the importance of being actively involved in their community. Real change comes from participation, not just observation. If we want things to improve, we have to be willing to step forward and be part of the process. I am committed to ensuring that all students and parents feel heard and represented. Marcellus is a wonderful place to live, and I would be honored to help preserve and strengthen that legacy for future generations."

Community members have an opportunity to meet candidates for the Board of Education prior to the public hearing, from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Monday, May 11th in the SHS Large Group Instruction Room.

BUDGET FAQs

Proposition 1:

BUDGET ADOPTION

"Shall the Board of Education of the Marcellus Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the total amount of \$43,330,431 for the 2026-2027 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

Proposition 2:

PURCHASE OF TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

"Shall the Board of Education ("Board") of the Marcellus Central School District ("District") be authorized to purchase school buses for a combined maximum estimated expenditure of \$867,000, and to obtain the necessary funds by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District, to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, to issue up to \$867,000 of obligations of the District?"

Proposition 3:

LIBRARY LEVY

"Shall the annual appropriation for the Marcellus Free Library be increased from its current level of \$593,931 per year to \$608,779 per year (an increase of \$14,848), to be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property within the Marcellus Central School District, in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law?"

WHERE DO MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES COME FROM?

Marcellus Central School District receives revenue to support its programming from several sources. The principal sources are New York State aid and local property taxes. State funding accounts for 39.2% of the district's projected revenue. The district proposes to appropriate \$1,506,282 in fund balance to offset any additional increase in the property tax levy.



54.6%

Property Taxes paid by local homeowners and businesses represent one of the two main sources of revenue for Marcellus schools.



39.0%

Together, **School & Building Aid** from New York State comprise the second largest source of financial support for the district.



6.4%

Other Local Income sources include charges for services, BOCES refunds, interfund transfers and District Reserve Funds.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

A defeated budget could mean \$309,409 in reductions. Under NYS Law, if the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the Marcellus Board of Education will have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If voters reject the proposed budget twice, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

Adopting a contingent budget would prohibit Marcellus from spending money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-union employees; and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.

More significantly, under the law, if Marcellus adopts a contingent budget, the district would be required to keep its 2026-27 tax levy the same as or less than its 2025-26 tax levy—in effect a 0% increase. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as the current year (or less) and as a result would—absent the use of additional reserve funds—need to reduce costs by \$623,100, without any adjustments for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, whether or not they are mandated.

WHAT WILL MY ACTUAL TAX RATE BE?

Tax rates are calculated in August once property values are finalized by town, county or state assessors in addition to receiving final equalization rates from the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services. The school tax levy is only one portion of the tax rate formula. The estimated tax per \$100,000 of assessed home value with basic STAR exemption is \$1,054.42, which would be a monthly increase of \$3.57 or \$42.87 annually.





MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2 Reed Parkway
Marcellus, NY 13108

Non-Profit Org.
PAID
Marcellus, NY
13108
Permit #18

POSTAL PATRON

MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOTE



Community members have an opportunity to meet candidates for the Board of Education prior to the public hearing, from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Monday, May 11th in the SHS Large Group Instruction Room.

BUDGET HEARING

Monday, May 11, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School

Large Group Instruction Room

1 Mustang Hill

Marcellus, New York

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- District resident for at least 30 days prior to vote
- No voter registration required

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTERS

Obtain an application on the district website, via email at coleary@marcellusschools.org, or at the district office by calling 315-673-6009. Applications must be returned by May 11 if the absentee or early voting ballot is to be mailed to the voter or by May 18 if the ballot will be picked up by the voter. Ballots must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19.

DATE OF VOTE AND ELECTION

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Noon to 9:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School

Auditorium

1 Mustang Hill

Marcellus, New York



Our School District is on Facebook and Instagram!

Be sure to follow us at @MarcellusCSD