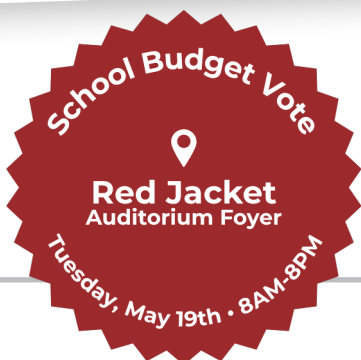
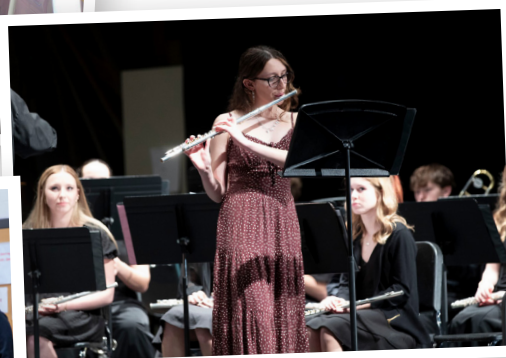


MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

May 2026



EXCELLENCE

Challenge and learning are the goals and the rewards.

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OUR MISSION

We will challenge all learners and work in partnership with students, parents and community to achieve high standards.



Message from the Superintendent



Dear Red Jacket School Community,

I am proud to share our annual school budget newsletter. At Red Jacket, we remain committed to being thoughtful and responsible stewards of our resources, always keeping the needs of our students and community at the center of every decision we make.

This year's budget continues to reflect our District's Strategic Action Plan and our shared commitment to meeting the unique needs of each student, providing challenging and real-world learning

experiences, and cultivating student ownership. Our goal remains clear—to promote a learning environment that maximizes each student's potential to succeed in an ever-changing, highly technical, and diverse world.

Guided by our focus on listening, learning, and connecting, we have approached this budget development process with intentionality and collaboration. Through ongoing conversations with staff, students, families, and community members, we have worked to ensure that this budget reflects both our priorities and the voices of those we serve. This process has strengthened our ability to align resources with what matters most—a strong, positive district culture, meaningful engagement with all stakeholders, and academic achievement for all students.

As with any year, we continue to navigate a complex and evolving educational landscape. While we face challenges, including fiscal pressures and shifting mandates, our commitment to excellence remains unwavering. This proposed budget is built to sustain high-quality, Tier One instruction, strengthen partnerships across our community, and ensure that every student has access to the opportunities and supports they need to succeed.

Moving forward, we will continue to work in partnership with our community to ensure transparency, maintain fiscal responsibility, and deliver on our promise to provide an exceptional educational experience for all students.

Thank you for your continued support, engagement, and commitment to the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District. Together, we will continue to move our work forward with purpose and pride.

With Red Jacket PRIDE,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher J. Barnard".

Christopher J. Barnard
Superintendent of Schools
Manchester-Shortsville CSD

RJ Named "Top Workplace" by USA Today



On April 29th, the district was recognized at a celebration held at the Rochester Convention Center after being named a Top Workplace by USA Today. This honor highlights organizations where employees feel respected, supported, and engaged.

The district was also featured in the Sunday edition of the Democrat and Chronicle and in Top Workplaces Magazine, further underscoring the strength of its workplace culture and the positive experiences of its staff.

In September and October, staff members participated in a confidential workplace survey administered by Energage, a company that measures workplace culture nationwide. The survey focused on key areas such as leadership, communication, professional growth, respect, and overall job satisfaction, factors that play a critical role in fostering a positive and effective work

environment.

The results placed the district in a select group of honorees. Out of all organizations in the Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes region, only 58 received

this award, including just 18 mid-sized employers, highlighting the district's standing among peer organizations.

This recognition is based entirely on employee feedback rather than an application process, making it a meaningful reflection of staff voice and day-to-day experiences across the district.

Being named a Top Workplace highlights the

dedication of staff, the strength of leadership, and the supportive culture that continues to be a priority. It also reflects ongoing progress aligned with the district's Strategic Action Plan and its focus on creating an environment where both staff and students can succeed.

"This recognition isn't the end goal," said Superintendent Christopher Barnard. "It's a reminder that we're moving in the right direction and that the culture we're fostering is having a real, positive impact on our staff and students."

This achievement is made possible by the continued efforts of faculty and staff, whose commitment each day contributes to a positive learning environment and a strong school community.

**THANK YOU
CARDINALS!**

We are incredibly grateful to our faculty and staff for their dedication, passion, and commitment to our students and community. Your hard work, support for one another, and the spirit of Cardinals CARE make Red Jacket such a special place to learn and grow. Because of you, we are proud to be recognized as one of Rochester's Top Workplaces for 2026!

**TOP
WORK
PLACES
2026**
Democrat & Chronicle

**RED JACKET
CARDINALS**

Meet our Valedictorian, Wyatt Rossignol



First, I want to thank my parents and family. They've offered me tons of support, both by helping me with some of my responsibilities and encouraging me to do my best. They've had a ton of influence on me and pushed me to become a good person, and I really appreciate them

for that. I also want to thank my teachers. They've always supported me and challenged me to be the best version of myself. The last people I'd like to thank are my friends. So far, I've loved my life and I owe a lot of it to them for making me laugh and helping me not "lose my touch".

Reflecting on high school, I would've done a few things differently. Maybe fewer extracurriculars and less time spent worrying over little things, but I don't regret any of it. Striving to do my best and taking every opportunity I can has taught me a lot, and it's worth any negatives that have come from it.

My plan for the immediate future is attending Cornell University to study Mechanical Engineering. In the long term

I'd like to give back to the community through some sort of leadership role whether that be a coach or mentor. Additionally, I'd like to raise a family some day and be financially stable.

If I could give only one piece of advice, I'd say define what success means to you. Figuring out your life's purpose is often the hardest part, whether that means retiring early, working your dream job, raising an affectionate family, or some combination of them all. Then, become so passionate about it that nothing can possibly stop you from jumping out of bed to chase it. Don't be afraid to fail—in fact, seek it out. In the end, you'll regret the chances that you didn't take more than the ones that didn't work out.

Meet our Salutatorian, Josh Lepel



I'll start off by giving gratitude to my family, especially my mom and siblings for always being supportive and only fairly judgmental

of my choices leading up til today. Thank you mom for really carrying the boat through all of the hardships and struggles, keeping the light of the next day hopeful and remaining my biggest motivator. Thank you Abby for your criticism and encouragement and thank you Ben for keeping my spirits high and playing basketball with me. Finally, thank you to my class for becoming the friends that I've enjoyed the past 13 years with.

I'm here to tell you that even if you think you can't do something, anything, just trust me you can. I don't care what it is and I'm sure most of

you have heard this a million times but it's true, you can really do anything you set your mind to, just so long as you never back down and never give up. Procrastination is one of the largest hurdles I've had to overcome, and still struggle with to this day, when trying to do almost anything in my day. Overcoming procrastination is no easy feat as it takes a lot of willpower to tell yourself to stop doing the easy option and actually do the harder, more rewarding thing that will inevitably make you feel better in the long run. All you need to do to achieve your goals is to keep on keeping on.

Red Jacket MasterMinds Team Closes Out Strong 2026 Season



The Red Jacket Cardinals MasterMinds team wrapped up their 2026 season with a home meet on April 7, concluding another successful year of competitive academic play. Both the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams demonstrated strong knowledge, teamwork, and quick thinking throughout the season.

This year's senior class finished their careers on a high note. Grace Maslyn, a four-year MasterMinds competitor, and Wyatt Clapp, who joined the team more recently and competed in his first and final matches this season, both

contributed to two victories in their final meet. Their efforts helped cap off a memorable season for the program.

MasterMinds is an academic quiz bowl competition held across Upstate New York, with regional leagues in Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse. The competition features teams of up to four students who face off by answering questions across a wide range of subjects, including literature, history, science, the arts, philosophy, social sciences, geography, current events, and popular culture.

Matches are fast-paced and require both individual knowledge and strong team collaboration. Each team designates a captain, who plays a key role in bonus rounds and helps guide team responses. Students are also able to use scratch paper for problem-solving during certain questions, particularly in math.

Team members demonstrate a strong commitment to the program, spending time each week practicing together and preparing for competition. Advisor Richard Rappold emphasized the value of the initiative, stating, "The MasterMinds program is a great opportunity for students who don't participate in athletics to represent their school in a competitive and inclusive environment beyond the halls of Red Jacket."

The program also creates opportunities for students across grades 9–12 to connect, allowing upperclassmen to mentor and build relationships with younger students who share similar interests. The Red Jacket MasterMinds program continues to challenge students academically while building confidence, communication skills, and teamwork. Congratulations to all of this year's participants on a successful season.

Do You Have a Future Cardinal at Home?



Families in our district with children ages 4 and younger who are not yet in school

are encouraged to complete our online census form to be included in district records. Scan the QR code or visit redjacket.org and click under

the Community tab to access the form. It only takes a few minutes to complete. It will ask for your child's name, birthdate, gender, home address, and parent/guardian email.

This information helps us plan for future enrollment and ensures that, when your child becomes eligible for UPK

or Kindergarten, you receive timely registration information and important updates. All information is kept confidential and used solely for school communication and planning

Please complete the form as soon as possible. If you would like more information, contact our Registrar at (585) 289-3927.

2026-2027 BUDGET



MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027 BUDGET & VOTER INFORMATION

2026-2027 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

The following table provides a comparison by major components of the 2026-2027 proposed budget with the current 2025-2026 budget.

The proposed 2026-2027 budget represents a 2.76% tax levy and a 4.81% budget increase.

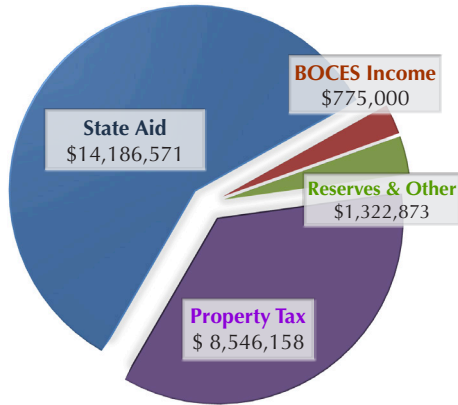
Budget Category	Administrative	Capital	Program	Grand Total	2025-2026	\$ Inc./Dec	% Change
Board of Education	\$41,360			\$41,360	\$36,505	\$4,855	13.30%
District Meetings	\$4,620			\$4,620	\$3,486	\$1,134	32.53%
Central Administration	\$203,333			\$203,333	\$195,143	\$8,190	4.20%
Business Administration	\$533,615			\$533,615	\$488,180	\$45,435	9.31%
Business Operations	\$22,597			\$22,597	\$15,097	\$7,500	49.68%
Auditing	\$26,175			\$26,175	\$25,167	\$1,008	4.01%
Legal Services	\$39,199		\$12,500	\$51,699	\$51,192	\$507	0.99%
Operations		\$1,090,459		\$1,090,459	\$1,092,007	-\$1,548	-0.14%
Maintenance		\$431,229		\$431,229	\$461,778	-\$30,549	-6.62%
Insurance	\$40,130	\$18,755	\$91,365	\$150,250	\$125,000	\$25,250	20.20%
School Association Dues	\$9,142			\$9,142	\$8,500	\$642	7.55%
Refund for Taxes		\$10,000		\$10,000	\$56,000	-\$46,000	-82.14%
BOCES Admin	\$181,235			\$181,235	\$177,941	\$3,294	1.85%
Supervision/Curriculum	\$1,068,180			\$1,068,180	\$975,440	\$92,740	9.51%
Instruction-General	\$407,651		\$6,590,647	\$6,998,298	\$6,439,938	\$558,360	8.67%
Teaching-Disabilities			\$3,930,426	\$3,930,426	\$3,746,768	\$183,658	4.90%
Library			\$93,655	\$93,655	\$163,207	-\$69,552	-42.62%
Computer Assisted Instruction			\$725,890	\$725,890	\$814,498	-\$88,608	-10.88%
Counseling/Social Work			\$367,207	\$367,207	\$357,830	\$9,377	2.62%
Health Services			\$151,035	\$151,035	\$145,669	\$5,366	3.68%
Psychological Services			\$144,777	\$144,777	\$151,348	-\$6,571	-4.34%
Co-Curricular			\$66,707	\$66,707	\$63,606	\$3,101	4.88%
Interscholastic Athletics			\$343,200	\$343,200	\$338,300	\$4,900	1.45%
District Transportation			\$1,133,929	\$1,133,929	\$1,061,652	\$72,277	6.81%
Employee Benefits	\$396,018	\$483,968	\$4,024,360	\$4,904,346	\$4,546,985	\$357,361	7.86%
Debt Service		\$2,149,238		\$2,149,238	\$2,151,176	-\$1,938	-0.09%
Dollar Total	\$2,973,255	\$4,183,649	\$17,675,698	\$24,832,602	\$23,692,413	\$1,140,189	4.81%
Percentage Total	11.97%	16.85%	71.18%	100.00%			

At a Glance:

2026-27 BUDGET REVENUES *Where our money comes from:*

Explanation of Revenues

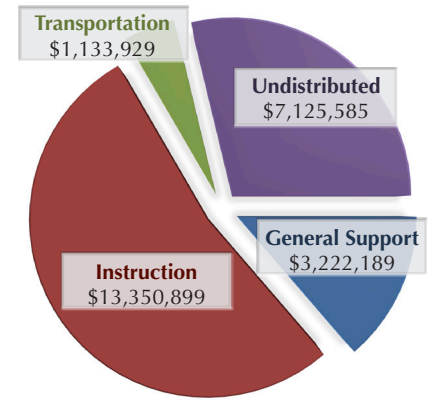
- State Sources for revenue account for 57.1% of the total revenues for the district. The District is expecting a 1% increase of Foundation Aid based on the Governor's Proposal. Foundation Aid is the largest portion of the District's state aid.
- Major items in Local Sources include rent and utility payments from RJEC, Interest and Earnings, and Reserves.
- A 2.76% increase is proposed for the local property tax.



2026-27 BUDGET EXPENDITURES *Where our money goes:*

Explanation of Expenditures

- The budget for the 2026-27 school year is \$24,832,602, which is an increase of \$1,140,189 or 4.81% from the current budget.
- The General Support section which includes Board of Education, Central Office, Buildings and Grounds and other Administration fees accounts for 12.98% of the overall budget and has decreased \$31,612.
- The Instruction section, which includes items such as teacher salaries, classroom textbooks and supplies, programs for students with disabilities, and interscholastic athletics, accounts for 53.76% of the overall budget and has increased \$787,554.
- The Transportation section, which includes district transportation costs, accounts for 4.57% of the overall budget and has an increase of \$72,277.
- The Undistributed section of the budget accounts for 28.69% of the overall budget and includes such things as group health insurance, employee retirement system contributions, Social Security payments and debt service. The Undistributed section of the budget again includes a \$100,000 transfer to the Capital Fund for minor improvements to school district buildings in the form of a Capital Outlay Project. The Capital Outlay Project for 2026-2027 will include door replacement throughout the campus. It is important to note that approximately 88.6% of this expense will be returned to the district in the form of Building Aid in the following year.



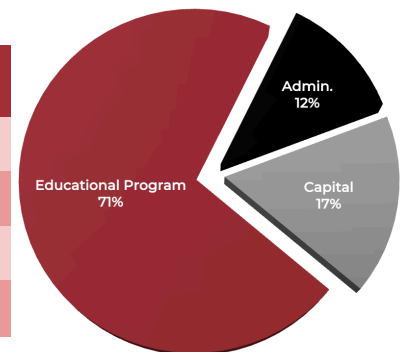
Explanation of Components

Educational Program Component - includes expenses for teaching general and special education students, i.e., employee salaries, benefits, insurance, programs for students with disabilities, occupational education, in-service training, school library, attendance, guidance, health services, psychological services, pupil personnel services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic athletics, student transportation services, recreation/youth programs, civic activities, and special aid funds.

Capital Component - includes expenses for the operation and maintenance of school buildings, school bus purchases, principal and interest payments for debt service, transfers to capital and debt service funds, property tax refunds, and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in these functions.

Administrative Component - includes expenses for the Board of Education, central administration, instructional supervision, curriculum development, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing, storage, and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in these functions.

Component	Proposed Budget	Percent of Budget
Educational Program	\$17,675,698	71.18%
Administrative	\$2,973,255	11.97%
Capital	\$4,183,649	16.85%
Total Budget	\$24,832,602	100.00%



Contingent Budget

The State requires the District to report to the community the budget reductions that will be made to the proposed 2026-2027 budget if the budget is defeated by the community. Contingent budget regulations require the District to remove Non-State-Aided equipment and school supplies provided to students, and requires fees to be charged to the community for use of District facilities - such as the Red Jacket Hoops, adult education, CYO, AAU, Finger Lakes Youth Football, other local individual groups including adult basketball, volleyball, and summer youth recreation.

Fiscal Responsibility at Red Jacket Schools

What is a tax levy? The total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to balance its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources, including state aid. The 2025-2026 tax levy increase was 1.93%. We are asking voters to vote on a 2.76% tax levy increase for the 2026-2027 school budget.

Fiscal Stress Score: Once again, Red Jacket's New York State Fiscal Stress Score is "No Designation," which is the BEST designation a district can achieve. The System analyzes the financial information against a set of uniform financial and environmental indicators. Based on this data, districts are designated the following 4 levels: Significant Fiscal Stress, Moderate Fiscal Stress, Susceptible to Fiscal Stress, or No Designation.

Contingent Item Reductions:

Non-State-Aided Equipment	
Custodial & Maintenance.....	\$30,000
Reductions Attributed to Community Use of Facilities.....	\$12,000
District Equipment.....	\$100,000
Staffing Reductions.....	\$87,593
Total.....	\$229,593

Proposed Budget	Contingent Budget Reductions	Contingent Budget
\$24,832,602	\$229,593	\$24,603,009

School Budget Notice

Budget Adopted for the Current Year:

\$23,692,413

Budget Proposed for 2026-2027:

\$24,832,602

Increase/Decrease with Current Year:

\$1,140,189

Tax Levy:

2.76%

Percent Change in the Budget:

4.81%

Percent Change in Consumer Price Index:

2.95%

Contingent Budget:

\$24,603,009

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-2027 by the qualified voters of the Manchester-Shortsville School District, Ontario County, New York, will be held at the High School Auditorium Lobby in said District on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026**, between the hours of **8:00 am and 8:00 pm**, prevailing time, at which time polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

Voter Qualifications

Voters at the annual meeting or any special school district meeting must possess the following qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States.
- At least eighteen (18) years of age.
- A resident within the District for a period of at least thirty (30) days prior to the day of the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots for election of the members of the Board and the adoption of the annual budget may be applied for at the office of the Clerk of the District in the District Office. Such applications must be received by the Clerk of the District or designee of the School Board at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

On the Ballot:

PROPOSITION #1 Budget Approval

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, County of Ontario, New York, is hereby authorized to levy the necessary tax for and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$24,832,602 for the purpose of the General Fund Budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

PROPOSITION #2 School Bus Purchase Approval

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, County of Ontario, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase two (2) 65-passenger full-size diesel buses; not to exceed \$412,000 during the 2026-2027 school year and expend payment from the bus reserve.

Board of Education Membership Election

Two (2) vacancies on the Board of Education are up for election at this year's Annual Meeting/ Election. It is for two (2) five-year terms beginning on July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2031. As per voter approval, seats for the Board of Education are elected on an at-large basis. This means that if one seat is vacant, the top vote getter will assume office. Two (2) candidates filed a nominating petition: James Simmons & Ashley Rivera

CANDIDATES

★ Vote for any Two ★

<p>James Simmons</p> <p>Ashley Rivera</p>	<p>Two (2) vacant seats</p> <p>Term ending June 30, 2031</p>
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School Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 19th 8AM-8PM

Red Jacket Auditorium Foyer



Meet the Candidates:

James Simmons



James "Jamie" Simmons has served on the Board of Education for the past five years, including three years as Board President, and is seeking re-election to continue prioritizing: student safety and success, strengthening community connections, and building on the district's positive momentum.

Jamie has been a resident of the district for seventeen years and has two sons attending Red Jacket schools. Along with his partner, Amy, his family includes five children in the district.

He works in software development for a major HVAC manufacturer, where he has spent more than fifteen years in a range of technical and leadership roles. He is a graduate of Canandaigua Academy and holds a bachelor's degree in business and organizational management from Keuka College.

In addition to his work on the school board, Jamie has been active in the community through volunteer work with youth sports and scouting programs. He looks forward to continuing to serve the district and contributing to its long-term success.

Ashley Rivera



Ashley Rivera has been a resident of Shortsville for the past twelve years and is an active and engaged member of the Red Jacket school community. She and her husband, Adam Andrews, have two children in the district, Avianna and Arlo.

Ashley is a Senior Commodity Manager at G.W. Lisk, bringing more than 20 years of experience in supply chain management to her professional work. She is a 2013 graduate of St. John Fisher University.

Deeply committed to her community, Ashley is actively involved in the PTSA, participates in youth sports programs, and volunteers in the classroom. She is seeking a position on the Board of Education because of her strong appreciation for the district and its educators. Ashley is eager to contribute her time and perspective to help support continued growth and success for the school community.

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	\$23,692,413	\$24,832,602	\$24,603,009										
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$1,150,189	\$920,596										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.63%	3.89%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,318,565	\$8,548,158											
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)	\$8,318,565	\$8,548,158	\$8,318,565										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,489,155	\$8,659,665											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,318,565	\$8,548,158											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$170,590	\$111,507											
Administrative Component	\$2,803,098	\$2,973,256	\$2,922,837										
Program Component	\$16,569,515	\$17,675,697	\$17,516,523										
Capital Component	\$4,139,800	\$4,183,649	\$4,163,649										
<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>** 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"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus Purchases-2 Full Size Buses</td> <td>\$412,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	Bus Purchases-2 Full Size Buses	\$412,000						
Description	Amount												
Bus Purchases-2 Full Size Buses	\$412,000												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹
\$435

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Manchester-Shortsville Central school district, Ontario County, New York, will be held at Red Jacket High School school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the auditorium lobby, 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.

Grow Towers Feed Minds and Meals



Students at Red Jacket Middle School are getting a hands-on lesson in sustainability, collaboration, and nutrition, thanks to three hydroponic grow towers that are producing more than just plants. The towers, cared for by students, are growing fresh food that is being used not only in the cafeteria but also across multiple classrooms, bringing learning to life in meaningful and engaging ways.

The project began through two separate grants secured by middle school teacher Deborah Goodman, who brought the vision for hydroponic growing to the district. The first, an Agricultural Literacy Grant from Cornell University titled “Verduras, una lengua universal” (Vegetables, a universal language), provided one hydroponic grow tower. A second grant of \$3,500 from Whole Kids funded two additional towers. Today, two towers are housed in the Spanish classroom, while a third is located in a 7th-grade math classroom.

A key part of the program’s success has been the

collaboration of classroom teachers who have fully embraced and helped integrate the towers into instruction. The math classroom is led by Jamie Pentland, who partnered with the program to bring real-world data analysis into his curriculum. Students in his class analyzed survey results to determine which herbs, vegetables, and fruits to grow, then graphed and interpreted the data as part of their math instruction.

“I love seeing the excitement and enthusiasm students have as they watch the garden growing,” Goodman said. “Very often students will gather around the gardens to look at the progress and talk about what they see happening.”

From the start, the initiative was designed to extend beyond gardening. Both grants emphasized social-emotional benefits, such as the calming effect of the towers’ gentle, waterfall-like sounds, which help create a more relaxed classroom environment. At the same time, the towers provide unique opportunities for cross-curricular learning, connecting Spanish language instruction with math, science, and Home and Careers classes.

The impact of the towers has extended into the kitchen

as well. Students in Spanish classes and high school Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) classes collaborated on a salsa taste test using ingredients grown in the towers. These efforts were strengthened through the partnership with Tracey Snieszko, who worked alongside students to incorporate the hydroponic produce into classroom cooking



experiences. Students prepared recipes in English, while Spanish students translated the same recipes as part of their coursework, all while enjoying the final product. Additionally, the gardens have provided fresh herbs and vegetables for use in pizzas, burgers, and other dishes in FACS classes.

More recently, the program has expanded to include the district’s food service department. Students have supplied small amounts of fresh lettuce grown in the towers to be used in cafeteria salads, an effort the school hopes to continue and grow in the future. For students, there is a strong sense of pride in knowing they helped grow the food they are eating.

The grow towers have become a unique and engaging feature of the school, blending disciplines in unexpected ways. The project’s message is clear: learning can happen anywhere, and food truly is a universal language.

Marissa Wakefield Honored with Youth Leadership Recognition Award



Junior Marissa Wakefield was selected as one of just 27 students from across the Finger Lakes region to receive the 2026 Youth Leadership Recognition Award, an honor presented by State Senator Pam Helming that highlights students who demonstrate strong character, leadership, and a commitment to their school and community.

This recognition is presented annually to students who

distinguish themselves not only through their academic efforts, but also through their involvement in extracurricular activities and service to others. Marissa's selection reflects her consistent dedication, positive influence, and willingness to take an active role both inside and outside the classroom.

As part of the recognition ceremony, student honorees were acknowledged for the ways they contribute to their schools and communities while setting an example for their peers. The award serves to celebrate students who are making meaningful impacts now, while also preparing for future success.

"These students are leaders in the classroom and in their

communities - balancing academics, service, and responsibility while giving back to others. Their success reflects strong character and the support of parents, educators, and mentors. These students are a powerful reminder that our future is in good hands, and we must continue investing in the next generation of leaders," Helming said.

Marissa's accomplishment is a reflection of her hard work and the values she brings to the Red Jacket community. We congratulate her on this recognition and commend her for representing our district in such a positive way.

Kindergarten & UPK Registration Now Open



Red Jacket Elementary School is now accepting registrations for Kindergarten and Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) for the 2026–2027 school year.

Eligibility Requirements:

Kindergarten: Children who turn five years old on or before December 1, 2026.

UPK: Children born between December 2, 2021, and December 1, 2022, who live within the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District.

If your child is currently enrolled in the UPK program at Red Jacket Elementary, no action is needed—your child will be automatically registered for kindergarten.

Per New York State Compulsory Education Law, all children who turn six years old on or before December 1, 2026, must be enrolled in school

Kindergarten Screening: All incoming kindergarten students who are not currently enrolled in Red Jacket's UPK program must attend a mandatory screening session with a parent or guardian on Tuesday, May 27, 2026. Screenings will take about an hour. Families will receive a letter with their scheduled appointment time.

How to Register: Families can register online at www.redjacket.org or visit the District Office to register in person.

For more information, please contact the school office.



Scholarship Awards and Contributors

The Manchester-Shortsville Central School District would like to thank the following organizations, individuals, and scholarship providers who contribute to the list of scholarships below. Your generosity is helping our graduates pursue their continued education in post-secondary institutions of learning.

Amanda Peck Nursing Scholarship	Herendeen Trade/Technical Scholarship	NYS Academic Excellence Scholarship
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 34 Scholarship	James McNinch Scholarship	Philip J. D'Ardiuni Memorial Scholarship
Bob Goodell Memorial Scholarship	James Weed Scholarship	Red Jacket Community Scholarship
Bredesen Scholarship	Jane Cunion Scholarship	Red Jacket Faculty Association Scholarship
Bridget Brown Memorial Scholarship	Joshua Herendeen Memorial Scholarship	Red Jacket Memorial Scholarship
Cindy Coffey Memorial Scholarship	Joshua Lewis Memorial Scholarship	Red Jacket PTSA Scholarship
Citizen Hose Scholarship	JS Goodnow Scholarship	Red Jacket Rotary Club Award
Clara Johnson Scholarship	Judith Macri Memorial Scholarship	Richard "Dick" Southard Memorial Scholarship
Class of 1994 Memorial Scholarship	Leon & Ruth Malter Cooley Scholarship	RJ Adult Athletic Association Sportsmanship and Leadership Award
Dale Bardun Citizenship Award	Madge & Ward Preston Scholarship	Red Jacket Scholarship Walk-a-thon
Dominic Carra Memorial Scholarship	Manchester Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship	Robert Hulbert Memorial Scholarship
Ellen McWilliams Scholarship	Manchester Shortsville Ladies Lions Club	Sons of the American Legion Americanism Award
Erin Alicia Mangan-Isaacs Memorial Scholarship	Margaret Vienna Memorial Scholarship	Sue Dorscheid Memorial Scholarship
Farmington Chamber of Commerce	Mary Ann King Memorial Scholarship	Timothy & Elaine Benjamin Scholarship
Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack Scholarship	Mary C. D'Arduini Memorial Scholarship	Turner Schrader American Legion Scholarship
First Baptist Church of Manchester Scholarship	Mary Sassone Nursing Scholarship	Twin Cities Lions Club Scholarship
Fred "Soot" Record Scholarship	Michael D. Misleany Memorial Scholarship	Twin Cities Lions Club Vocational Scholarship
Gary H. Bliss Memorial Scholarship	Monica B. and James E. Romeiser Scholarship	
Grape Lakes Family Dental Scholarship	Neil Harkenrider Memorial Scholarship	

Budding Readers Program

Free Books for Babies

Is your baby 36 months of age or younger? Do you know a baby of this age in our school district? Budding Readers has free “bundles of books” with tips for parents about reading to babies and toddlers ready to deliver. To request a free “bundle of books”, you can call, email, place a request on our website, or scan the QR code. One of our volunteers will contact the parent to arrange a mutually convenient time to deliver the bundle of books.

Email: books@buddingreaders.org

Website: www.books@buddingreaders.org

Phone: (585) 900-1725



Thank you for helping us provide books for babies.

Budding Readers offers free bundles of books in the following school district communities: Bloomfield, Canandaigua, Honeoye, Marcus Whitman, Midlakes, Naples, Red Jacket & Victor.



YOUR VOTE MATTERS! Budget Vote: May 19th, 2026 Polls Open: 8AM-8PM Red Jacket Auditorium Foyer

**MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1506 ROUTE 21
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www.redjacket.org

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