

Learning at...



BUDGET 2026

# Wallkill

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## WSHS Announces Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

**WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (WSHS) IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE** that

Lea Martini has been recognized as the valedictorian of the Class of 2026, and Angelica Marino is this year's salutatorian.

"Lea and Angelica have excelled not only academically but also in their activities outside the classroom," said WSHS Principal Alyssa Greany. "Both have contributed to shaping the future of WSHS—Lea through her involvement as a student representative on the Wallkill Central School District Board of Education and the Cell Phone Policy Committee, and Angelica as a student representative on the Comprehensive District Education Plan Committee."

Lea, who is graduating with an Advanced Regents diploma, credits her parents, Jude and Carolyn Martini of Wallkill, as well as older brothers Jude, Luke, and Marco, for encouraging her to push herself not just in school, but in every aspect of her life. Her family, she says, has continually reminded her of how important it is to not only be a good student, but to also try to make a difference in the lives of others.

Lea's rigorous academic course load has included a number of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, including AP United States History, AP United States Government and Politics, AP Calculus, and AP Biology. She has also challenged herself with college-level classes, including



*Superintendent Anthony White, Salutatorian Angelica Marino, Valedictorian Lea Martini, and WSHS Principal Alyssa Greany.*

Project Lead the Way courses and College Spanish 4, 5, and 6.

Lea is grateful to Principal Greany and Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services (and former WSHS Principal) Brian Masopust for giving her opportunities to serve the Wallkill community. She also thanks teachers Jeanne Chun, Ashley Sanchez, and Samrat Pathania for promoting intellectual conversations and encouraging her to think creatively.

One of Lea's fondest memories is helping to organize Wallkill's first-ever Movie Night last fall along with other members of the Student Government Association, which she led as class president in Grades 10, 11, and 12. Lea's other extracurricular activities have included serving as a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and the Varsity Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field teams.

Lea has also demonstrated a strong interest in the arts. A member of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts, she has been dancing competitively since she was 9. She has earned numerous medals, trophies, and scholarships during her dance career, including the national Miss Starstruck 2025 title. In addition, Lea is an avid pianist who enjoys performing at local nursing homes and school events.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# VOTE

**TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026**  
**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School, Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School

*Budget  
Details  
Inside*

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lea plans to attend Cornell University's College of Human Ecology on a full-tuition Army ROTC scholarship in the fall, majoring in human development with a minor in dance. Lea hopes to become a doctor and to one day participate in Doctors Without Borders.

As salutatorian, Angelica is grateful to her mother, Christine Marino of Wallkill, for providing support and motivation and to her sisters for teaching her how to navigate the world. "I wouldn't be where I am today without their unconditional love and support," she said.

Angelica's academic resume includes numerous AP classes, Project Lead the Way courses in Engineering and Physics, and College Spanish 4 and 5. She has dedicated many hours to the National Honor Society (NHS), serving as vice president during her junior year. One of her favorite NHS-related memories was of a day she spent at the local Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, where she and some friends were given a tour of the building and learned the ins and outs of the organization. She is proud that the Honor Society

donated 58 complete Thanksgiving meals to the pantry this year, and appreciative of the leadership of NHS Advisor Hunter Andrews. "His dedication to community service is inspiring," she said. "I am extremely grateful to have been able to work with him on a variety of projects."

Angelica has played soccer since she was nine, and believes that the sport taught her how to push herself both mentally and physically. Principal Greany also had a positive impact on her personal development, she explained, by providing her with the opportunity to be a student representative on the Comprehensive District Education Plan Committee. Angelica added that she was impressed by the dedication and passion shown by each and every member in the Wallkill Central School District.

Angelica's advice to younger students is to get involved. "I think it's really important to just get your foot in the door and meet new people and do more things at school," she said. In the fall, Angelica plans to study Health Sciences at Northeastern University in Boston.

### Wallkill Senior High School's Class of 2026 'Top Ten' Announced

The "Top 10" students in this year's graduating class demonstrate the academic excellence of Wallkill Senior High School while participating in a variety of athletic, extracurricular, and community activities. This outstanding group is led by Valedictorian Lea Martini and Salutatorian Angelica Marino, followed in order of class ranking by Caitlyn Murphy, Jackeline Arias Sanabria, Samaya Drackett, Miranda Padilla, Emma Cusumano, Elijah Cornman, Shaelynn Decker, and James Rhinehart.



Lea Martini



Angelica Marino



Caitlyn Murphy



Jackeline Arias Sanabria



Samaya Drackett



Miranda Padilla



Emma Cusumano



Elijah Cornman



Shaelynn Decker



James Rhinehart

# A Message from the Superintendent

## Dear Wallkill Community,

The Wallkill Central School District Board of Education and Administration have worked diligently over the past several months to develop the proposed 2026–2027 school district budget, with a continued focus on fiscal responsibility and high-quality educational opportunities for all students. This proposed budget reflects a careful balance between responsible allocation of taxpayer dollars and thoughtful investment in the programs and services that strengthen our schools, support our community, and protect property values.

The District is proposing a 3.06% budget increase for the 2026–2027 school year, which equates to a **2.70% tax levy increase (below the State tax levy limit)**. Through prudent planning and long-term financial discipline, the proposed 2026–2027 budget marks the fifteenth consecutive year the District has remained at or below the tax levy limit—and notably, the sixth consecutive year below the limit. Because the proposed tax levy is below the limit, the budget will require approval by a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) rather than a supermajority.

The 2026–2027 proposed budget protects and strengthens:

- ▶ All existing academic programs and extracurricular opportunities for students, while continuing to expand access in targeted areas
- ▶ Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), supporting early learning for Wallkill families
- ▶ Low class sizes in Grades K–12 (with an average of 20 students in Grades K–6), promoting personalized instruction and enhanced learning outcomes
- ▶ Professional development aligned with improved classroom instruction and student achievement
- ▶ Academic and mental health support services to meet the evolving needs of our students
- ▶ School safety through the continued presence of police officers in all five (5) school buildings



This year's budget also includes strategic investments that align to the Portrait of a Graduate and NY Inspires transformations while reflecting student interests and workforce trends. These additions are designed to increase student engagement and better prepare students for future success. These enhancements provide more students with meaningful opportunities to connect, participate, and succeed—academically, socially, and athletically. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (on page 4) in the 2026–2027 Budget section to see the comprehensive list of additional offerings and programs that are included in the proposed budget.

This issue of *Learning at Wallkill* offers residents valuable information about District programs, the proposed 2026–2027 school budget, and the candidates running for the Board of Education.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools.

Continue to show your Panther Pride!

Sincerely,

Anthony White, Superintendent of Schools

**ANNUAL BUDGET  
VOTE  
& Election of Trustees**

**TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026  
12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School,  
Leptondale Elementary School, and  
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# 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2026-2027 School District Budget

### What is the proposition to be voted on?

The proposition voters will cast a ballot for on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, will be:

**Proposition #1:** RESOLVED, that the proposed Wallkill Central School District budget for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$96,125,875 be approved and the Board of Education of said School District be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefore.

### Is the Wallkill Central School District's 2026-2027 tax levy within the limit?

Yes, the 2026-2027 tax levy is below the allowable limit; therefore, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval (50% + 1). The tax levy increase with permissible exemptions is 2.70%.

### What is the tax levy limit?

Essentially, it is an eight-step formula that each school district must use to calculate the tax levy limit. The result (the limit) is the maximum allowable tax levy (including permissible exemptions) that a school district can propose and would require only the approval of a simple majority of voter (50% + 1). Any proposed tax levy amount above the limit would require budget approval by a supermajority (60% or more) of voters. For more information on the tax levy limit, please visit [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

### Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

No, the tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay toward the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another based on such things as equalization rates and total town assessed values.

### What strategies were used to have a tax levy within the tax cap?

1. Projected increase in State Aid
2. Use of fund balance and reserves
3. Multi-year financial planning

### What is the percent increase of the proposed 2026-2027 budget when compared to the 2025-2026 budget?

The 2026-2027 budget increase is 3.06%.

### How much State Aid is the District projected to receive?

The District is projected to receive \$40,350,000 in State Aid in 2026-2027. In addition, the District continues to balance its budget with reserves and fund balance. This includes new projected building aid for the current capital project.

### What programs for students are included in the 2026-2027 budget?

1. Maintain and expand programs and extra-curricular opportunities
2. Create a Strategic Gaming Club, Girls Flag Football Club, and Model UN Club at the Wallkill Senior High School
3. Offer Wallkill Senior High School students the opportunity to attain the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB)
4. Offer four (4) new elective courses at the Wallkill Senior High School
  - American Sign Language IV (Dual Enrollment – New Paltz)
  - Agricultural Science
  - Music as Poetry
  - Sports Journalism (Dual Enrollment – Mount St. Mary's)
5. Create one (1.0) FTE English as New Language Teacher (ENL) through the re-allocation of one vacant (1.0) FTE World Language teaching position
6. Create a Varsity Girls Golf Team
7. Create a Varsity Girls/Boys Bowling Team
8. Create Unified Bowling Team for Students with Disabilities
9. Create a Weightlifting Club at the John G. Borden Middle School
10. Offer Instrumental Band to students beginning in fourth (4th) grade
11. Restructure Elementary after-school AIS Program
12. Maintain UPK program
13. Maintain low class sizes for K-12 to allow for enhanced learning opportunities (K-6 average class size of 20)
14. Professional development opportunities to support classroom instruction and student learning
15. Maintain support services to address the mental health and academic needs of our students
16. The continued assignment of Police Officers in all five (5) school buildings—this year the District will partner with the Ulster County Sheriff's Department as they will staff an SRO at the High School daily

# 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

## What happens if voters reject the proposed budget?

If voters reject the proposed budget, the school district may put up a revised budget for a second vote or adopt a contingent budget.

## What additional programs/positions will be reduced if the budget fails (contingent budget)?

- ▶ Reduction of seven (7) elementary instructional positions, resulting in larger class sizes and loss of programs for our students
- ▶ Reduction of two (2) secondary teachers
- ▶ All equipment (except for technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment necessary for health and safety purposes)
- ▶ Charges to community groups that result in identifiable costs for use of buildings

## What is included, as allowed by New York State Education Law, in a contingent budget?

A contingent budget will allow:

- ▶ All regular transportation to and from school at current levels of more than .6 miles and to private/parochial schools
- ▶ All legal obligations
- ▶ All health and safety repairs
- ▶ All expenses to maintain mandated educational programs
- ▶ All other budgeted items as determined by the Board of Education

## Who can vote on May 19, 2026?

Voters are eligible to vote if they are: (a) a U.S. citizen; (b) at least 18 years of age; (c) a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to May 19, 2026; and (d) not otherwise ineligible to vote under Section 5-106 of the Election Law. Please contact the District Clerk at 845-895-7101, or by email at [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us), if you have any questions regarding how you may obtain an absentee or early mail voter ballot. Information on how an unregistered voter, who meets the definition of a qualified voter, may receive an absentee or early mail voter ballot is available at: [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

## Preguntas frecuentes sobre el presupuesto del distrito escolar 2026-2027

### ¿Quién puede votar, el 19 de mayo de 2026?

Los votantes son elegibles para votar si son: (a) Ciudadano de los Estados Unidos; (b) Por los menos 18 años de edad; (c) residente del distrito escolar 30 días antes del 19 de mayo de 2026; y (d) no ineligible para votar de acuerdo con sección 5-106 de la Ley Electoral. Comuníquese con la Secretaria del Distrito al 845-895-7101, o por correo electrónico a: [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a cómo puede obtener una boleta en ausencia o votante por correo temorano. La información sobre cómo un votante no registrado, que cumple con la definición de un votante calificado, puede recibir una boleta en ausencia o votante por correo temprano está disponible en: [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

**Si necesita una versión en español de estas preguntas, vaya a nuestro website:**

**[www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)**

## Tax Levy Increase – Yearly Analysis

Year	Tax Levy Increase	The Tax Levy increase has remained at or below the Tax Cap level beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.  *below the tax levy limit
2022-23	2.50%*	
2023-24	1.99%*	
2024-25	2.47%*	
2025-26	1.99%*	
<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2.70%*</b>	

**5 Year Average Tax Levy Increase – 2.33%**

# VOTE!

**TUESDAY,  
MAY 19, 2026**

**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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 Wallkill Senior High School,  
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 Plattekill Elementary School

## Honing Writing Skills at Leptondale Elementary School

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 at Leptondale Elementary School (LES) are working with a new writing journal developed by Education Consultant Denise Alterio in conjunction with the Wallkill Central School District (WCSD).

The idea for these one-of-a-kind workbooks came about last June, when LES Principal Scott Brown identified writing as an area he wanted teachers and students to focus on. Following a series of conversations with teachers, he asked Ms. Alterio, "Wouldn't it be great if we had a journal that teachers could use which would take the skills we've identified and put them into a resource for teaching, where students could actually practice the skills and have those skills modeled for them?"

This past fall, Ms. Alterio created a prototype journal and explained the concept to teachers. Copies of the current version of the journal began being used in classrooms after winter break. This spring, Ms. Alterio has been working with teachers, holding coaching days, conducting demonstrations, and collecting feedback.

"Teachers often tell me that writing is the hardest thing for students to do because it involves so much," Ms. Alterio said. From formulating ideas, to understanding syntax, to mastering the fine motor skills needed to grasp a pen or pencil, there is so much more involved in writing than merely holding on to an idea long enough to get it on paper, she noted.

***"The teachers and the District saw a need for more support when it came to writing, and this new program really follows what we were looking for."***

— KATIE GROSS,  
GRADE 5 TEACHER,  
LEPTONDALE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"All the journals were designed to have what is known as gradual release of responsibility," explained Ms. Alterio. "There's a skill, and there's explicit modeling and guided practice with it, and then there's independent practice." She emphasized that consistency is key.

The journals are based on research and designed to create continuity between the grade levels. The journals are also specific to the Wallkill Central School District, having



been tailored to the needs of its teachers, and shaped by their questions and feedback. And of course, the Wallkill Panther shows up on a page or two!

Mr. Brown and Ms. Alterio are both highly appreciative of the significant resources that the District has devoted to the writing program and the journals. "The District has been very supportive of this entire project, including by putting the writing journals into the teachers' hands," said Mr. Brown.

The journals align with the "The Writing Revolution," an instructional methodology for teaching writing that is currently being used by the District. Teachers will be using the same vocabulary from Kindergarten up through Grade 6 and possibly beyond. "The teachers and the District saw a need for more support when it came to writing, and this new program really follows what we were looking for," said Grade 5 teacher Katie Gross. "Teachers are able to break down the writing into smaller steps, whether it is simple sentences or writing more complex multi-paragraph essays, so it all feels less confusing for everyone. I am seeing student writing improving, and the students are becoming more confident learners."

The lessons taught in the writing journals carry over into other subjects as well. For example, if students are working on a science lesson and there is a writing portion, they will be able to look at their journal and make the connection to what they need to start writing. "The writing program is really helping me improve my writing," said Grade 5 student Katelyn Kirby. "It is also helping me be stronger about my writing and be able to write paragraphs and essays."

# 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

## Tax Levy Limit Calculation 2026-2027

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$47,850,000	
Tax Base Growth	x 1.0088	
PILOT	+ \$9,287	
BOCES Exemption	- \$215,469	
Capital Exemption	- \$667,811	
<b>Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy</b>	<b>= \$48,357,681</b>	
	x 1.0200	← Allowable Growth Factor
PILOT	- \$9,473	
<b>Tax Levy Limit Prior To Exemptions</b>	<b>\$49,315,362</b>	← Voter Threshold
BOCES Exemption	+ \$172,841	} Estimated
Capital Exemption	+ \$671,275	
TRS Exemption	+0	
ERS Exemption	+0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>= \$50,159,478</b>	← *Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

*\*The District is proposing a tax levy of \$50,119,875 which is \$39,603 below the tax levy limit*

### Three Component Budget

**Administrative Component: \$9,466,341**

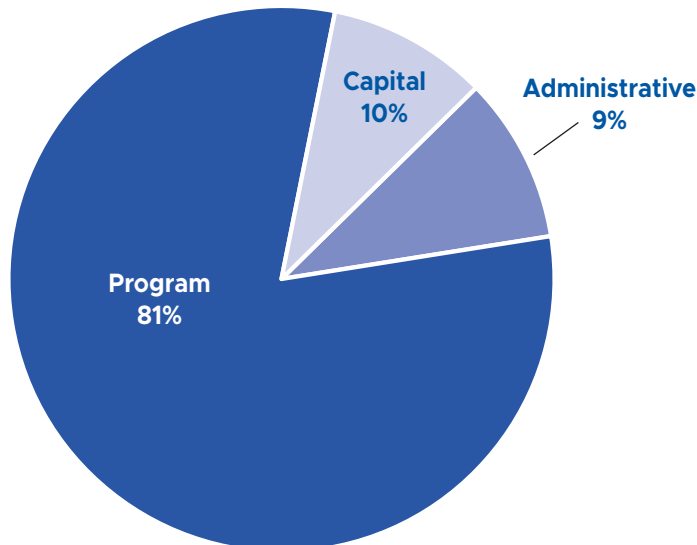
▶ Central Administration, Building Supervision, BOCES (partial)

**Program Component: \$77,542,309**

▶ Instructional Areas, Transportation, Extracurricular Activities

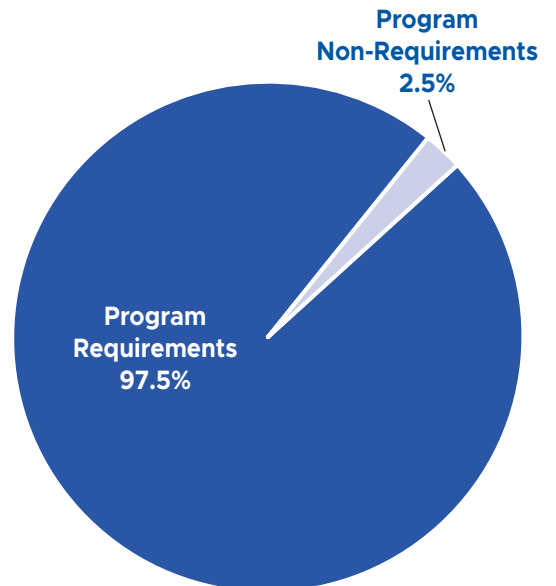
**Capital Component: \$9,117,225**

▶ Operations and Maintenance, Debt Service



### Program Budget: Required vs. Non-Required

As the chart indicates, 97.5% of the program budget is devoted to New York State Education Department required programs.



# 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

## Wallkill Central 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	\$ 93,271,595	\$96,125,875	\$94,808,537
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$2,854,602	\$1,536,942
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.06%	1.65%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$48,802,215	\$50,119,875	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)</b>	<b>\$48,802,215</b>	<b>\$50,119,875</b>	<b>\$48,802,215</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$883,280	\$844,116	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$48,414,554	\$49,315,362	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$47,918,935	\$49,275,759	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$495,619	\$39,603	
Administrative Component	\$9,348,371	\$9,466,341	\$9,306,341
Program Component	\$74,533,643	\$77,542,309	\$76,444,971
Capital Component	\$9,389,581	\$9,117,225	\$9,057,225

\* 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.

Elimination of: seven (7) elementary teaching positions, two (2) secondary teachers, and all equipment purchases (except technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment for health and safety).

Total: \$1,317,660

\*\*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

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$477.99
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<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Wallkill Central School District, Ulster/Orange Counties, New York, will be held at the High School, Leptondale and Plattekill schools in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the High School, Leptondale and Plattekill schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Information about requesting an absentee ballot or early mail voter ballot, can be found on the District's website or by contacting the District Clerk at 845-895-7101.

**ANNUAL BUDGET  
VOTE  
& Election of Trustees**

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## Programs Offered to Students in the Walkkill Central School District

### LEPTONDALE, CLARE F. OSTRANDER, AND PLATTEKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- ▶ Full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) – 65 students
- ▶ Math instruction includes the use of technology and manipulatives for hands-on learning
- ▶ Arts and Environmental Education
- ▶ Active parent organizations
- ▶ Character Education programs
- ▶ After-school programs and events
- ▶ Specialized multi-sensory instruction (Orton-Gillingham and Wilson Learning programs) for early reading intervention
- ▶ Active Learning Labs and iPad carts
- ▶ SMART Boards in K-6 classrooms
- ▶ 1:1 student computers in Grades K-6
- ▶ D.A.R.E. program
- ▶ Family Nights for Math, Literacy, STEM, and the Arts
- ▶ Grade 6 Olympics
- ▶ Enrichment programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Talented and Gifted programs
- ▶ Climbing walls: leadership and trust building
- ▶ Ashokan Field Campus
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity
- ▶ Safety and wellness programs
- ▶ Fire safety education
- ▶ Field days
- ▶ Project-based learning with makerspaces
- ▶ School newsroom studios
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ STEM lessons
- ▶ Coding instruction
- ▶ Too Good for Drugs program
- ▶ Before and after-school academic support programs
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy

### JOHN G. BORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ▶ SMART Boards in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Instructional teams
- ▶ Interdisciplinary curriculum
- ▶ Enrichment activities
- ▶ Field trip experiences

- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ Character Education program
- ▶ Active Learning Lab
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Active parent organizations and community involvement
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Accelerated courses
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Talented and Gifted programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ Career Day
- ▶ Family Coding Night
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy

### WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Extensive Advanced Placement/college course offerings
- ▶ College offerings in pre-engineering through Project Lead the Way
- ▶ Annual scholarship attainment of over \$4 million
- ▶ Career and Technical Education provided through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ An award-winning vocal and instrumental music program
- ▶ A diverse offering of clubs, organizations, and groups to benefit the ever-changing needs of our students
- ▶ An opportunity for students to attain the New York State Seal of Biliteracy
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ SAT prep course
- ▶ Summer school
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Academy Model
- ▶ College and Career Fair
- ▶ Instant college admissions program
- ▶ Peer tutoring
- ▶ VEX Robotics team
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity

# 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

## Candidates for the Board of Education

The four (4) candidates below (shown in ballot order) are seeking election to the Board of Education. There are three (3) vacancies for full terms of three (3) years. The three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will earn the three (3) available full-term seats and serve from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

*The Wallkill Central School District's practice has been to annually afford each candidate filing a petition an opportunity to present a bio about themselves, including reasons why they are seeking office. The views expressed by these candidates should not be construed in any way as being endorsed or promoted by the Wallkill Central School District.*

### Thomas Frisbie

My name is Thomas Frisbie, and I am running for re-election to the Wallkill Central School District Board of Education. For over 29 years, I have been a dedicated resident of the Wallkill community, serving on the Board for over 20 years—including 9 as Vice President and currently as President. I have contributed to decision making and served on multiple committees, notably as Chairperson of Buildings and Grounds and on the Audit sub-committee.

During my time as Chairperson, the district has completed two major capital improvement projects, an energy performance project, and a third ongoing capital project. My expertise in engineering and project management and credentials as a licensed Professional Engineer have been imperative in the planning and execution of the multiple capital improvement projects over the last 20 years.

I am a dedicated husband, father of three Wallkill graduates, and an active community member. I remain committed to ensuring all students have access to resources necessary to reach their highest potential, while upholding fiscal responsibility for district taxpayers. I would be honored to continue serving our district.

Thank you for your support.

### Michael McLymore

My name is Michael McLymore, and I am honored to be a candidate for an elected seat on the Wallkill Central School District Board of Education. I believe that strong schools are the foundation of a thriving community, and I am committed to supporting the students, families, educators, and staff who contribute to the success of our district.

Throughout my life and career, I have valued service, leadership, and mentorship. I have spent thirty-five years working with and supporting young people and families, and I understand how important it is for students to feel safe, encouraged, and prepared for the future. Education plays a vital role in helping students grow academically, socially,

personally, and globally.

I am running for the Board of Education because I care deeply about the future of our schools and the opportunities available to every student in our district. I believe in listening to parents, supporting our educators, and working collaboratively to make thoughtful decisions that strengthen our schools.

If elected, I will work with my board member colleagues to promote a positive learning environment, responsible stewardship of district resources, and opportunities that allow every student in the Wallkill Central School District to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

### Erin McCartney

My name is Erin and I have lived in the Wallkill community for over 30 years. I am a Wallkill graduate. I have 3 sons, 2 of which have attended Wallkill Schools. I currently work at Allstate as a Financial Advisor. I attended MSMC in Newburgh. I hold the following licenses: FINRA Series, 7,63,24,51. Certified Financial Planner™. I was on several corporate boards, 2 at the state and national levels. I am currently on the professional CFP® scholarship board. I was the treasurer of the Wallkill youth lacrosse board for 7 years. I work tirelessly to improve the well-being of children in our community. I would like to continue my seat on the board. I would be a part of continuing the positive school experiences that all my children and I have known. If elected, I will work hard to continue to improve health and safety opportunities, expand inclusivity and be an approachable sounding board for the community. I have a passion for teamwork and collaboration. I would be honored to be elected as your school board representative and bring my talents and experience to the board and community.

Warm regards,  
Erin McCartney, CFP®

*See fourth candidate on next page*

# 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

## Kathryn Anderson

I am an incumbent seeking re-election to the Board of Education. I believe the education of all children is one of the most important responsibilities we have as a community, for they are our future.

I believe one objective of our educational system should be to promote learning as a lifelong activity. Our district strives to be a supportive community where that responsibility is shared by all involved: students, parents, staff, and administration.

During my tenure on the Board, we have been fiscally responsible when putting forth a budget. We have stayed within the tax cap, without damaging programs and extra-curricular activities for students or layoffs for personnel.

Our schools play a critical role in shaping not only academic achievement but also confidence, character, and opportunity. I want to help ensure that all students have access to high-quality education, supportive resources, and a learning environment where they feel valued and heard. Educating the students in Wallkill, who are well prepared to meet future challenges, while keeping in mind our community and the burden we all share as taxpayers, is my top priority as a Board Member.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving you in this capacity.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Anderson

2026-2027 District Revenue	
Revenue Source	Amount Received
<b>Estimated State Aid</b>	<b>\$40,350,000**</b>
<b>Appropriated Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$1,925,000</b>
<b>Appropriated Reserves</b>	<b>\$2,231,000</b>
<b>Other Sources</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$50,119,875</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$96,125,875</b>
<b>Tax Levy Increase</b>	<b>2.70%*</b>

\* Below the tax levy limit

\*\* This includes new projected building aid for the current capital project

## VOTE!

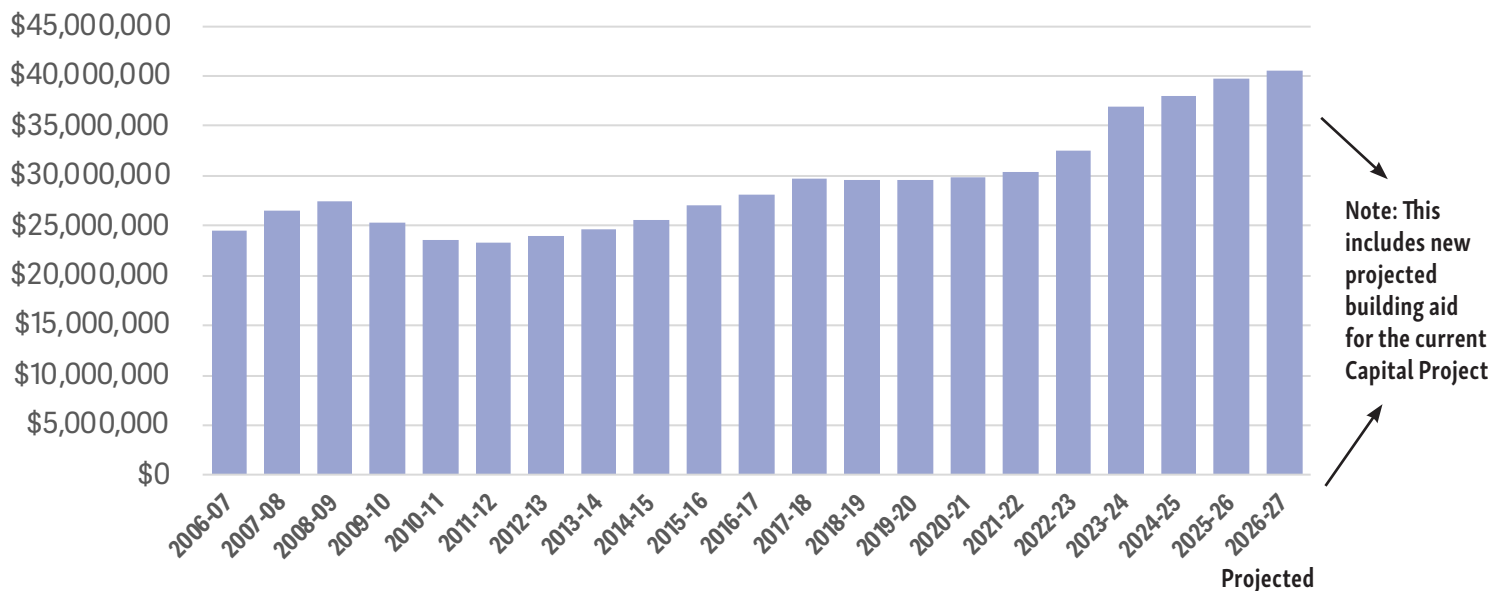
### TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Polling locations:

Wallkill Senior High School, Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School

## History of State Aid 2006-2026



## Hudson Taco Pop-up Event a Huge Success

**IT WAS A TRUE FIESTA ON FEBRUARY 5, AS CAFETERIAS AT BOTH WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND JOHN G. BORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVED LUNCHES FROM POPULAR LOCAL EATERY HUDSON TACO** that were *muy deliciosos*. This is the second time that the Wallkill Central School District's food service team from Whitsons Culinary Group has brought a "Taste of the Town" to the schools.

"We want to give students an opportunity to try something they may never have had before," explained General Manager of Food Services Marilyn DiGregorio. The first pop-up event, she noted, occurred in October and featured a variety of barbeque dishes and sides from Handsome Devil BBQ. "The Taste of the Town program really brings the community together and creates such a positive buzz!" she declared.

"This was very well organized, and everyone is talking about how good the food is," said Grade 9 student Mackenzie Boone. "I wish it was every day." While Taste of the Town won't be an everyday event, the District does have plans for additional pop-ups later this year as well as next year, including one at the elementary schools.

Hudson Taco brought in one of their chefs as well as the restaurant's main manager to prepare the food and coordinate the service. Staff from both the District and Whitsons helped serve the meals.

Adding to the restaurant-like experience, tables were set with chips and salsa for students to nibble on. In all, more than 700 lunches were provided at both schools—and there were no leftovers!

Julian Aviles and John Reilly, Grade 12, could not stop raving about the food and the service. More collaborative events are in the works, as Wallkill plans to continue bringing a "Taste of the Town" to its cafeterias, further connecting students to the community.



## Middle School Students Shine in Stage Adaptation of Disney Classic



This year's performance of *Disney's Frozen JR.* at the John G. Borden Middle School was extra special, according to Principal Michael Redmond. With 34 performers and 22 members in the backstage crew, it was, he noted, one of the largest ensemble productions ever presented at the Middle School. Some members of the cast, he added, even created a presentation that persuaded him to add an extra performance and to allow a question-and-answer session with photo opportunities following the Saturday matinee.

"I can honestly say, this was a really special cast and crew," said Drama Club Advisor Debra Rosenfeld, one of the co-

directors. "We empower our kids to contribute as much as they can."

Students were responsible for all of the choreography. The lead choreographer was Hayley Squires, Grade 8, who also played Prince Hans. "She was so outstanding in creating more difficult choreography for our experienced dancers and simplifying steps for non-dancers," said Ms. Rosenfeld. "In addition, two past performers, who are now part of the Panther Players at the High School, came back to help. Gianna Mancuso Krasher worked with the stage crew designing sets, and Lily Kilpatrick coached our actors, which was also a huge help."

For many students, it wasn't easy juggling after-school commitments—like sports or dance—while participating in the school play. "We would rehearse after school two or three days of the week," recalled Sophia Bell, Grade 8, who played Olaf in the production. The hard work ultimately paid off, because *Frozen JR.* was a huge success. Credit for that success goes to the co-directors, Ms. Rosenfeld and Chorus and General Music teacher Jesse Wallen da Silva; the many family members of the cast and crew who pitched in to make sure that everything ran smoothly; and of course the dedicated, amazing students who worked together to produce a truly outstanding show!



**WALLKILL  
CENTRAL  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

# Fast Facts

*Together We Can Make a Difference*


 **93.1%**  
5-YEAR AVERAGE GRADUATION RATE

**1,167**   
STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN OUR  
MUSIC ENSEMBLES GRADES 4-12

The district produces 26 musical performances annually. In addition, 147 student musicians were selected for state & county ensembles in 2025.

 **55**  
ATHLETIC TEAMS

We offer 27 varsity teams, including Unified Basketball and Unified Bocce for students of all abilities, 12 junior varsity teams, and 16 modified teams. The district also has plans to add Varsity Girls Golf, Varsity Girls/Boys Bowling, Unified Bowling, and to offer a Girls Flag Football Club.

**32**  **+5**  
COLLEGE AND  
ADVANCED  
PLACEMENT  
CLASSES AVAILABLE


During the 25-26 school year 411 different students were eligible to earn at least 3 college credits. Plans to add additional opportunities next school year are in progress, including American Sign Language IV and Sports Journalism.


**36** **ATHLETES  
HELPING  
ATHLETES** 

This initiative connects elementary school students with high school athletes who volunteer as mentors.

**5** **SCHOOL RESOURCE/  
POLICE OFFICERS**   
Each of our schools has a  
full-time SRO/SPO.

**2.3%**   
FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE TAX LEVY INCREASE

**2,708**   
TOTAL 25-26 SCHOOL  
ENROLLMENT  
Our district covers 5 towns in  
portions of 2 counties.

 **20**  
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE AT  
OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**213**   
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY &  
NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR  
SOCIETY MEMBERS

Membership currently includes 120 National Honor Society members and 93 National Junior Honor Society members.

 **156**  
TOTAL ENROLLMENT  
FOR ULSTER BOCES  
CTEC PROGRAMS

86 Seniors and 70 Juniors are enrolled in Ulster BOCES CTE programs.

**1:1** **DEVICES  
FOR K-12  
STUDENTS** 

**STATE-OF-THE-ART  
ATHLETIC  
FACILITIES** 

 **113** **TALENTED  
AND GIFTED  
STUDENTS**

Currently, 41 elementary students, 21 middle school students, and 51 high school students participate.

**5** **COLLEGE  
PARTNERS** 

This year we have partnerships with SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Ulster, RIT, MSMC, and Marist.

 **31** **AFTER  
SCHOOL  
CLUBS**

Our Middle School offers 13 clubs and 18 are offered in our High School.

 **24**  
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAMS

9 Fall teams, 8 Winter teams, and 7 Spring teams were recognized during the 24-25 school year.

 **88**

**ELECTIVES OFFERED AT WALLKILL  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Additionally, we plan to add four (4) more electives for the 26-27 school year including sports journalism, music as poetry, agricultural science, and American Sign Language IV.

**70** **SPANISH HONOR  
SOCIETY MEMBERS**

24 Juniors and 41 Seniors are members, and 5 Sophomore Ambassador Members.

[www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)

**#StayPantherStrong**

# Wallkill Athletes Earn State Titles in Wrestling and Indoor Track

**THE 2025-2026 WINTER SPORTS SEASON BROUGHT NEW STATE TITLES TO THE WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL.** Wrestler Marco Futia, Grade 12, and runner Nate Diemoz, Grade 11, earned New York State Championship titles in their respective sports.

Marco was crowned New York State Champion in the 132-pound weight class at the 2026 New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Wrestling Individual Championships. The tournament was held at the MVP Arena in Albany from February 27-28.

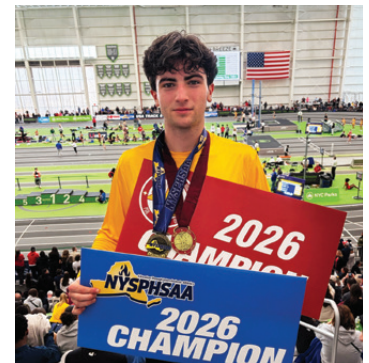
Marco, who is the first-ever State wrestling champion from Wallkill Senior High School, was welcomed home from the competition with a parade featuring local first responders. “Marco’s State championship is a direct reflection of the hard work he’s put in day after day,” said Director of Athletics, Physical Education, and Health Noah Hershfield.

Marco is currently considering several collegiate offers. He plans to study Exercise Science in college, and hopes to become a New York State trooper.

Nate, who won a bronze individual medal for his

time in the 1000 meters at the NYSPHSAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, took home a gold medal for his team’s performance in the Intersectional Medley Relay. Nate ran the 1600-meter leg in a time of 4 minutes and 18 seconds. The championships were held at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island from March 6-7. This is the second year that Nate has earned a State title in the Indoor Track Intersectional Medley Relay.

“Nate’s successes reflect the countless hours of work and determination that he has invested in his craft,” said Mr. Hershfield. “He approaches every day with focus and humility, and the way he represents our Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track programs inspire those around him.”



## Plattekill Elementary School is United in Music

**M**usic brings people together. A case in point is Music in Our Schools Month, which has been celebrated by students across the country in March for more than 40 years. At Plattekill Elementary School (PES), this means a month full of amazing musical experiences.

One beloved tradition at PES is an annual school-wide Music in Our Schools Month assembly, which was held on March 4 this year with a theme of “United in Music.”

Each grade took turns singing Music class favorites, and the audience (composed of students from the other grades) was encouraged to join in if they remembered the songs from years past. It was a wonderful way to show the thread of connection running from Kindergarten through Grade 5.

Every year the assembly also features one culminating song that all the students have learned. This year the song was “Kiss the Sky” by Maren Morris from the movie *The Wild Robot*, which was based on the children’s science fiction book of the same name by Peter Brown. The entire school read the novel as part of the “One Book, One School” program this year.

Throughout the month, the daily announcements featured student musical performances and famous quotes or jokes about music. There was also a “Name that Tune” segment during the Wednesday announcements featuring songs in which the title had some connection to music. Following another PES tradition, on Fridays students and staff were encouraged to wear music-themed shirts, with photos posted to PES Music teacher Kirsten Rolon’s “Music Shirt Wall of Fame.”

March was also a month full of student concerts, including performances by the All-County Orchestra and the All-County Band as well as the Young Elementary Music Symposium (YEMS), an annual, one-day county-wide music event in Ulster County for fourth-grade students.

At Wallkill, all Grade 4 students also learn to play the recorder. During March, Grade 4 Plattekill students joined other Grade 4 musicians in showing off their recorder skills during a District-wide concert that also featured the Elementary School Orchestra.

The students and staff at PES are truly united in music!



## Students of Ostrander Are Readers!

### THE STUDENTS OF OSTRANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (OES) SET AN AMBITIOUS GOAL THIS YEAR:

reading 100,000 minutes during the month of March. This initiative, also known as S.O.A.R. (Students of Ostrander Are Readers), aligns with the OES theme, “One team, everyone succeeds!” In total, students read for more than 132,341 minutes!

The school kicked off the challenge in early March with a week of fun events and themed days in honor of Read Across America Week. On Drop Everything and Read Day, students were invited to dress in comfy clothes and bring a favorite stuffed animal to snuggle with while reading. Announcements were made throughout the day for everyone to stop what they were doing and read together as a community. Students and staff alike reported that this was one of their favorite parts of the month.

Other themed days included dressing in favorite colors to show the vibrancy that reading brings to our lives, Superhero Day to remind students that reading can give us superpowers, Vacation Day to showcase that reading can take us anywhere, and finally, Favorite Character Day.

Students also received invitations to a “tasting” event, which allowed them to sample different literary genres, including mystery books, graphic novels, poetry, and even song lyrics. AIS teachers Rebecca Monaco, Erin Ruiz, Meghan Doyle, and Marie Lysandrou each shared “tastes” of these genres with students, along with helpful strategies to keep in mind while reading. The entire school voted for their favorite and graphed the results outside of the library.

In addition, a number of guest readers visited the school during this special month to read aloud to students. More than 120 friends and family members participated, along with the 4-H Club, County Executive



Jen Metzger, and even Walkkill Senior High School’s Intro to Teaching students. There were also mysterious, masked readers who appeared on the “Watch It Wednesday” video announcements. Each Wednesday, different teachers dressed in costume to read a story aloud, and classes guessed each masked reader’s identity. The big reveals did not come until the Reading Pep Rally the day before Spring Break!

*Students received invitations to a “tasting” event, which allowed them to sample different literary genres, including mystery books, graphic novels, poetry, and even song lyrics.*

The Pep Rally also included a whole-school read-aloud of *The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors*, read by Principal Anita Hoyt. “It was amazing to watch more than 500 people listen to the story, laugh together, and even make hand gestures together,” she said. “It was the ultimate community culmination.”

Following the reading, staff members faced off in epic Rock, Paper, Scissors battles, with Kindergarten teacher Laura Busse prevailing as the champion. It was the perfect conclusion to the challenge.

As a result of working together to surpass the 100,000-minute goal, students watched Principal Hoyt get duct-taped to a wall—a suggestion from the school community survey. Hopefully, this will become a tradition that continues each year!





**Wallkill Central School District**  
 Office of Educational Services  
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 Wallkill, NY 12589

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[www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)

### Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update

As we plan for the 2026-27 school year, the District continues to prioritize access to high-quality Universal Pre-Kindergarten for Wallkill families. The proposed budget supports 65 guaranteed UPK seats across District and community-based locations, including Ostrander Elementary School, Plattekill Elementary School, a newly established section at Leptondale Elementary School, and Building Blocks Childcare Center. UPK programming for the upcoming year is contingent upon voter approval of the 2026-2027 school budget. In addition, the District is actively working with Most Precious Blood School (MPB) as it explores options that may allow UPK programming to continue at that site. While MPB is not yet a guaranteed option, we remain committed to pursuing additional partnerships and expanding opportunities for families whenever feasible and aligned with State requirements.



**“Learning at...Wallkill” is an official publication of the Wallkill Central School District.**

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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- Mr. David Bartolone
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- Mr. Brian Masopust, *Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*
- Mr. Brian Devincenzi, *Assistant Superintendent for Support Services*
- Ms. Tara Rounds, *Assistant Superintendent for Special Education & Intervention Services*
- Ms. Kelli Corcoran, *District Clerk*

#### Important Telephone Numbers to Know

- Leptondale Elementary School.....845-895-7200
- Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School....845-895-7225
- Plattekill Elementary School.....845-895-7250
- John G. Borden Middle School .....845-895-7175
- Wallkill Senior High School.....845-895-7150