

Spotlight

THE BUDGET ISSUE

Spring 2026

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*The mission of
Southwestern CSD is
Learning for All:
Engaging & Preparing
for Future Success.*

*Our vision is Southwestern:
A community providing
a comprehensive & relevant
education that enables
every student to achieve.*

**INTEGRITY,
KINDNESS,
CONNECTION,
EXCELLENCE.**



**Southwestern
Central School
District**

600 Hunt Road, WE
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-484-1136
www.swcsk12.org

Annual Meeting & Election

Southwestern Central School District's annual Meeting and Board of Education Election is scheduled Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between 7-9 a.m. and 2-8 p.m. in the Southwestern High School multipurpose room. A budget public hearing is slated Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6 p.m., also in the Board of Education room.

School Spirit Blooms



Senior art project brings hallway to life

For many students, some of high school's most lasting memories are made in the halls between classes.

For Adriana Bango, those halls are now becoming a vibrant mural. By combining her passion for character design with her school pride, the Southwestern senior is turning a quiet corner of the building into a colorful reflection of everyday student life.





SWCS Board of Education

Mr. Kurt Gustafson,
President
Dr. Elizabeth Laczi,
Vice President
Mr. Michael Carothers
Mr. Troy Durnell
Mr. Joshua Gesing
Mr. Richard Hartmann
Mr. Kenneth Macdonald

Student ex-officio members:
Lincoln Bockrath & Lucy Brown

MEETINGS May 2026

May 12: Budget Hearing &
Regular Meeting 6 p.m.
May 19: Budget Vote & Board of
Education Election

June 2026

June 9: Regular Meeting 6 p.m.
June 23: Work Session 6 p.m.

Registration Information

Applications for Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten for the 2026-2027 academic year at Southwestern Elementary School are available.

- UPK eligible birthdates: December 2, 2021 to December 1, 2022.
- Kindergarten eligible birthdates: December 2, 2020 to December 1, 2021.

Paper application forms are available at the SWES office weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. An online registration link is also available via the district website.

Contact the SWES office at 1-716-664-1881 with any questions.

A Message from the Superintendent...

Dear Southwestern Community,

Thank you for your continued support as we plan for another successful academic year at Southwestern Central School District. In my first year as Superintendent, I am enjoying watching our students excel, our teachers and staff providing quality experiences, and our community supporting our students.

It is an honor to be the Superintendent of Southwestern; our community is filled with Trojan Pride!

There is so much to celebrate, appreciate, and recognize on our campus. Our students are achieving academic success through various pathways and options. We provide extracurricular activities in each building, including arts, athletics, clubs, and academic support.

Our Business Department, in collaboration with our Board of Education, prepared a fiscally responsible 2026-2027 budget, while ensuring our Trojans receive a comprehensive and relevant education.



**MOLLY
MOORE**

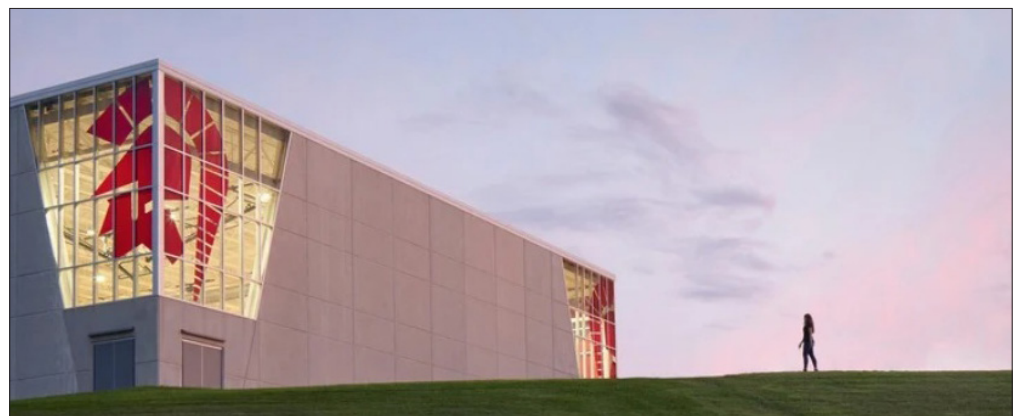
This issue of The Spotlight includes key highlights of our proposed spending plan and school board candidates, interspersed with information about campus achievements, programming, and great things happening at Southwestern.

I believe that Southwestern CSD is the heart of our community. All qualified district residents are encouraged to exercise their right to vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

The community is also welcome to attend Southwestern Middle School's Pops Concert on Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This concert showcases our music department and our students' creativity!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at 716-484-1136 or via email mmoore@swcsk12.org.

*Yours in Education,
Molly Moore
Superintendent of Schools*



Stay in the Know with Social Media

Visit Southwestern Central School District's website at www.swcsk12.org and follow its Instagram, Facebook and X accounts @SWCSTrojans for the most up-to-date information about events, celebrations, meetings, opportunities, accomplishments, and more.



Southwestern senior Adriana Bango is transforming a quiet corner of her school into a vibrant mural that reflects the many activities and experiences that shape student life. The project, part of her AP Art portfolio, has drawn interest from classmates and staff, turning the space into a shared celebration of school pride and creativity.

Senior turns quiet corner into vibrant reflection of school

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For Bango, art has always been more than a hobby. “Since I knew how to pick up a pencil, I’ve been drawing,” she said.

Her mural captures the wide range of experiences that define Southwestern. Trojan mascots guide students engaged in basketball, swimming, track, music, painting, and reading — a mix of activities drawn from Bango’s own experiences and observations. She spent years on the swim team, serving as captain for two seasons, and she included basketball and other activities inspired by her siblings or classmates.

“I wanted to highlight more than sports,” Bango said. “We have an incredible art program, band, choir — all the things that make our school great.”

Each figure and scene is intentionally designed to represent something memorable about life at Southwestern, from music concerts and sporting events to quieter moments like reading or painting.

Bango began the careful process of scaling her sketches onto the two walls. Her AP Art teacher, Mrs. Mitchner, suggested the second-floor location next to an elevator.

The project has become a point of connection within the school. Students and staff often stop to watch Bango paint or ask for updates, making the mural a shared experience even before it is complete.

“I’m really happy that people come by,” she said. “I think doing this has helped build more of a community.” Bango also credits her art teacher, Mrs. Mitchner, for



her guidance, saying, “I couldn’t have done this without her support and advice every step of the way.”

The mural is part of Bango’s AP Art Sustained Investigation portfolio, allowing her to explore a theme she’s been developing through her coursework: how shared experiences and memories shape the community around her.

She hopes that when future students pass by the walls, they will see themselves reflected in the artwork.

“I wanted it to be something younger students could relate to, maybe something that gets passed on, like, ‘Oh, I remember when this person made this,’” she said.

2026-2027 Budget Information

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting and election of the Southwestern Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 7:00-9:00 a.m. and 2:00-8:00 p.m., prevailing time, in the Southwestern High School Multipurpose Room, located at 600 Hunt Rd., Jamestown, NY 14701, for purposes of voting on the budget for the fiscal year and electing three members of the Board of Education for three-year terms to commence July 1, 2026.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be nominated by petition. Each petition shall be directed to the District Clerk, shall be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the District, state the residence of each signer, and state the name and residence of the candidate. Each petition must be filed in the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. not later than the 30th day preceding the annual meeting and election, or on the next succeeding business day; to wit, April 20, 2026.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the voting on the budget and other propositions will consist of voting on the following proposition, as well as other such matters as may be lawfully presented at the meeting:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – BUDGET

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Southwestern Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated, and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – SCHOOL BUSES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Southwestern Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to purchase school buses and related equipment for use in the transportation program of the District, including two (2) 66-passenger school buses (at a maximum estimated total cost of \$437,626.12), one (1) 35-passenger school bus (at a maximum estimated total cost of \$131,858.58), one (1) 60-passenger school bus (at a maximum estimated total cost of \$222,447.85), and to expend for all of such buses and related equipment an aggregate sum not to exceed the sum of \$791,932.55, being the aforesaid maximum estimated total cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in



annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, bonds or other obligations (including, without limitation, obligations arising under leases, lease/purchase contracts or installment purchase contracts having a term of not more than five years) of the District shall be issued or entered into in accordance with applicable provisions of New York State law.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 2026

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that (a) the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Southwestern Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to undertake a "Capital Improvements Project 2026" (the "Project") consisting of the reconstruction, rehabilitation and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof) to implement various health, safety, accessibility and code compliance measures and various other measures that are included and generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$8,100,000; (b) the Board is authorized to expend or apply toward the Project \$850,000 from the District's Capital Improvement Reserve Fund that was established in May of 2019; (c) the Board is hereby authorized to expend or apply toward the Project \$1,150,000 of other available District funds; (d) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$6,100,000 to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (e) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in an aggregate principal amount that shall not exceed \$6,100,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and (f) New York State Building Aid funds expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such

2026-2027 Budget Information

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

PROPOSITION NO. 4 – LIBRARY BUDGETS

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Southwestern Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$297,000, of which \$215,000 shall be paid to the Lakewood Memorial Library for the support and maintenance of that library and \$82,000 of which shall be paid to the Hazeltine Public Library for the support and maintenance of that library; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Southwestern Central School District.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing for the voters of the District on the 2026-2027 budget will be held on May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., prevailing time, in the Board of Education Room, 600 Hunt Rd., Jamestown, NY 14701.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that voting machines will be used to record the vote on the budget, on all propositions, and the election of members of the Board of Education.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Board of Education of this District has adopted Rules for the Use of Voting Machines and the Submission of Questions or Propositions to be Placed Thereon, and printed copies for general distribution in the District are available at the office of the District Clerk located in the District Offices, 600 Hunt Rd, Jamestown, NY 14701.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill three at-large vacancies created by the expiring terms of Board members Troy Durnell, Kurt Gustafson, and Richard Hartmann. The candidates receiving the most votes shall begin serving their three-year terms commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that applications for absentee and early voting ballots may be obtained at the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., prevailing time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee and early voting ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the District Clerk, where it shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., prevailing time, until the day set for voting, except for Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and

said list will be available at the polling place for the election.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District's Board of Education will have prepared and completed a detailed statement in writing of the amount of money that will be required during the 2026-2027 fiscal year for school purposes, specifying the several purposes and the amount for each. The amount for each purpose estimated necessary for payments to Boards of Cooperative Educational Services shall be shown in full, with no deduction of estimated state aid. The amount of state aid provided and its percentage relationship to the total expenditure shall also be shown. Such statement shall be completed at least seven days before the budget hearing at which it is to be presented, and copies thereof shall be made available, upon request, to residents within the District during the period of 14 days immediately preceding the annual meeting and election, and may be obtained by any resident of the District in the District Office during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, on and after May 5, 2026, excluding Saturdays and Sundays.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that military voters who are qualified voters of the school district may apply for a military ballot. Applications for military ballots may be obtained from the District Clerk's office and the military voter may designate a preference to receive the application by mail, fax, or email. Completed applications for military ballots must be received by the District Clerk or her designee by no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 23, 2026.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the qualified voters of the District shall be entitled to vote at said annual meeting and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, (3) resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding the annual meeting and election and (4) not otherwise disqualified from voting in school district elections. The District may require all persons offering to vote at the annual meeting and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law Section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signatures, printed names, and addresses.

*For more
information on
the 2026-2027
budget, scan the
QR code*



2026-2027 Budget Information

Estimated Tax Levy 2026-27

(Based on 2025-26 final assessment data)

Budget: \$ 37,144,757

	2025-26 Assessment	Equal. Rate	Full Value (True)	Tax Levy/Town	% of Levy
Busti	\$883,054,616	100.00%	\$883,054,616	\$11,110,049.36	73.6797%
Ellicott	\$214,256,638	69.00%	\$310,516,867	\$3,906,731.99	25.9087%
Harmony	\$2,959,966	60.00%	\$4,933,277	\$62,067.65	0.4116%
Total	\$1,100,271,220		\$1,198,504,759	\$15,078,849	100.00%

	Tax Levy 2025-26	Tax Levy 2025-26	Tax Levy 2026-27	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	\$ 14,352,265	\$ 14,711,072	\$ 15,078,849	\$367,777.00	2.50%

	Tax Rate 2024-25	Tax Rate 2025-26	Tax Rate 2026-27	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	\$ 14.621755	\$ 12.274521	\$ 12.581384	\$0.306863	2.50%

Tax Rates	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Busti	\$22.495225	\$12.274584	\$12.581448	\$0.306864	2.50000%
Ellicott	\$17.831532	\$17.789286	\$18.234018	\$0.444732	2.50000%
Harmony	\$21.502580	\$20.457535	\$20.969041	\$0.511506	2.50000%

Budgets	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Revenue	\$ 21,393,442	\$ 21,533,223	\$ 22,065,908	\$ 532,685	2.474%
Tax Levy	\$ 14,352,265	\$ 14,711,072	\$ 15,078,849	\$ 367,777	2.500%
Budget	\$ 35,745,707	\$ 36,244,295	\$ 37,144,757	\$ 900,462	2.484%

Questions and Answers

Question: What would happen if the Southwestern voters did not approve the budget?

Answer: If the proposed 2026-27 budget was voted down, the Board of Education would have three options:

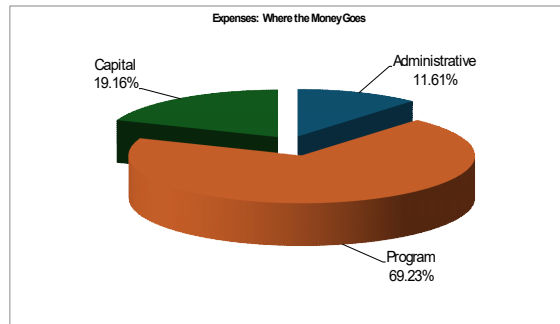
- Put the same budget up for a second vote
- Revise the budget and put it up for a vote
- The Board also has the option to adopt a contingent budget immediately instead of putting the budget up for a second vote

Note: As stated in the NY State Education Law, if the budget is defeated twice, then the district would have to operate on a contingent budget.

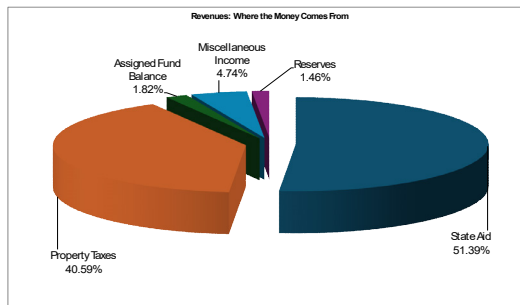
Question: What does a contingent budget imply?

Answer: The contingent budget for the 2026-27 school year is \$36,825,112. Under a contingency budget, the 2026-27 Tax Levy would increase by \$48,132 from 2025-26. Should the district go to a contingency budget, certain expenditures are required to be eliminated from the budget, including; equipment, non-essential maintenance, and non-reimbursed public use of school facilities. In addition to these items, the Board of Education can also eliminate or reduce expenditures not specifically authorized by statute.

Where the Money Comes From



	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	% of Proposed Budget
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT				
Central Administration	\$552,660	\$507,090	\$489,397	1.32%
Instructional Administration	\$2,004,879	\$2,056,473	\$2,098,592	5.65%
Business Administration	\$872,725	\$882,777	\$897,070	2.42%
Legal & Public Communications	\$77,437	\$73,650	\$78,622	0.21%
Other Central Services*	\$494,759*	\$511,070*	\$564,771	1.52%
Special Items*	\$135,000*	\$153,755*	\$184,000	.49%
Total Administrative*	\$4,137,460*	\$4,184,815*	\$4,312,452	11.61%
PROGRAM COMPONENT				
Teaching	\$16,935,485	\$17,581,314	\$17,678,763	47.59%
Special Education	\$4,625,268	\$4,617,187	\$4,781,377	12.87%
Extra-Curricular/Community Service	\$697,163	\$859,626	\$1,015,977	2.74%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,880,057	\$2,092,489	\$2,238,716	6.03%
Total Program	\$24,137,973	\$25,150,616	\$25,714,833	69.23%
CAPITAL COMPONENT				
Operations & Maintenance*	\$2,479,423*	\$2,491,695*	\$2,635,041	7.09%
Debt Service	\$4,890,851	\$4,317,169	\$4,382,431	11.80%
Interfund Transfers	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.27%
Total Capital*	\$7,470,274	\$6,908,864	\$7,117,472	19.16%
*items amended per Appendix H of NYSED Budgeting Handbook				
TOTAL BUDGET	\$35,745,707	\$36,244,295	\$37,144,757	100.00%



	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
State Aid	\$19,142,458	\$18,907,424	\$19,088,750
Property Taxes	\$14,352,265	\$14,711,072	\$15,078,849
Assigned Fund Balance	\$550,000	\$628,447	\$675,000
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,398,019	\$1,438,601	\$1,760,993
Reserves	\$302,965	\$558,751	\$541,165
Total Revenue	\$35,745,707	\$36,244,295	\$37,144,757

Capital Project 2026

MAINTAINING OUR SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Proposed Capital Project Vote: May 19, 2026

Southwestern is proposing a capital project to maintain and improve key learning spaces for our students and community. These improvements address facility needs that have developed over time and help ensure our buildings remain safe, functional, and comfortable for years to come.



Elementary School Improvements

- Replace worn flooring in high-traffic spaces.
- Improve storage to better support classroom and building needs.

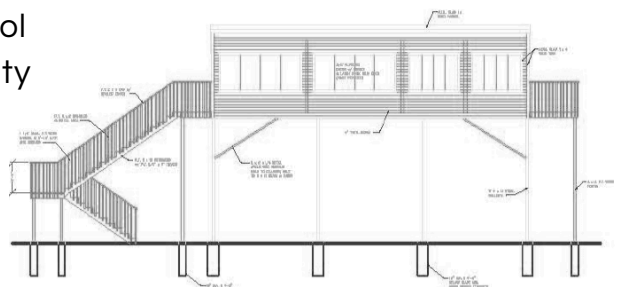
Building Comfort & Learning Spaces



- Middle & High School air conditioning to improve classroom comfort and learning conditions during warmer months.
- Elementary House Area updates for shared grade-level spaces used for student learning and collaboration.

Performance & Community Spaces

- High School Auditorium stage floor replacement ensures a safe and functional performance space for school productions, assemblies, and community events.
- Athletic Field Press Box improvements modernize the press box used during athletic and community events.



Facility Maintenance & Infrastructure

- Roof repairs address areas of aging roofing to maintain building integrity and prevent future damage.
- Repair a damaged water main serving school facilities.



Capital Project 2026



What Does This Mean for Taxpayers?

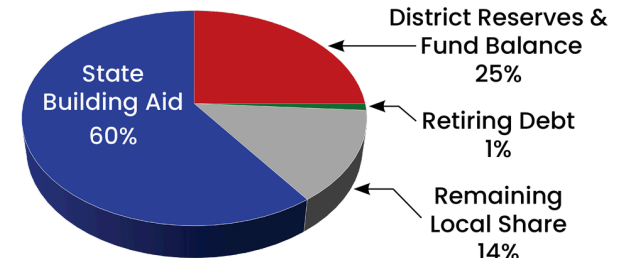
School capital projects are funded through a combination of state building aid and local funding. Because the district receives significant state support for eligible projects, a portion of the cost is reimbursed over time.

This approach allows the district to address facility needs while spreading costs responsibly.

Detailed information about the estimated tax impact will be shared with residents at the budget hearing on May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room.

The district anticipates that existing debt coming off the books will help offset a portion of the project cost.

Project Funding Sources \$8,100,000 Referendum



Town	Average Cost of Project Per \$100,000 Assessed Home Value*
Busti	\$6.70
Ellicott	\$9.71
Harmony	\$11.17

* Before applicable exemptions and STAR savings

Why These Improvements Now?

Many of the items included in this project address aging infrastructure and spaces that have experienced significant wear over time. Addressing these needs now helps the district maintain safe and functional facilities while avoiding larger and more costly repairs in the future.



Why This Matters

Our schools are an important part of our community. This project focuses on maintaining the spaces our students, families, and residents rely on every day.



Additional project information will be shared with residents at the Budget Hearing on May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room.



Budget Vote

HS multipurpose room
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
7:00-9:00 am & 2:00-8:00 pm

For FAQ and
further info, scan
the QR code





Battle of the Classes

The gym at Southwestern High School was filled with energy, laughter, and friendly rivalry during the 2026 Battle of the Classes. Students in grades 9 through 12 competed in a wide range of events, including relay races, pie eating contests, dance battles, volleyball, dodgeball, tug-of-war, and SAT trivia, showcasing both school spirit and teamwork. The seniors led the way in the dance competition, earning first place, followed by the sophomores, freshmen, and juniors. By the end of the day, the seniors secured the overall championship, with juniors finishing second, sophomores third, and freshmen fourth.



Third-grade students at Southwestern Elementary School presented projects and displays during the school's 19th annual Multicultural Fair, highlighting countries from around the world that they had been studying in class. Families toured the exhibits and enjoyed student performances celebrating global cultures as part of the annual event.



Oakley, a Fox Red Labrador Retriever, has become a familiar and comforting presence at Southwestern Central School District, supporting students each day as the district's first in-house therapy dog. Working alongside occupational therapist Pete Conley, she helps students build skills, find calm, and start their day with a positive connection.

Oakley settles into role as elementary school therapy dog

At Southwestern Central School District, Oakley is no longer the new face in the halls; she's become a familiar and comforting presence.

The nearly 2-year-old Fox Red Labrador Retriever has settled in as the district's first in-house therapy dog, working alongside occupational therapist Pete Conley to support students throughout the day. Since arriving in late 2025, Oakley has quickly adjusted to the school's rhythm, becoming a steady part of students' routines.

Each morning, students stop by Conley's office for a few minutes before class. Whether it's a quick game, practicing motor skills, or simply sitting quietly together, those interactions have become a meaningful way for students to start their day.

Oakley's calm demeanor and consistency have helped her build strong connections across the building. Conley refers to her as his "therapy assistant," noting that she instinctively shifts into work mode when she puts on her blue vest.

"She is here for the students," he said. "Her role is to provide emotional support and companionship, and she's really settled into that role."

Beyond her work with individual students, Oakley is also helping teach the broader school community how to interact with a working dog, reinforcing lessons in respect, patience, and awareness.



Her successful transition follows months of preparation, including extensive training and certification, ensuring she was ready for a busy elementary environment.

"Since joining us, Oakley has become an essential part of our support system for students," Elementary Principal Michael Butler said. "Her presence has a positive impact on students and staff every day she's in the building."



Southwestern Telephone Directory

Business Office.....484-1136
District Office484-1136
District Office Fax .488-2442
Supt. Office Fax....488-2442
Special Education. 664-4675
Technology483-5473
Transportation763-8391

Elementary School Pre-K through Grade 5

Main Office664-1881
Health Office.....484-6822
Attendance484-6823
Fax.....487-3170

Middle School-Grades 6-8

Main Office664-6270
Health Office.....484-6841
Guidance/
Attendance.....484-6842
Fax.....487-0855

High School-Grades 9-12

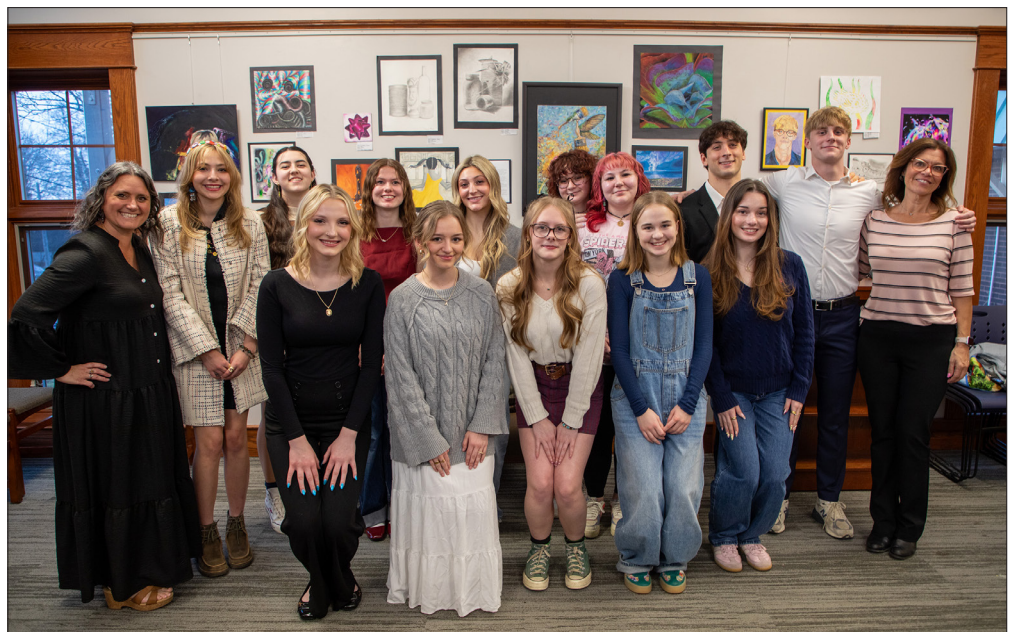
Main Office664-6273
Health Office.....664-6275
Guidance Office/Career
Center.....664-6276
Attendance484-6861
Fax.....484-1167

**The Spotlight is
published through the
Board of Education
of the
Southwestern Central
School District**

**SOUTHWESTERN
CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
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Southwestern Seniors Showcase Artwork

This past March, more than a dozen Southwestern High School seniors were featured in a student art exhibit at Lakewood Memorial Library.

The students, from the art classes of Jenny Brown and Renee Mitchener, are part of the New York State Individualized Art Assessment Pathway (IAAP) pilot program, which they began as freshmen.

The IAAP provides a graduation pathway for students with a strong interest in the visual arts, allowing them to develop portfolios that demonstrate artistic growth, creativity, and technical skill. The program is

designed to prepare students for future educational and professional opportunities in the arts.

Seniors in the program include Abigail Cama, Tryniti Card, Lucy Brown, Abigail Flagella, Kiernan Hiller, Tavio Hoose, Lily Jones, Miles Moore, Ezra Mitchener, Danielle Mincarelli, Caidence Rapp, Brynn Ribbing, and Madison Troutman.

An opening reception in early March celebrated the exhibit and recognized the students' hard work. Family members, teachers, and community members attended to view the artwork and support the seniors.