

High School Drama Club Presents:



In March, the New Paltz High School Drama Club wowed audiences with its dynamic performances of the classic musical *Guys and Dolls*. Directed by Nicole Foti, the production brought the streets of 1950s New York City to life with its vibrant energy and engaging storytelling.

*Guys and Dolls* revolves around two unlikely romances: one between Nathan Detroit, the charming yet penniless proprietor of a floating craps game, and his fiancée of 14 years, Miss Adelaide, a nightclub performer; and the other between the suave gambler Sky Masterson and the devout missionary Sarah Brown. Set against a backdrop of familiar tunes and clever lyrics, the musical explores love, loyalty, and the pursuit of happiness in the Big Apple.



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## Special Budget Issue 2024-2025

### Greetings Everyone,

This budget newsletter explains the final outcome of a very difficult budget process. We are pleased with the spending plan being put forward. We believe you will see that efforts have been made to right-size the district in response to decreased enrollment, while coming up with a fiscally responsible plan that keeps programs in place. Having said that, it is hard to capture in words how difficult the last two budget processes have been and how important everyone's contributions were.

We appreciate the community support we have received both at school board meetings and through countless emails from the public. It was very encouraging that so many students came to the board meetings and spoke passionately about their teachers and their programs. These students, as well as many other parents, employees, and community members, did what they should do and they told the board what is most important to them. All comments, even the ones difficult to hear, were appreciated.

The challenging budget situation caused the board to make some unpopular decisions. However, we want you to know that the board listened to what the public said and consistently made decisions with the best interest of students and the district in mind. The input received made it possible for the board to create a solid and well-informed budget.

Finally, we would like to thank the community for listening. We have done our best to be clear and transparent with all of our communications and to respond promptly to all comments and questions sent our way. Thank you for listening and for asking important questions.

If you have any further questions about this document, the budget, or anything relating to the welfare of our New Paltz students, please feel free to contact Superintendent Gratto at [sgratto@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:sgratto@newpaltz.k12.ny.us) or 845-256-4020.

Best wishes,

Johanna Herget – School Board President

Stephen Gratto – Superintendent

## Student Programs Remain in Place Under 2024-2025 Proposed Budget; Staffing Reductions Aligned to Enrollment Decrease

The New Paltz Central School District Board of Education has proposed a budget of \$73,520,671 for the 2024-2025 school year.

A reduction in State Aid, the ending of the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, existing staffing levels despite a decline in enrollment, and the rising costs of goods and services contributed to a very difficult budget situation. After weighing community input, clearly indicating that priority must be placed on protecting student opportunities, the Board adopted the proposed budget, which represents a 2.93 percent increase in spending and carries a projected tax levy increase of 3.63 percent, meeting the New York State (NYS) Tax Cap Formula criteria for a simple majority voter approval of 50 percent plus one.

Additionally, a second proposition will ask voters to approve \$2 million in facility improvements that will be paid for using existing funds that have been saved in District-established reserve accounts, allowing the work to be completed without impacting taxes.

Elections for four Board of Education members will also take place, with six candidates vying for the positions: Jane Farrell, Christopher Bravo, Olivia Treubig, Jason Clark, Glenn LaPolt and Edwin Justin Seweryn. Each voter may vote for any four candidates.

Polls will be open for in-person voting on Tuesday, May 21, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at New Paltz High School. Absentee ballots are available for eligible voters who are unable to vote in person. This year, NYS has also enacted a new law making "Early Mail Ballots" available (see details on page 5).

### Spending Reductions Largely Related to Decreased Enrollment; Programs Remain Intact

The Board carefully considered many variables as it weighed its options for presenting a budget, including significant enrollment changes and the ability to offset taxpayer costs through the use of fund balance. "A clear priority was to protect student programming," explains Debra Kosinski, Assistant Superintendent for Business. "Even though we are eliminating some positions due to having fewer students, all the services being provided to students will remain. A few may be delivered a little differently, but it was important to the Board that they continue," she adds.

Savings created by right-sizing the District to current enrollment levels provided the path for preserving student opportunities. From 2017-2018, District enrollment decreased by 20 percent (from 2,169 to 1,735 students), while staffing had only been reduced by one percent. The projected enrollment for next year is 1,675, representing another four percent decrease.

To keep programs intact while accommodating for the reduced number of students, the proposed budget eliminates 15 positions across the District, including PreK-12 instructional staff, one librarian, one athletic trainer, and one bus driver. One floating school nurse, one substance abuse counselor, and two social worker positions that had been funded through the expiring ARP grant were also eliminated. Of these 15 positions, 11 are being eliminated through attrition (either the positions are currently vacant or the individuals are retiring or leaving the District).

Additional reductions were made to some facilities projects, printer maintenance, superintendent's conference expenses, musical instrument repair/replacement, classroom furniture, and some BOCES programs. Costs for scheduling substitutes were reduced by reassigning duties, and one behavioral specialist was reduced to three days per week.

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Glenn LaPolt  
Matthew Williams

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



This newsletter was printed on recycled paper stock.

**VOTE TUESDAY**  
**MAY 21, 2024**  
7 AM - 9 PM at  
New Paltz High School

### Bee-Bots Create a Buzz of Excitement at Duzine Elementary School

Integrated Technology teacher Angelo Urrico has introduced an innovative learning tool into Duzine Elementary classrooms: Bee-Bots. While students have a blast maneuvering these friendly little robots to spin, move, and tackle obstacles, they are learning counting, sequencing, coding basics, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.



### Duzine Elementary's Pre-K Classes Soar with Backyard Bird Learning

Duzine Elementary School's Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) classes engaged in hands-on learning with a Backyard Bird Unit! Students "adopted" a stuffed bird that resembled the feathered friends they see outside their classroom window. Armed with an official adoption certificate, the young learners cared for the bird throughout the learning unit.

The class also collaborated to build "Bird Town" and transformed their classroom into an animal hospital, fostering socialization and problem-solving skills!



### Kindergarten Explorers: Tracking Winter Wildlife at the Mill Brook Preserve

Melissa Manning's Kindergarten class from Duzine Elementary School embarked on an exciting winter wildlife tracking expedition at the Mill Brook Preserve! With sharp eyes and popsicle sticks in hand, these young adventurers refined their observation skills while measuring animal tracks.

Thank you to Julie Seyfert, director of education at the Mill Brook Preserve, for offering this engaging hands-on learning opportunity to our students.



### Harmony in Motion:

### Duzine Elementary's Dance Residency with The Vanaver Caravan

Duzine Elementary School welcomed The Vanaver Caravan for an exhilarating dance residency in February, igniting a celebration of culture, community, and creativity among Grade 2 students. Over five sessions, students immersed themselves in the art of dance, culminating in a captivating performance for families.

More than just dance classes, this residency embodied The Vanaver Caravan's mission of promoting harmony among cultures through music and movement, empowering students to express themselves and fostering self-confidence, empathy, and teamwork.





## Middle School Hosts English as a New Language (ENL) Family Night

The District's English as a New Language (ENL) program faculty orchestrated an engaging evening of cultural celebration during their annual ENL Family Night at the Middle School. This event, a testament to the District's dedication to diversity and inclusion, highlighted a remarkable array of global cuisines while nurturing community connections.



The meticulous planning behind the event was spearheaded by ENL teachers Lynn Bartlett, Amy Chapman, Olga Choedron, Shawn Doyle, and Rosemary Sharpe. They received invaluable support from High School Spanish teacher Rodrigo Castro, the Students of Color Alliance, Middle School teachers Bryan Krebs (Science), Daryl Nelsen (World Languages), and Ben Liberatore (Special Education), and the Middle School's Diversity and Inclusion for Youth Club. Both student and staff volunteers played pivotal roles as greeters, interpreters, and game facilitators, contributing to the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.



Arts and crafts activities were provided for younger students, adding a delightful touch to the evening. A representative from the District's Technology department was present to assist families with navigating the Parent Portal and addressing any technology-related queries.

The evening also provided an opportunity for various organizations to disseminate information and resources. Representatives from Amnesty International, the Elting Memorial Library, New Paltz Recreation Soccer, Ulster BOCES,

and the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network were present to offer support and guidance to attendees.

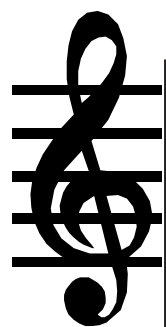
ENL Family Night was a celebration of cultural diversity and a platform for fostering unity and understanding within the community. As the District continues to embrace its diverse population, events like these underscore its unwavering commitment to inclusivity and support for English language learners and their families.

## Athletic Director Hits National Stage: From Local Hero to All-Star Educator!

Gregory Warren, the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics at the New Paltz Central School District, has achieved remarkable recognition both nationally and within New York State. He will be joining the prestigious National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) as a faculty member, teaching a course on Athletic Facilities Planning and Development. This appointment highlights Warren's outstanding local contributions, as noted by Dr. Jim Wright of the New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA). Warren's achievement is significant, as he becomes one of only 192 faculty members teaching nationwide for the NIAAA. Additionally, he will receive the Dr. John Foley Professional Development Award from NYSAAA. This award recognizes his dedication to education-based athletics and his role as a mentor to other athletic administrators. Warren's efforts have been praised by New Paltz Central School District Superintendent Stephen Gratto, who highlights his instrumental role in establishing a new wellness center at the high school. Warren has expressed gratitude for the recognition, describing it as a humbling honor.



## Harmonizing Futures: NPHS Students Elevate Musical Skills with SUNY Ulster Community Band



Continued from Page 1  
**2024-2025 Proposed Budget**

The proposed budget also replaces two large school buses, one smaller school bus, and one District vehicle, as well as provides funding for a new special education classroom at Duzine Elementary, including one teacher and two teaching aides. This will allow some students currently enrolled in out-of-district programs to attend school in New Paltz, alongside anticipated new enrollees requiring services. Athletic scoreboards will be replaced with monies saved on fuel and snow removal from the current year and summer work for counselors and nurses will be paid out of the remaining ARP funds.

### Fund Balance Helps Contain Tax Levy Increase

To help offset the taxpayer cost of preserving programs, the Board is applying \$2,183,876 from the District's fund balance (unused funds from prior years) as revenue for the 2024-2025 budget.

### Community Input and Feedback Helped Guide Budget Development

To ensure the community had a voice in the difficult budget decisions, the Board hosted a public "Coffee with the Board Members" session before their March 20 meeting, as well as offered three public comment sessions during the meeting to gather input on the discussion. As a result of community feedback, a social worker position initially slated for removal was restored and focus remained on preserving student programs while minimizing employee layoffs.

"It is important for all taxpayers to know that the Board members really took this job seriously," notes Superintendent Stephen Gratto. "They were well informed as they made these difficult decisions. They listened to the public and each other, asked good questions, debated the topics, and came up with the best plan possible."

### Proposition 2: Permission to Spend \$2 Million Already in Reserves with No Tax Implication

Voters will see a second proposition on the ballot allowing the District to allocate an additional \$2 million, with no increase to the tax levy, to fund facilities improvements. Proposed updates include replacing the elevators in the Middle School and High School and replacing the existing fire alarm systems to meet NYS code in Duzine Elementary, Lenape Elementary, and the High School. Additional high priority updates may be included if there are any funds remaining after completing this work.

The \$2 million project is being paid for by using funds that are already saved in District reserves, which were funded in part with a one-time \$1,216,899 building aid payment received in June. Even though spending these funds will not impact the tax levy, NYS law requires voter approval.

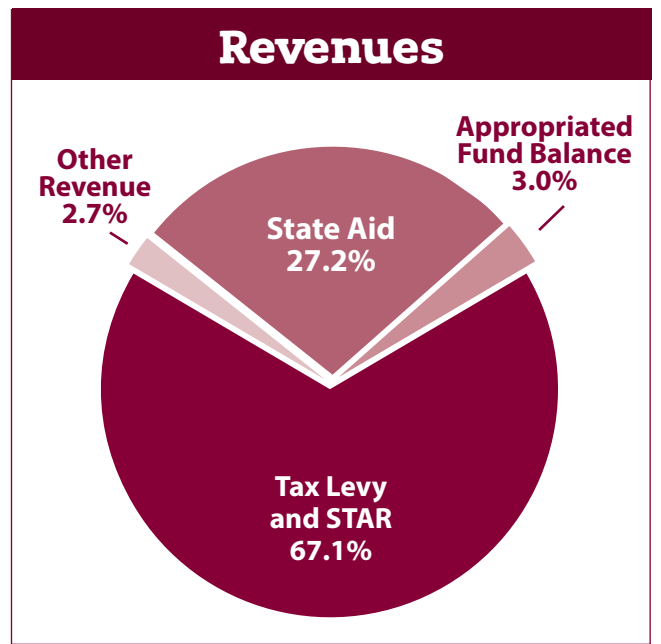
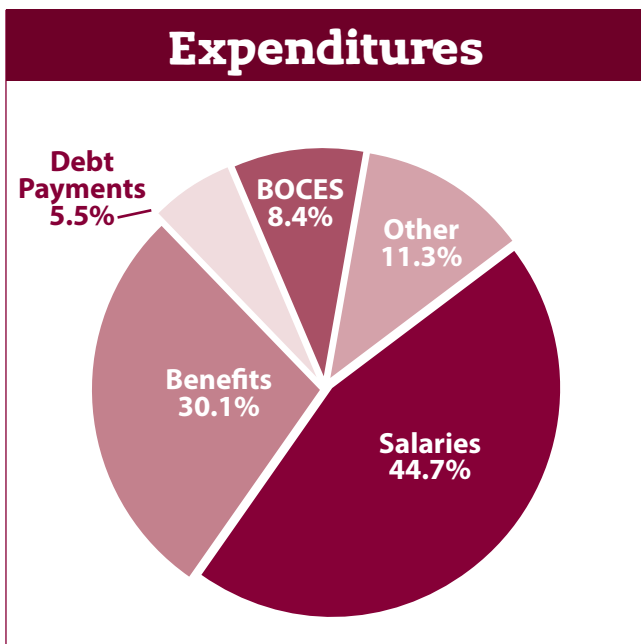
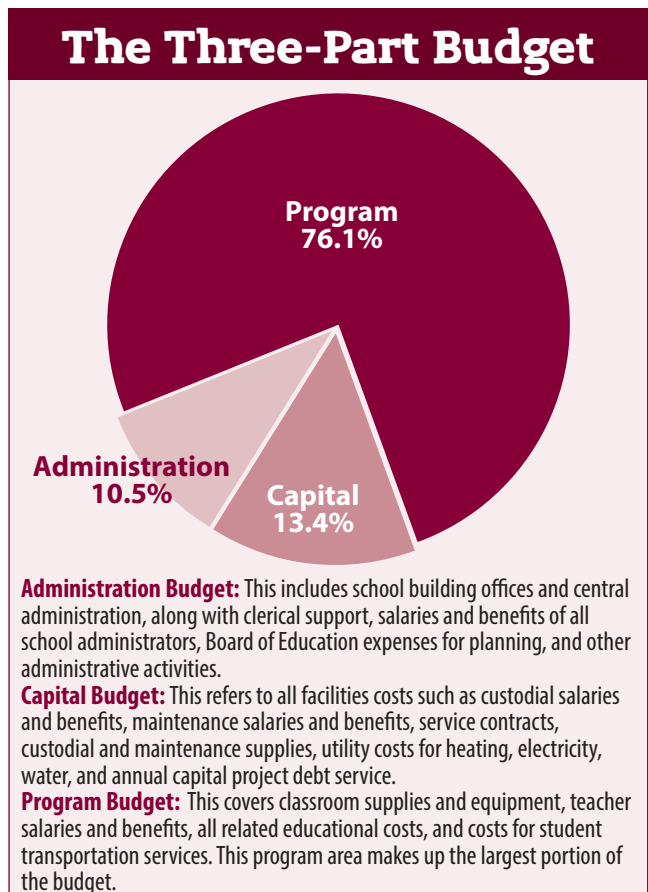
### Contingency Budget Would Require Approximately \$1.7 Million in Additional Cuts

Should voters not approve the proposed budget, the District has the option to present the same proposal or a modified version to voters for a second time. If the budget fails a second time, or if the District opts not to hold a second vote, NYS law requires adoption of a contingency budget, where spending is set at a predetermined level and certain expenses are not permitted by law.

A contingency budget would result in the reduction of an additional \$1.7 million and include the elimination of all bus purchases, new equipment, field trips, free facility use by the public, and use of reserve funds for the proposed \$2 million facilities improvements. Teacher-to-student ratios will increase, some course offerings will be limited, and expenses for student supplies and resources will be reduced.

# Budget Summary

Expenditure Budget	2023-2024 Adopted Budget	2024-2025 Proposed Budget	\$\$ Change from 2023-2024	Proposed Budget Comments
Board of Education	\$84,957	\$65,547	-\$19,410	
Superintendent's Office	\$300,774	\$302,357	\$1,583	
Business Office	\$561,750	\$579,558	\$17,808	
Personnel, Legal, Printing, Postage	\$414,304	\$367,703	-\$46,601	
Insurance, BOCES Admin Fees	\$1,757,239	\$2,011,117	\$253,878	Increase due to Ulster BOCES Capital Project
Curriculum & Staff Development	\$583,039	\$559,378	-\$23,661	
Principals' Offices & Program Supervision	\$1,582,784	\$1,703,304	\$120,520	
Special Education	\$159,988	\$160,770	\$782	
Employee Benefits	\$1,722,973	\$1,966,503	\$243,529	
<b>TOTAL - Administration</b>	<b>\$7,167,808</b>	<b>\$7,716,237</b>	<b>\$548,428</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Regular Instruction, AIS & ESL	\$16,400,897	\$16,288,105	-\$112,792	
Occ Ed, Summer School	\$1,469,960	\$1,449,953	-\$20,007	
Special Education	\$9,216,911	\$9,537,928	\$321,018	Based on Student IEPs & Out of District Placements
Libraries	\$594,838	\$491,746	-\$103,092	
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$1,312,042	\$1,376,711	\$64,669	
Guidance, Health, Psychologists	\$2,028,599	\$2,085,084	\$56,486	
Extracurricular and Sports	\$648,414	\$615,613	-\$32,801	
Transportation	\$4,772,373	\$4,902,081	\$129,708	
Employee Benefits	\$17,326,527	\$18,843,945	\$1,517,419	
Interfund Transfers	\$346,000	\$346,000	\$0	
<b>TOTAL - Program</b>	<b>\$54,116,559</b>	<b>\$55,937,166</b>	<b>\$1,820,607</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
Facilities & Operations	\$4,139,678	\$3,840,948	-\$298,730	Decrease related to demo of former District Office
Judgments & Claims	\$70,200	\$70,200	\$0	
School Buses	\$574,212	\$480,000	-\$94,212	
Employee Benefits	\$1,244,353	\$1,359,520	\$115,168	
Debt Service	\$4,015,850	\$4,016,600	\$750	
Interfund Transfers	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	
<b>TOTAL - Capital</b>	<b>\$10,144,293</b>	<b>\$9,867,268</b>	<b>-\$277,024</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$71,428,660</b>	<b>\$73,520,671</b>	<b>\$2,092,011</b>	
<b>% BUDGET INCREASE ==&gt;</b>				<b>2.93%</b>
Revenue Budget	2023-2024	2024-2025	\$\$ Change	Comments
Tax Levy including STAR	\$47,620,238	\$49,346,699	\$1,726,461	1.23% Levy Increase
Other Revenue: Includes BOCES Refund, Interest, Charges to Other Districts, Rentals, Donations, Admissions	\$1,694,200	\$2,019,200	\$325,000	
State Aid	\$20,214,222	\$19,970,896	-\$243,326	
Federal Aid (CARES Funds)	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$69,528,660</b>	<b>\$71,336,795</b>	<b>\$1,808,135</b>	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	"Regular" Appropriated Fund Balance
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	To fund Ulster BOCES Capital Project expense
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$0	\$283,876	\$283,876	
<b>Revenues and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$71,428,660</b>	<b>\$73,520,671</b>	<b>\$2,092,011</b>	
<b>% TAX LEVY INCREASE ==&gt;</b>				<b>3.63%</b>



**VOTE TUESDAY MAY 21, 2024**  
**7 AM - 9 PM at New Paltz High School**

# School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$71,428,660	\$73,520,671	\$71,794,210
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-2024 School Year		\$2,092,011	\$365,550
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.9%	0.5%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$47,620,238	\$49,346,699	
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	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$47,620,238	\$49,346,699	\$47,620,238
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,669,878	\$3,031,320	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$44,950,360	\$46,315,379	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$44,950,360	\$46,315,379	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$7,167,808	\$7,716,237	\$7,327,701
Program Component	\$54,116,559	\$55,937,166	\$55,319,679
Capital Component	\$10,144,293	\$9,867,268	\$9,146,830

\* A contingency budget would result in the reduction of about \$1.7 million in budgetary appropriations including eliminating all bus purchases, new equipment, field trips, transfer to capital, and facility use by the public unless the cost to the district is reimbursed. Teacher to student ratios will increase, limitation in course availability and decreases in student supplies and resources.

\*\*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
A proposition to replace the elevators at New Paltz Middle School and New Paltz High School, to replace the fire alarm systems at Duzine Elementary School, Lenape Elementary School and New Paltz High School, and to make other improvements to the District's buildings and facilities that are high priority items in the Building Conditions Survey, to include original equipment, machinery, and ancillary or related work required in connection therewith to be funded from Fund Balance.	\$2,000,000.00

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-2025 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$619

<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 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the New Paltz Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at New Paltz High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the New Paltz High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

## Niche Ranking Shows New Paltz Schools as the Place to Be!

Niche ranked New Paltz High School favorably in the 2023-2024 school year, with an overall score of "A."

Niche grades and rankings are calculated using dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews.

Their data scientists and user researchers rigorously analyze data and user opinions to assess the key aspects of K-12 Schools, Colleges, and Places to Live.

Best Public High School Teachers in New York: **87 of 1,223**

Best Public High Schools in New York: **97 of 1,272**

Best College Prep Public High Schools in New York: **353 of 1,201**

The New Paltz Central School District also earned an overall score of "A," with its teachers earning an "A+"

WAY★TO★GO!

# Sample Ballot

## Proposition #1 Vote YES or NO

Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District be authorized to expend \$73,520,671.00 which will be required for school district purposes for the year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (The Budget) and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

## Proposition #2 Vote YES or NO

Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District, Ulster County, New York, be authorized to replace the elevators at New Paltz Middle School and New Paltz High School, to replace the fire alarm systems at Duzine Elementary School, Lenape Elementary School and New Paltz High School, and to make other improvements to the District's buildings and facilities that are high priority items in the Building Conditions Survey, to include original equipment, machinery, and ancillary or related work required in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$2,000,000; with the amount of up to \$2,000,000 to be transferred from unappropriated and unassigned fund balance from the school year 2023-2024 to the general fund to pay the costs of the above improvements?

# Election of School Board Members

You may vote for any four (4) of the candidates listed by making a single cross (X) or a single check (✓) mark in the voting square next to the candidates' names or write in the name of another person(s) in the spaces provided.

IF YOU VOTE FOR MORE THAN FOUR (4) YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED

- Jane Farrell
- Christopher Bravo
- Olivia Treubig
- Jason Clark
- Glenn LaPolt
- Edwin Justin Seweryn
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

# ABOUT VOTING

## ★Voter Eligibility

All qualified voters may vote on the school budget. A qualified voter is any U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote, who has resided in the District for 30 days or more days prior to the day of the vote. Voters registered with the Ulster County Board of Elections are automatically registered to vote in school elections.

## ★Absentee Ballots and New Early Mail Ballots

Absentee ballots are also available for any qualified voter who is unable to make it to the polls on the day of the vote. A new voter law has also been enacted allowing voting by Early Mail Ballots for all elections. Under the provisions of this new legislation, eligible voters may now apply for, obtain, and cast an Early Mail Ballot in advance of the annual budget vote and school board election.

### Applying for an Absentee or Early Mail Ballot

To obtain either an Absentee Ballot or an Early Mail Ballot, an eligible voter must first fill out an application. Absentee Ballot and Early Mail Ballot applications can be:

- printed from the District's website
- picked up in person at the District Office (located at 1 Eugene L. Brown Drive, New Paltz) during regular school hours
- requested by emailing a letter to the District Clerk at sermo@newpaltz.k12.ny.us

Please note, the "Application for Absentee Ballot" requires an applicant to indicate a qualifying reason. By law, the voter's original signature is required on the application, so it must be either delivered to the District Clerk by mail or in person (applications cannot be accepted electronically).

## Casting an Absentee or Early Mail Ballot

Upon receipt of a completed application, a ballot will be issued. Absentee Ballots issued by the District Clerk in person may only be given to the voter. Early Mail Ballots issued by the District Clerk in person may be given to either the voter or the voter's authorized agent set forth in the application.

If the voter is requesting to have a ballot sent to them by mail, applications must reach the District Clerk by May 14. If the voter is collecting their ballot in person, applications must be received by May 20.

To be cast, a completed ballot must be received by the District Clerk by the strict deadline of 5 PM on Tuesday, May 21.

## ★Voting Location

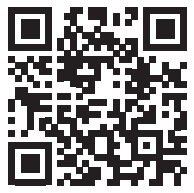
Polls will be open for in-person voting on Tuesday, May 21, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at New Paltz High School.

## ★Learn More

For questions about voting, contact District Clerk Sandra Ermo at 845-256-4020 or sermo@newpaltz.k12.ny.us.

## New Paltz Athletes Shine! Fall & Winter Athletic Highlights

Our athletes' commitment to excellence has resulted in a remarkable list of achievements during the 2023-2024 fall and winter seasons. Dive into the incredible roster of accomplishments on our website and join us in commemorating their awe-inspiring feats! And best of luck to our teams competing in the spring season!  
<https://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/maroonpride>

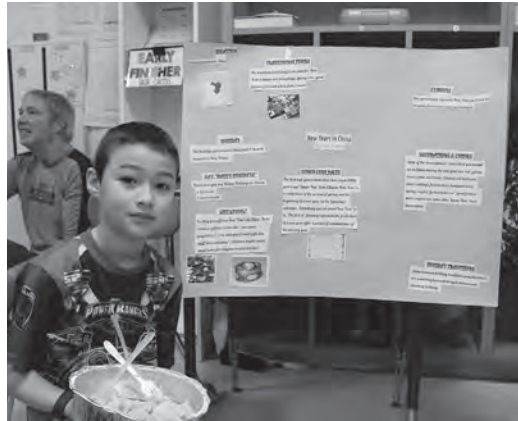
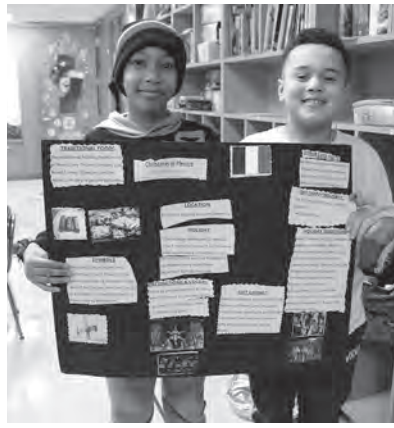


### Grade 4 Students Explore Lenape Culture

Grade 4 students, led by teachers Meredith Oppenheimer and Erin Bulson, embarked on a fascinating journey into the world of Lenape children at Mohonk Preserve's Spring Farm in October. Through hands-on activities, students explored the daily life and responsibilities of indigenous people in our region, gaining valuable insights into Lenape culture.



### Holidays Around the World



Grade 3 students in Traci Miranda and Daniel Monheit's class at Lenape Elementary School embarked on an enriching journey during the holiday season, delving into the vibrant tapestry of global traditions. With curiosity as their compass, these young explorers set out to unravel the intricate customs that define celebrations across different cultures.

Immersing themselves in diligent research, the students uncovered a multitude of unique traditions, each offering a glimpse into the vibrant spectrum of holiday festivities worldwide.

With smiles as bright as holiday lights, students presented their discoveries to their classmates and families during a festive "Holidays Around the World" showcase.



### Lenape Elementary School Principal Forms Student Advisory Team

Principal Sean Inglee has launched a Student Advisory Team (SAT) at Lenape Elementary School. Composed of Grade 5 students nominated by teachers, the SAT aims to address school environment concerns, student issues, and ideas for improvement. Recent discussions included a school climate survey, spirit week activities, and the submission of a grant request to the New Paltz Central School District Foundation for Student Enhancement for additional recess activities. The team's next focus is integrating the sensory room into classroom activities to aid learning and promote calmness.

Principal Inglee views the SAT as a means to empower students, enhance communication skills, and gather valuable feedback for school administrators. By involving students in decision-making, Lenape Elementary School seeks to create a more inclusive and student-centric learning environment.

### Enchanting Reader's Theater Event at Lenape Elementary

In a grand finale to Read Across America, Lenape Elementary School wowed students with a captivating Reader's Theater event in March. Adorned in enchanting costumes, teachers brought stories to life, showcasing their talent, creativity, and immeasurable dedication!



### Middle School Hosts Renowned Graphic Novelist for Author's Day

The Middle School hosted a captivating Author's Day, curated by Library Media Specialist Emily Perez, featuring the graphic novelist and *New York Times* best-selling cartoonist Gale Galligan. Grade 6 students were treated to a unique and inspiring opportunity to interact with Galligan, who has been celebrated for their graphic adaptations of several books in *The Baby-Sitters Club* series, as well as for their original graphic novel, *Freestyle*.

Galligan's live comic creation left students in awe as they witnessed sketches of audience members being brought to life in a captivating "choose your own adventure" style, guided by suggestions from the group. In addition to showcasing their artistic talents, Galligan shared insights into their personal and professional journey, offering a platform for students to explore their own challenges, triumphs, and emotional growth.

The event was a resounding success, with more than 100 students choosing to forego recess in order to meet Galligan in the library and receive an autographed commemorative laptop sticker crafted for the occasion by Perez.



### Career Exploration Day Inspires Middle School Minds

The Middle School's annual Career Exploration Day sparked imaginations as 40 professionals, including several Middle School alumni, generously shared their wisdom and experiences with Grade 8 students. Covering a wide range of professions, these mentors ignited curiosity and revealed the practical applications of classroom knowledge.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated professionals who invested their time and expertise!



### Middle School Drama Club Wows Audiences with *The Addams Family-Young@Part*



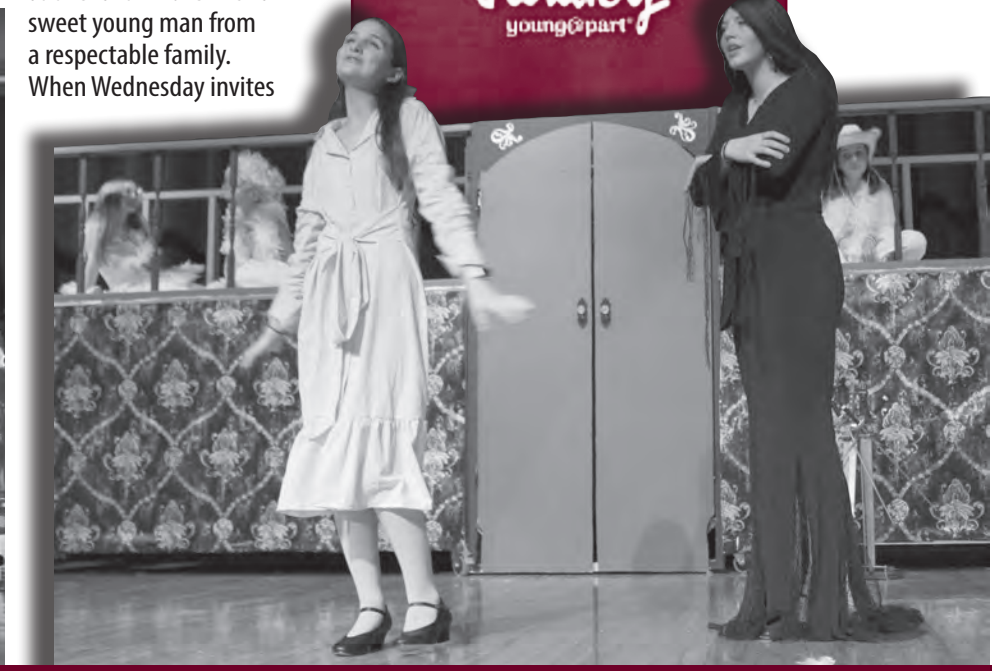
The Middle School Drama Club took center stage in February with their captivating production of *The Addams Family-Young@Part*. Directed by teachers Jessica Vargas (Foreign Language) and Mary Guirma (Special Education), along with Music Director Will Halpern (Music), and Stage Crew Manager Mackenzie Ryan (Special Education), the performances delighted audiences and showcased the students' remarkable stage presence.

*The Addams Family-Young@Part* is a family-friendly adaptation of the beloved classic, featuring all the iconic characters from the mysterious and macabre Addams family. The musical follows Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, as she falls in love with a sweet young man from a respectable family. When Wednesday invites

her boyfriend and his parents to dinner at the eerie Addams mansion, secrets are revealed and hilarity ensues.

Seventy-five Middle School students contributed to the success of the production both on and offstage. The thunderous applause from the audience as the final curtain fell was a testament to their hard work and talent. Special congratulations to Sonora Brigagliano (Wednesday), Michael Girdali (Gomez), Jayda Schenker (Morticia), Eddie Cheevers (Lucas), Gala Dixey (Mal), Ellie O'Rourke (Alice), Jacob Lehet (Fester), Della Sheridan

(Pugsley), Cady Kubart (Grandma), and Waverly Swan (Lurch).



# #MaroonPride

## Congratulations to the Class of 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Valedictorian Mason Eyler and Salutatorian Dylan McQuade-Dolan

New Paltz High School (NPHS) is proud to announce its top two academic leaders for the Class of 2024: Valedictorian **Mason Eyler** and Salutatorian **Dylan McQuade-Dolan**.

Mason Eyler has secured the position of valedictorian with a GPA of 101.298, showcasing remarkable academic prowess alongside an impressive array of extracurricular commitments.

Mason balanced a rigorous course load with his active involvement in academic clubs, athletics, and community engagement.

Mason's noteworthy achievements include leading the Mathletes team and serving as captain of the Cross Country team, where he garnered accolades such as the Sportsmanship Award and top scorer recognition at the Dutchess-Ulster-Sullivan-Orange (DUSO) Math League Sectional Championship. His passion for mathematics extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his volunteer work preparing Middle School students for the American Mathematics Competitions 8 (AMC8). Mason will be continuing his academic journey at Stanford University, where he plans to pursue a degree in Mathematics.

Dylan McQuade-Dolan, earning the distinction of salutatorian with a GPA of 100.73, exemplifies academic excellence and leadership within the NPHS community. He served as co-vice president of the Student Government, president of the Snow

Club, and treasurer of the Class of 2024, and was active in New Paltz soccer both as a player and a mentor. Dylan's nomination to represent NPHS at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) seminar underscores his leadership qualities and dedication to volunteerism, earning him the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. With aspirations to study biochemistry, Dylan aims to unravel the complexities of molecular medicine.

Both Mason and Dylan extend their gratitude to the exceptional educators of the New Paltz Central School District, acknowledging their invaluable support and guidance throughout their academic journey.

Expressing pride in the achievements of these outstanding students, Acting Principal Kathleen Schneck-Suma remarks, "Mason and Dylan are inspiring individuals who have made positive contributions to the school community. They are both poised for remarkable accomplishments in the years ahead."

## High School Mathletes Shine at DUSO Math League Sectional Championship

In a display of mathematical prowess, the New Paltz High School Mathletes Team, under the guidance of their dedicated instructor Kathryn Stewart, showcased exceptional talent at the Dutchess-Ulster-Sullivan-Orange (DUSO) Math League Sectional Championship held at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie on March 6.

Competing against teams from Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, and Orange Counties, the New Paltz "A Team" emerged victorious in their section and secured an impressive 2nd place in the divisional meet, narrowly missing the top spot after an intense tiebreaker against John Jay High School.

A standout performer from the New Paltz team was Mason Eyler, who clinched the top scorer award for the second consecutive year, capping off a perfect season. Eyler's

consistent excellence contributed significantly to the team's success, earning him well-deserved recognition.

The competition was not merely a test of mathematical knowledge, but was also a showcase of teamwork and quick thinking. Participants tackled intricate math problems spanning algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra in timed sessions. The relay round added an extra layer of excitement, with teammates seamlessly passing the mathematical torch to conquer different segments of a problem.

Following the competition, the team had the privilege of listening to guest speaker Trevor Hyde, a Vassar College Math professor, who shared insights into his journey in math education and explored the fascinating realm of p-adic numbers.



Congratulations to the following students, whose contributions were integral to this remarkable achievement, from left to right: Darren Chen (Grade 12), Weston Culp (Grade 12), Lalita Ma (Grade 11), Mason Eyler (Grade 12), Charlie DePoala (Grade 11), Thornton Eis (Grade 12), along with Kathryn Stewart (fearless leader and Math teacher).



## High School Welcomes Lieutenant Governor Delgado

The Participation in Government, Literature, and Economics for Today's Students class (known as PIGLETS) at New Paltz High School had the honor of hosting Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado earlier this year. Delgado, a prominent figure in New York State politics, shared his inspiring journey with the students, from his humble beginnings in Schenectady to his current role as lieutenant governor.

During his visit, Delgado spoke passionately about the qualities of effective leadership, emphasizing the importance of having an open mind and being forgiving. He also stressed the key role that active listening plays in efforts to find common ground. Active listening,

he said, is a skill that is essential in both personal and professional life.

When asked for advice for students considering college, Delgado encouraged them to learn, explore, and not be afraid to fail. He urged them to pursue their passions wholeheartedly and emphasized the value of being present in their lives and communities.

Delgado also highlighted the importance of collaboration and civic engagement, reminding students that no action is too small to make a difference. His message resonated deeply with the students, inspiring them to embrace leadership opportunities and strive for positive change in their communities.



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Fifty-seven students contributed to the impressive production, including the actors in the ensemble, members of the stage crew, and those who focused on lighting and

set design. Together, they captured the essence of this beloved musical and left audiences thoroughly entertained.

Congratulations to the following cast members, listed in order of appearance: Nicholas Kutzin (Nicely Nicely Johnson), JP Fabella (Benny Southstreet), Quinn Oremus (Rusty Charlie and MC), Marla May Feeney (Sarah Brown), Eamonn Rynne

(Harry the Horse), Marco Todaro (Lt. Brannigan), Finn Lochard (Nathan Detroit), Nathaniel Johnson (Angie the Ox), Ana Kirsch (Adelaide), Peter Dillehay (Sky Masterson), Lizzie Roff (Arlene Abernathy), Sam DePoala (Joey Biltmore), Melissa Adashko-Rein (Agatha), Kari O'Brien (General Cartwright), and Willa Voorhis (Big Jule).

