### **WELCOME** Superintendent Urbina-Medina



The New Paltz Central School District extends a hearty welcome to our new superintendent of schools, Angela Urbina-Medina. Urbina-Medina was selected after a five-month nationwide search process conducted by the New York State Leadership Group. She officially takes over the reins of the District on July 1, 2020.

#### Continued on Page 4

### **Creative Remote Learning** at the Middle School

Teachers have been cultivating impressive ways to inspire learning for New Paltz Middle School students while operating remotely. During this time, many departments and teachers have been collaborating on interdisciplinary projects. Here are just a few examples of the exemplary collaboration happening remotely!

Art teachers Mary Jane Nusbaum and Kim Abrahamsen and art/technology teacher Jen Cone tasked their students with the Getty Challenge (named for the Paul Getty Museum). Students recreated famous works of art using whatever they had at home, even pets! "My favorite part was seeing how creative and excited kids were to make these," said Nusbaum. "They put so much thought, care, and creativity into the details of recreating masterpieces. They also got to look through fine art collections online, which may have been a new experience for many of them."

Technology teachers Krista Pachomski and Mark Pizzarello had their students create a



device/touchless system to drop a bar of soap into someone else's hands. Students used various materials from

> their homes, including curtain rods, sporting equipment, dominos, books, kitchen items, and staircases. "Students are encouraged to

work through obstacles using the oblem-solving strategy, knowing



## Special Budget Issue 2020-2021

Example of Budget Impact on Tax Bill

Monthly

**Tax Increase** 

\$3.67

\$7.33

\$11.00

\$14.67

\$18.33

Amount of 2019

School Tax Bill

\$2,000

\$4,000

\$6,000

\$8,000

\$10,000

## **Board Adopts Budget Below Allowable Tax Cap Level; Student Programs Protected**

The New Paltz Central School District Board ▲ of Education has adopted a proposed budget of \$64,940,103 for the 2020-2021 school year. The proposed budget carries a tax levy increase of 2.2 percent, which is below the 2.84 percent permitted by this year's New York State Tax Levy Limit calculation.

"Great care was taken to limit the investment needed by our taxpayers this year, while also protecting the opportunities provided to students and dealing with many unknowns-such as reduced State Aid and likely increased costs for operating schools in the age of COVID-19," explained Assistant Superintendent for Business Sharifa Carbon. "The Board worked diligently to align funding around student priorities.

#### What's Included

The proposed budget represents a 2.04 percent increase over the current year and protects almost all currently funded programs and services. Class sizes will continue at current levels, and the District plans additional substance abuse counseling services through outside contracting.

Continuing District initiatives in the areas of

technology, racial equity, and are also priorities protected under the proposed budget. Chromebooks to Grades 3, 4, 8, and 9. Funding to support the racial equity work that began last year-including in the areas of restorative practice and bias awareness, as well as a partnership with SUNY New Paltz-

was preserved. Professional development around curriculum and supervision will also continue.

In the instructional arena, the proposed budget supports the first year of a three-year rollout of a new Grade K-5 Math curriculum, including textbooks and other classroom materials, along with professional development for teachers. Funds are also allocated for curriculum-based field trips, with student-activity field trips continuing on a fee basis. The proposal also includes \$525,000 for anticipated additional special education costs for students attending programs outside of the District.

Outside of the classroom, funds are being proposed for a District athletic trainer to provide student-athletes with injury prevention, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Unified sports teams where students with and without disabilities compete together on the same team are included in the proposed budget for basketball and bowling. Additionally, funding for some security measures recommended in the

District's Security Plan are in the proposed budget, including additional cameras, safety doors, and a visitor management system.

The proposal also takes into account expected fluctuations in needs relative to COVID-19 and how school will possibly be structured over the summer and into the fall. This includes funding for enhanced cleaning and sanitation, sufficient social-emotional programming for students, and compliance with potential new State mandates.

#### **Revenue Challenges**

Annual

**Tax Increase** 

\$44.00

\$88.00

\$132.00

\$176.00

\$220.00

"In these challenging times, protecting our student programs while minimizing the impact to our taxpayers are equal priorities," said Interim Superintendent Dr. Bernard Josefsberg.

To offset some of these costs and keep the levy increase below the cap, the District is proposing to allocate \$1.5 million from the fund balance along with a \$300,000 reduction from the planned bus vehicle replenishment fund.

The uncertainty of State Aid funding is also challenging districts. Districts have been informed that the State will be conducting quarterly reviews of their aid program this year and mid-year, and

unplanned reductions may be directed.

"We are committed to continuing the programs and advancements New Paltz has made in recent years," said Josefsberg. "This proposed budget supports educational growth and innovation, while keeping the tax levy approximately 20 percent below our allowable cap at 2.2 percent as opposed to 2.84 percent," he said.

#### What Happens if the Budget is Not Passed?

At this time, Governor Andrew Cuomo has not yet provided information to schools about the process for addressing an unsuccessful budget vote. In the past, a district would have one additional chance to present a budget to voters for approval. Since the school's fiscal year begins on July 1, this seems unlikely. Without guidance from the Governor, the options are uncertain. If the District was to go to a contingent budget, it would mean a zero percent tax levy increase and result in cuts totaling \$979,403. By law, a contingent budget would eliminate all equipment purchases, field trips, and some community use of buildings and grounds from the budget. There would also be reductions in non-mandated services.











Continued on Page 7

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> **Board of Education** Michael O'Donnell, President Glenn LaPolt, Vice President Diana Armstead Sophia Skiles **Bianca** Tanis Teresa Thompson

www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us

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#### **Please Vote**

In response to the pandemic, all budget votes and school board elections are being conducted via mailed absentee ballot this year. No in-person voting will take place. New Paltz has three candidates running for two positions on the school board this year.

For more information about the budget, contact Assistant Superintendent for Business Sharifa Carbon at 845-256-4010. For questions about voting, contact the District Clerk Sandra Ermo at 845-256-4020 or email boe@newpaltz.k12.ny.us.

### More About the Budget on Pages 4-6

All eligible voters are encouraged to participate in

this year's budget vote and Board of Education election being conducted entirely by absentee ballot. Mailed ballots are due into the District Office by 5 PM on June 9. Please allow ample time for mailing your ballot.



## **Duzine Teachers Stay "Plugged-In" to Students During Closures**

Duzine Elementary School teachers and staff have been hard at work around the clock to stay connected with students and families, now more than ever. Duzine teachers are known for bringing the world inside the classroom to share, and now they're sharing the world through their screens.

## Supprise Visits

Grade 2 teachers Michele Favale and Lisa GHasbrouck made "drive-by" visits to each of their families and dropped packages off to them. The duo mapped out the visitations and spent the day visiting students. "Families were appreciative and the kids were happy to see us," said Hasbrouck. She said that many were shy and some parents got emotional, with one family handing over an overdue library book to them. Parents and students gave Hasbrouck and Favale homemade gifts, cards, and fresh cut flowers from their gardens. "It gave us peace of mind to know that everyone was okay," said Hasbrouck. "The kids could be seen by us and that we were okay."



## Language via Video

S panish teacher Jennifer Pizzarello is creating interactive videos each week ranging from an animal wearing peopleclothing to a puppet show to a song that includes strange food combinations—to help illustrate points from her weekly lesson. She then has her students answer a simple Google survey assessment to gauge how much they absorbed. Pizzarello said hearing the language improves students' acquisition, and providing video of herself doing the lessons helps with the social-emotional piece. "My hope is that this way the students will still feel connected to school," Pizzarello said.

## A Winning Tag Team





## **Read Aloud/Think Aloud**

K indergarten teacher Iva Profaci co-teaches with two other teachers and an aide. She said reading aloud is a great way to get everyone involved. Recently, she started asking individual students which book they think she should read next and giving the student a shout-out for the selection. "During a read aloud, I'll stop and ask questions or do a 'think aloud'," said Profaci. "I actually wait for a response and pretend that they're talking to me. I had a parent tell me that their child was actually engaging in the read aloud with me by answering me and commenting back."

# **Recycling City +**

K indergarten teacher Rebecca Burdett set up a website called "The Weekly Sun," which she co-created with her students. Burdett posts pictures of the many projects her students have been doing at home, such as "Kitchen Scraps" Gardening, original home-Lego creations, Writer's Choice student nature poetry, The Pet Page, Cooking Book, and more. A student favorite is "Recycling City," cities students created at home from their household recycling materials. Student projects included a firehouse, police

station with Heli-Pad, "Color Museum," "Three-Flags Harmony Castle," and more.



#### What countries are blue jays from? AP - WANTHER Where do they build nests?~

### Local Lore



**G** rade 1 teachers Tina Bodo and Luke Biffar are reading aloud a chapter book called *Wild Robot* by Peter Brown as part of their Spring interdisciplinary unit focused around the birds, fish, and mammals of the Hudson Valley. The team said they chose the book because it ties in with classroom concepts of belonging, valuing personal differences,

and development of compassion. "Some of these themes also support our ongoing work in establishing a strong culture and curriculum for teaching racial equity in first grade," said Biffar. Bodo has some helpful "reading assistants" as well. "I am lucky to have my own children around who are the same age as my students, so I like to do a lot of my read-alouds with them. The students seem to enjoy when my children read with me or when they ask questions about the book."





Kindergarten students showcase their elaborate research and Recycling City projects.

eamwork makes the dream work. Grade 2 Special Education teachers Chelsea Herrington and Lilly Andino-Skinner, along with English as a New Language teacher Lynn Bartlett, take turns reading aloud using the closed-site platform ClassDojo. "A few of the students made comments about my dogs, which they like to see," said Herrington, who added that she and her co-teachers are sometimes in their pajamas, reading bedtime stories aloud to amuse their students. "Personally, I think that is reassuring them to see that we are still here and we still think about them, love them, miss them, and want to help them learn," Herrington said.





### **Essential Gratitude at Lenape**

Lenape art teacher Morgan Marshall enlisted the help of her Students in brightening the lives of some of the community's essential workers. She had the students supply a letter, poster, or image of them holding a handmade poster thanking essential workers. PTA parent Kim Mayer then helped Marshall create a heart-felt PowerPoint that was shared with local essential workers in Modena, Gardiner, and New Paltz. Mayer's children, who are Lenape students, enjoyed the project. Ruby, Grade 3, said, "I thought I would help those supermarket superheroes and make them feel like they are superheroes with a drawing that I made for them." Max, Grade 5, added, "The mail carriers and essential workers are working hard to do stuff for us. I thought this was a way to be kind, helpful, and supportive."

Lenape students use their artistic skills to thank essential workers.

### Young Conflict Managers in the Making

Did you know that Lenape's Conflict Management Program has been providing students with peer mediation for over 20 years? At the end of Grade 4, students recommend a classmate who embodies leadership qualities such as compassion, empathy, assertiveness, and trustworthiness. The 14-18 students who are

nominated are then trained in conflict management one day a week for eight weeks during lunch/recess time.

The training imparts valuable life skills such as active and reflective listening, seeing things from different perspectives, remaining objective and neutral, and facilitating conversations between those with opposing viewpoints. By the end of the training, the Student Conflict Managers work in supervised pairs to help students to resolve disagreements.

Interim Coordinator of Student Support Services Meri Lederer emphasized that working with a Student Conflict Manager is voluntary. A student in conflict can choose to have an adult solve their problem, or solve it with the assistance of a Student Conflict Manager. "This is the philosophical underpinning of the program; that students have the ability and should be empowered to resolve their own conflicts," said Lederer.

The sessions take place during lunch/recess to underscore the Student Conflict Manager's commitment to the role. At the conclusion, a contract is written with the commitments that the participants agreed upon. "The Conflict Managers don't solve the problems for the disputants, but facilitate dialogue that leads them to come up with their own solutions, thus increasing their investment in the outcome," said Lederer.

Grade 5 Student Conflict Managers Emelia Tegeler and Cadence Vigna both found value in the training. "I think the program is helpful to other students because sometimes they need help resolving a problem, said Emelia. "I think they like talking to students because they might feel we understand more than a teacher or grown-up. It was a great experience and I liked being in the program." Cadence agreed and added, "I felt good knowing that I was able to help kids solve a problem they couldn't solve themselves."



E ven before the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritizing the mental health and well-being of its students and its staff has been a focus at New Paltz. Putting theory into practice, Lenape Elementary School social worker and counselor MaryGrace Renella, along with Duzine Elementary School social worker Renee Reynolds,

## Social-Emotional Wellness for Staff

initiated the "In Good Health Series" for faculty and staff in early April.

DU.N

Each Friday, educators receive an "In Good Health" email from Renella covering topics such as mindfulness practices, self-care tips (to prevent burnout), staying positive, reminders to remember activities that made you happy as a kid, the importance of laughter and places to find it, and a "Gratitude Jar Challenge."

Renella believes everyone is on "information overload" and is having to adapt to a "new normal," which she said "looks and feels different for everyone." She said her intention is to let teachers know that they are valued and honored. "It's to let them know I am thinking about their well-being as well and that they matter too, as they give so much of themselves to their students."

The resources are not just for fellow co-workers, she said, explaining that she finds them useful in her own life as well. "We are all faced with a considerable amount of uncertainty and a range of powerful emotions," said Renella. "Creating the In Good Health Series has served to be a great reminder that we are all connected. And, when I get an email from a teacher with a picture of their 'gratitude jar' from one of the suggested activities, I am re-connected to the outside world again."

### **Project Lead the Way Provides STEM Lessons**

The New Paltz Central School District is proud to be offering an innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum through Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a pre-engineering, computer science, and biomedical program.

This year's Grade 5 PLTW project on virus tracking and control, which seemed to foreshadow the current COVID-19 pandemic, offered science-based lessons that could potentially save lives.

Lenape and Middle School PTLW teacher Krista Pachomski said that the students began the school year by studying how infections spread. The class played a game with "infected" and "susceptible" students. Once a student came into contact with someone who had been infected, they also became infected and could spread to another person for several rounds, changing factors such as frequency of contact. The students then analyzed the data to learn how changing factors affected the contagion rate.

The students also participated in a computer simulation to study the ate of spread in a larger population, which included adding a factor of "immunity" after the illness passed. Students compared the simulation to their in-class game, discussing exactly what factors influence the spread, as well as necessary precautions. Pachomski remarked, "Right before school was closed, students, all on their own, realized the connection to what is happening to us right now, saying, 'We learned about this!'" Over at the Middle School, students got a lesson in compassion as they learned about the needs and struggles of children with Cerebral Palsy (CP). CP is a group of disorders that affects a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture. Pachomski tasked her students with designing and creating an ankle-foot orthosis (AFO), a support intended to control the position and motion of the ankle. The braces, the students learned, help compensate for weakness or correct deformities. To help put themselves in the patient's "shoes," students discussed times when others have made them feel poorly about themselves, or when they felt like they stood out because they were different. Students created the foot braces using cardboard, foam, popsicle sticks, wire, brad pins, string, elastic, velcro, and rubber bands, all with unique results. "It was very evident that students were not only focused on the physical, but also the social-emotional needs of children with CP," Pachomski said. "This led to designs with artistic flair, with the intent that everyone would want one."

3

Sarah Sebald creates the morning announcements every day with help from her daughters Emma and Sophia.

### **Lenape Morning Announcements**

Lenape Special Education teacher Sara Sebald wants to know if you will be her neighbor. She has been portraying the role of the public television programming icon Fred Rogers, of *Mr. Rog-er's Neighborhood*, by video-recording Lenape's morning announcements. Sebald has been using a rendition of the show's theme music and production styling since the closure—right down to reaching for the sweater in the closet.

She uses the morning announcements platform to sneak in a quick phonics lesson and instruction. The morning announcements cover the days of the week, birthdays, favorite book quotes submitted by teachers and students, number of the day problems to solve, Joke of the Week, and more. Sebald said she ends each announcement with a special Mr. Rogers' quote: "Remember you always make each day a special day by just being you—there's no one in the world just like you—so we'll be back when the day is new—with all new things to share with you. From our house to yours—be well—and have a great day!"

#### WELCOME Superintendent Urbina-Medina Continued from Page 1

Urbina-Medina currently serves as deputy superintendent of the Ellenville Central School District, a position she has held since 2018. She also served as Ellenville's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for three years and principal of Ellenville Middle School for five years. Additionally, Urbina-Medina served as assistant principal at both Warwick Valley Middle School and Haviland Middle School in the Hyde Park School District.

4

Urbina-Medina is no stranger to New Paltz, having earned both a Master of Science in education and a Certificate of Advanced Study in educational administration from SUNY New Paltz in 2000 and 2007, respectively. She received a Bachelor of Arts in history, summa cum laude, from Lehman College. She holds NYS Department of Education certifications for K-6 teaching, school administration and supervision, and district administration.

An educator since 1997, Urbina-Medina said her 10 years as a classroom teacher at Monhagen Middle School in the Middletown School District were foundational, and being married to a teacher has kept her current and linked to a classroom culture. "I know what it is like to be a classroom teacher, and the perspective is valuable. My wife is also a teacher, so I am still deeply connected to the day-to-day," she explained.

While the new superintendent's path from classroom teacher to district leader is not uncommon, Urbina-Medina's path to the educational field was a road much less traveled. For six years, she served as a New York City police officer, assigned to the NYPD's 40th precinct of the Bronx, working with schools to visit classrooms to educate about "appropriate physical contact" and to teach students about being in control of their own bodies.

Urbina-Medina said that she is driven to be involved in transformative work on behalf of children. "Creating initiatives that can be life-changing for students puts the steam in my engine." She is especially proud of her work with the My Brother's Keeper initiative, which provides programming to interest students who might otherwise be disengaged. The creation of the Ellenville Elementary School Summer Boost Academy, a program designed to protect and advance educational progress over the summer months, is also a source of pride. "Creating an environment where kids want to be in school when they could instead be out playing is a challenge. Through a collaboration with Ulster BOCES, we created a program that kids come back to year after year," she said.

"The Board of Education is excited to welcome Ms. Urbina-Medina to the New Paltz Central School District. She is a proven equity-centered leader and informed decision-maker with a strong background in curriculum," said NPCSD Board of Education President Michael O'Donnell. "We believe her calm, clear, and concise communication style will resonate with the full spectrum of students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members to foster a positive school culture."

Please join the New Paltz Central School District in congratulating Angela Urbina-Medina and welcoming her aboard!

### Food Services, Transportation, and Facilities and Operations Band Together For School Community

The departments of Food Services, Transportation, and Facilities and Operations have been working hard to ensure the District's students' and families' needs are met. The highlight of this collaborative effort is the three departments teaming up to deliver 2,000 meals a week for District families in need—all prepared by Food Services workers and delivered by the Transportation Department on buses sanitized by the Facilities and Operations crew. Examples of the massive effort include:

#### **Food Services**

Seven staff members from the Department of Food Services have been preparing 2,000 fresh meals per week, serving 200 students: 400 to families on Mondays (one break-

fast and one lunch) and 800 on Tuesdays and Thursdays (two breakfasts and two lunches).

#### **Facilities and Operations**

The Department of Facilities and Operations deep cleaned and sanitized all of the buildings in March. They continue to care for spaces that are in use in the District Offices, the Middle School, and the Lenape Cafeteria, where there



The Facilities and Operations crew is using new EonGen misters with existing sanitizing equipment to disinfect all surfaces, including the small, hard-to-reach areas in all of the school buildings.

A strict safety protocol limits the entrance into any of the schools to only those having essential business, requiring District administration approval. A Facilities team member screens individuals, who then must sign in and sanitize their hands. Areas visited are then disinfected after they leave.

#### Transportation

The Department of Transportation delivers 2,000 weekly meals, as

well as weekend backpacks with food provided by the New Paltz Rotary Club.

In addition to the regularly scheduled meals, the team has also delivered 31 frozen food bags, approximately 53 Google Chromebooks,

## Message from the Board of Education

#### Dear fellow community members:

Extraordinary times challenge us to expand the limits of our thinking in areas we did not know existed. As a Board of Education, we are further challenged to expand our ability to balance the needs of our students, families, taxpayers, and community. We began this year's budget planning process prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and over the past several months have had to continually adapt plans to accommodate rapidly unfolding changes. Although we have adopted a budget, there are still many unknowns that will impact next year's budget, including the possibility of further cuts to State Aid and unknown expenses related to opening the schools in the fall with COVID-driven expenses such as increased sanitization and cleaning, social-emotional support and programming, and other unknown accommodations that may be needed to keep our children safe.

We revisited, revamped, and refined our budget in light of the fiscal situation facing our community and nation. Our proposed budget of \$64,940,103 reflects the painstaking measures we took to preserve student programs. The proposed budget carries a tax levy increase of 2.2%, which is roughly 20% below the allowable 2.84% permitted by the State's formula used to calculate the allowable Tax Levy Limit.

We share our deepest fiscal concerns with all schools in New York State, as about 25% of our District's budget is supported with State Aid. Governor Cuomo has warned that unless there is a federal plan to close revenue shortfalls, additional State Aid reductions will be applied mid-year. Proposing a budget around such vast unknowns has been unsettling.

Given the unknowns, we have applied \$1.5 million from the fund balance along with a \$300,000 reduction from the planned bus vehicle replenishment fund to reduce the tax levy needed to fund the budget.

Our budgetary goals are developed in response to what we hear from you as your priorities. This year, the budget is focused on retaining current staffing levels, meeting our special education obligations, extending existing technology initiatives, continuing our racial equity initiative, ensuring our teachers have professional development available, leveraging state reimbursement wherever possible to address capital needs, acting on high-priority building security needs, enhancing K-5 math learning, funding curriculum-based field trips, sustaining mental health supports, and expanding access to substance abuse counseling; providing a trainer to keep our student-athletes safe; and adding unified sport options with access for all abilities in the high school. This budget builds on our current successes while addressing our gaps.

Details about the budget and what it entails can be found within the pages of this newsletter and on our website, and we welcome your questions. You can contact Assistant Superintendent for Business Sharifa Carbon at 845-256-4010 for more information. We also encourage all eligible voters to participate in the mail-in budget vote and school board election on Tuesday, June 9.

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff, and students, we want to thank our community for participating in the important decisions about the future of the New Paltz Central School District. The challenges that our families and business community are facing are unprecedented and we extend our deepest sympathies and compassion to the families of those who have experienced loss in this pandemic. We are a strong community that comes through in the toughest of times, and I am ever hopeful that there are better and brighter times ahead for everyone.



Food Services employees Kathy Statlend and Meryl Brown are pictured here with some of the food prepared to be delivered to New Paltz families by the Department of Transportation.



Karen Borello and Lynn Lamanna of the Department of Transportation are masked and ready to deliver technology, meals, supplemental food from the weekend Backpack Program, and lawn signs for seniors.

nine Verizon Wifi "hotspots," and 45 Class of 2020 graduation lawn signs.

Mildoull

Michael O'Donnell Board President

#### New Paltz Integrated Technology Gets A+ for Preparedness

The New Paltz School District may have closed its physical doors on March 18, but that closure opened the door to online learning.

Integrated Technology Director Keith Baisley's entire educational career has involved instructional technology, and how it can be used effectively to improve education. His personal mission to use technology to develop a positive digital footprint helped facilitate the District's "virtual" leap to distance learning.

During the first two weeks of emergency days and spring break, Baisley, his team, and other District staff worked 16-hour days preparing for remote learning. Surveying families, they identified students in need of food, Chromebooks, or Wi-Fi "hotspots." Once these priorities were met, they quickly moved to develop a foundation for remote learning. "I've never worked harder on anything than I have over the past month and a half," said

Baisley, adding that everyone's work was fully supported by the administration, teachers, support staff, Board of Education members, and other District personnel.

Two hundred Chromebooks that the District already owned and ten Verizon Wi-Fi "hotspots" have been distributed to students of families without internet access. Mindful of the COVID-19 situation, Baisley said his department sanitized the devices and chargers and placed them in a plastic bag with instructions for distribution. The District's Department of Transportation-along with administrators, teachers, and other support

personnel-all helped deliver items to those unable to pick them up.

Fortunately, the District had already blazed the highway of virtual learning, having laid the foundation for District accounts to move to the online platform of G Suite for Education in 2018. A five-year plan to disseminate Google Chromebooks for Grades 3-12, designed to support 21st century skills, differentiated instruction, and to ensure equal access and learning opportunities for all





## **Budget Summary**

Expenditure Budget	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Proposed Budget	Change from 2019-2020	Comments
Board of Education	\$53,700	\$59,500	\$5,800	
Superintendent's Office	\$261,000	\$304,600	\$43,600	
Business Office	\$536,530	\$486,930	-\$49,600	
Personnel, Legal, Printing, Postage	\$492,800	\$507,250	\$14,450	
Insurance, BOCES Admin Fees	\$928,000	\$990,800	\$62,800	Increase in BOCES administrative fees
Curriculum and Staff Development	\$693,400	\$824,700	\$131,300	Includes increases in restorative practices and math curriculum support
Principals' Offices & Program Supervision	\$1,631,500	\$1,795,570	\$164,070	Includes \$100K for unanticipated COVID-19 mandated expenses
Special Education	\$155,000	\$155,000	\$0	
Employee Benefits	\$1,498,070	\$1,544,470	\$46,400	Health insurance increases
<b>TOTAL - Administration</b>	\$6,250,000	\$6,668,820	\$418,820	6.7% Increase
Regular Instruction, AIS, and ENL	\$16,330,900	\$16,193,920	-\$136,980	2019-20 Budget included \$350K for wellness center and Duzine playground
Occupational Ed, Summer School	\$1,135,400	\$1,191,100	\$55,700	Increased participation in occupational education
Special Education	\$8,602,200	\$9,269,269	\$667,069	Based on student IEPs
Libraries	\$527,200	\$562,790	\$35,590	
Computer-Assisted Instruction	\$1,280,500	\$1,345,830	\$65,330	
Guidance, Health, Psychologists	\$2,021,400	\$2,205,620	\$184,220	Salary increases and substance abuse counseling services
Extracurricular and Sports	\$534,500	\$614,200	\$79,700	Includes athletic trainer, unified bowling & basketball
Transportation	\$4,387,170	\$4,221,710	-\$165,460	Summer school transportation expenses tranferred to federal fund
Employee Benefits	\$14,999,730	\$15,460,663	\$460,933	Health insurance increases
Interfund Transfers	\$371,000	\$346,000	-\$25,000	
TOTAL - Program	\$50,190,000	\$51,411,102	\$1,221,102	2.4% Increase
Facilities and Operations	\$2,901,800	\$3,041,881	\$140,081	Includes additional funding for COVID-related sanitation
Judgments and Claims	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	
School Buses	\$490,000	\$190,000	-\$300,000	Adjustment to bus purchase plan to reduce tax levy
Employee Benefits	\$764,200	\$784,700	\$20,500	Health insurance increases
Debt Service	\$3,024,000	\$2,723,600	-\$300,400	Capital Project bonds
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	Transfer to capital for \$100K Capital Project
TOTAL - Capital	\$7,200,000	\$6,860,181	-\$339,819	-4.7% Decrease
TOTAL BUDGET	\$63,640,000	\$64,940,103	\$1,300,103	
% BUDGET INCREASE ==	==>	2.04%		
Revenue Budget	2019-2020	2020-2021	\$ Change	Comments
Tax Levy including STAR	\$44,565,000	\$45,544,370	\$979,370	2.2% increase - Less than maximum allowable levy increase of 2.84%
Other Revenue - includes BOCES refund, Interest, Charges to other districts, Rentals, Donations, Admissions	\$1,049,701	\$1,193,200	\$143,499	
State Aid	\$16,025,299	\$16,702,533	\$677,234	No increase in Foundation Aid. Increase stems from BOCES and Transportatio Aid increases.
Federal Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total Revenues	\$61,640,000	\$63,440,103	\$1,800,103	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,500,000 \$150,000 \$350,000	\$1,500,000 \$0	\$0 -\$150,000 \$350,000	"Regular" Appropriated Fund Balance Used to fund staffing increases in 2019-20 budget Welkness Conter & Duzine Blagground in 2010-20 budget

\$350,000

## % TAX LEVY INCREASE ===>

## 2.20%

\$0

-\$350,000

students was already rolled out.

Faculty and staff training on the new Google platform began last year, using opportunities like Superintendent's Conference Days, small group or one-on-one sessions before and after school, and "asynchronous" tools (tools for communicating in different times and different spaces).

Baisley explained that he developed the five-year plan to expand online instruction to Grades 3-12 and piloted it in 2018 with a handful of students, inviting administrators, teachers, and other staff members to join the pilot group. Teacher accounts were all migrated to G Suite by May 2019, and all other staff accounts were online with Google by September 2019. Chromebooks for Grades 3 and 8 were then distributed, with the goal of completing

distribution to other grades within five years. Teachers of Grades 4 and 9 students received their Chromebooks earlier this year.

**Deputy Superintendent Michelle Martoni** collaborated with Baisley to develop a virtual Superintendent's Conference Day in early April. They surveyed teachers about what professional development might be needed to execute the District's remote learning plan.

"By moving us onto the Google platform in September, Keith had unknowingly positioned us for a smoother transition into remote instruction," said Martoni. "Without the work he had already put into place, the process of going totally virtual would have been much slower and far more complex. His vision and work situated us to respond quickly to a drastic change." Martoni adds that while having access to the tools and training needed to instruct students remotely has been an important part of the response to the pandemic, she is looking forward to teachers and students being back in the classroom. "Technology should be used to enhance face-to-face instruction, not replace it."

Wellness Center & Duzine Playground in 2019-20 budget

The Board of Education continues to meet, virtually, to handle District business. The IT department helped to set up virtual board meetings, and the District live streams meetings on YouTube to keep everyone connected.

For more information, please visit the District's **COVID-19** Information and Resources page, found at https://sites.google.com/newpaltz.k12.ny.us/ distancelearning.



## **School District Budget Notice**

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$63,640,000	\$64,940,103	\$63,960,700
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-2021 School Year		\$1,300,003	\$320,700
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.04%	0.50%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$44,565,000	\$45,544,370	
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 $(A + B + C - D)$	\$44,565,000	\$45,544,370	\$44,565,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$3,629,301	\$3,901,150	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$40,935,989	\$41,931,220	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$40,935,699	\$41,643,220	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval — See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$290	\$288,000	
Administrative Component	\$6,250,000	\$6,668,820	\$6,177,681
Program Component	\$50,190,000	\$51,411,102	\$50,911,102
Capital Component	\$7,200,000	\$6,860,181	\$6,871,917
*Contenent of a commutions and in availabling a continuous budget for the 2020-21 address			

\*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year: Should the proposed budget be defeated, pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the Board of Education would have to remove all buses, reduce the maintenance budget, and reduce staff development. Additionally, they would have to consider: increasing class sizes, reducing high school course offerings, analyzing extracurricular activities, and reducing both administrative and non-instructional staff.

\*\*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):

NO SEPARATE PROPOSITIONS

Description

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year

Amount

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

<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 2020-2021 by the qualified voters of the New Paltz Central School District

will be held by absentee ballot on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 per the Governor's Executive Order No. 202.26. Qualified voters must return an absentee ballot to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

## Sample Ballot

#### Proposition #1 Vote YES or NO

Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District be authorized to expend \$64,940,103.00 which will be required for school district purposes for the year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (The Budget) and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION The District condemns and prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against, you may make a claim that your rights have been denied. This claim or grievance may be filed with the Director of Pupil Personnel Services Title IX Officer: New Paltz Central School District, 196 Main Street, New Paltz, NY, 12561, (845) 256-4040.

### **Election of School Board Members**

You may vote for any two (2) of the candidates listed by making a single cross (X) or a single check ( $\sqrt{}$ ) 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 TWO (2) YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED

**Brian Cournoyer Edgar Rodriguez** Teresa Thompson

### **The Three-Part Budget**



Administration Budget: This section includes school building offices and central administration, along with clerical support, salaries and benefits of all school administrators, Board of Education expenses for planning, and other administrative activities.

**Capital Budget:** This area refers to all facilities costs such as custodial salaries and benefits, maintenance salaries and benefits, service contracts, custodial and maintenance supplies, utility costs for heating, electricity, communication, water, and annual capital project debt service.

**Program Budget:** This portion covers classroom supplies and equipment, teacher salaries and benefits, all related educational costs, and costs for student transportation services. This program area makes up the largest portion of the budget.



\$661





### New Paltz Athletes Excel in Sports and Academics

Each season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) recognizes student athletes for academic excellence with Scholar-Athlete and Scholar-Team designations, and the list of this year's New Paltz High School athletes was impressive.

To qualify for the individual scholar-athlete award, students must earn a GPA of 90 percent or higher. For a team to receive the scholar-team award, 75 percent of the team's roster must have a total average of 90 or above. During the fall season, 102 students were designated as scholar-athletes and seven teams were recognized as scholar-teams. In the winter, 57 students were honored and six teams achieved the scholar-team status.

According to Health, Physical Education, and Athletics Director Gregory Warren, it is understood at New Paltz that academics always come first. "Our philosophy is to teach students the importance of academics in conjunction with their hard work and dedication to athletic competition," he said, adding that the student-athletes represent the school community with enthusiasm and pride. "They are outstanding role models. Their performance in the classroom, as well as the field of competition, is something we are all proud of in New Paltz."

#### FALL VARSITY SCHOLAR TEAMS Overall GPA: 92.68

- Boys Cross Country: 93.22
- Girls Cross Country: 97.20
- Boys Golf: 92.23
- Girls Soccer: 94.59
- Girls Swim: 93.22
- Girls Tennis: 95.27
- Girls Volleyball: 93.45

#### WINTER VARSITY SCHOLAR TEAMS Overall GPA: 90.82

- Gymnastics: 91.72
- Boys Indoor Track and Field: 90.67
- Girls Indoor Track and Field: 92.74
- Boys Nordic Ski: 91.08
- Girls Nordic Ski: 94.87
- Wrestling: 90.85



#### **Creative Remote Learning at the Middle School**

that a 'failure' of an idea is not the end, but instead an opportunity to 'fail forward' and learn from a mistake to improve their idea," said Pachomski.



Pizzarello and biology teacher

Bryan Krebs combined their disciplines to create the Earth Seed Challenge. Science students investigated flowering plants and shared their findings via a Google Slideshow. After students gathered flowers and watched a virtual lesson, they dissected the flowers to learn about the different parts. The art students were asked to find and observe flowers and flowering plants, and make detailed pieces of art.

Social Studies teacher Jennifer Hicks wanted her students to experience first-hand the impact one person can make. Activities for this project included researching historical figures and current events that highlighted the power of one, and playing virtual games that went along with the theme by providing food

to those in need. Lastly, they created a poster, poem, or letter addressed to their future selves, reminding and

inspiring themselves of the power of one.



priorities.





classes and later submitted drawings and ideas about what

Grade 8 students collaborated with freelance illustrator and professional mural artist Joe Pimentel to create an uplifting

kaleidoscopic tribute that colorfully conveys the school's cultural

Students discussed themes of inclusivity in their Social Studies

Monolithic Mural Memorializes School Morals

crowning the Shawangunk Ridge, the sea of sunflowers that grow annually on Route 299, the face of a red-tailed hawk, and the symbolic image of two silhouetted figures helping each other climb to a summit. Additional themes of LGBTQ awareness, anti-racism, global peace, and environmentalism are recognizable throughout the piece.

Pimentel referred to the colorful composition as offering hope and inspiration. "The students had the opportunity to experience the benefits of teamwork, the empowerment of leaving their mark, and the satisfaction of conveying a powerful message that brought them all together," he said.

Middle School Assistant Principal Daniel Glenn said the Grade 8 students were excited to

participate in the mural design from the beginning stages until its completion. "While painting the mural, students expressed how much they enjoyed the experience and how relaxing it was to them," he noted. "With each delicate stroke of the paint brush, they watched the mural come 'alive.' After the mural was completed, everyone felt it enhanced the appearance of the entry and exit points of our school."

## **Middle School Staff Shine Bright**

he New Paltz Central School District is dedicated to providing students the highest quality education possible. New Paltz Middle School is proud to fill its classrooms and offices with top-notch staff who are passionate about educating as well as learning. We are so pleased to highlight some of our staff members' impressive achievements!



orld Languages teacher Mary W Holmes has been recognized as a Distinguished Teacher of the Year!

"Teaching World Languages is a particular joy," she said. "I want my students to feel comfortable enough in their language skills to try and use their new language with different people. I try to design my classes to help students build that confidence."

"Her classroom is like a full immersion language experience," said Sheldon. "We are so proud to have someone who is recognized at such a distinguished level to be teaching our students and working with our colleagues. We have students who go on from these earlier grade languages to earn their Seal of Biliteracy in High School, thanks to skilled language teachers like Mrs. Holmes



enny Denman and Nicole Sullivan both teach English and are now teaching it online with greater ease. They are both Google Level-1 Certified Educators, which means they have a greater proficiency in teaching with Google tools.

"I had done some previous professional development with Google

Apps, and acquiring this certification seemed like the natural next step," said Denman. Keeping up with educational technology trends has always been important to Sullivan, so she regularly seeks professional development, especially now with the introduction of Chromebooks to Grade 8 this year. "I wanted to be sure my students and I were getting the most out of them," said Sullivan. "The Level-1 certification covered practical uses of most of the G-Suite applications, and has helped me to recognize ways that they can be used to meet various needs of students and teachers alike."

rade 6 teacher Laura Bryant is a fan of the yellow rectangle! She Gis a National Geographic Certified Educator. This professional development program builds educators' skills in generating classroom activities that are interdisciplinary and centered around real-world problems. Bryant said that as a result of participating in the certification program, she gained a new appreciation for



#### **Grade 6 Students Work** Martin Luther King Jr.'s **Messages Into Art**

rade 6 students at New Paltz Middle







■ rin Bush is a National Board Certified School Nurse. There are only 64 in New York and fewer than 5,000 in the entire country. The training involved more than 1,000 hours of direct clinical practice, passing a four-hour comprehensive exam covering topics specifically related to all school-aged children from 4-21 years of age, and

completing 75 hours of professional development within a five-year timeframe related to school nursing.

"I've always believed that providing the highest standard of care was an essential part of being a nurse," said Bush. "When choosing healthcare providers, I have always sought out board-certified clinicians, knowing that they had to achieve a higher level of education, training, and expertise to become board certified."

teaching students about the curriculum through multiple scales (local, regional, and global) and perspectives (spatial, cultural, political, economic, historical, ecological, or geological). Bryant explained, "By focusing on teaching through multiple scales and perspectives, I can help my students understand that the world's systems are interconnected and do not exist in separate silos."

6 Our staff are lifelong learners, and they made these achievements out of a

desire to take their passion for educating and learning to the next level. The students and the school community all benefit from their ambitions to bring even greater skills and knowledge of their field into the classroom. We are so very proud to have them here in our school. Thank you, and congratulations to all?? ~NPMS Principal Ann Sheldon



## New Paltz

### Meet the Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

ew Paltz High School is pleased to announce that Wells Willett has been named the 2020 valedictorian and Philip Ryan Kelso has been named this year's salutatorian.

Wells, the son of Julie **Denney and Scott Willett** of New Paltz, earned an impressive GPA of 101.2. He maintains a rigorous schedule of five Advanced Placement classes-

Macroeconomics, Comparative Government and Politics, Environmental Science, Language and Composition, and Physics. He is a member of the National Honor Society and served as captain of the Cross-County team and the Nordic Ski team, where he was Section champion. He also won the National Merit Scholarship competition. Outside of school, he is an avid cyclist, hiker, and participates in Triathlons.

Wells has been accepted to Dartmouth College, where he plans on completing a double major in Environmental Science and Mathematics.

Speaking of his valedictorian status, Wells says, "I am very grateful to my teachers, family, and friends."

Salutatorian Philip Ryan Kelso, who prefers to be called Ryan, is the son of Karen and Andrew Kelso of Lloyd. Ryan, who earned a GPA of 101.19, balances a full schedule of Advanced Placement classes, including Macroeconomics, Language and Composition, Statistics, Physics, and Comparative Government and Politics. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a finalist in



Salutatorian Ryan Kelso and Valedictorian Wells Willett

competitions. Ryan enjoys athletics, as well as music and theater. He is on the Varsity Cross-Country team and starred in the High School's production of The Secret Garden. He received a perfect score on his NYSSMA All-State piano and vocal solos. Additionally, he writes the crossword puzzles for the school newspaper, The Maroon. Outside of school, he volunteers and works at Elting Memorial Library in New Paltz. He has been accepted to Northeastern University but is still deciding where he will be continuing his education. He will major in Mathematics.

the National Merit

Ryan is the president

of the Mathletes, who

pionship this year. He

New York State Math

League (NYSML) state

competition and ranked

10th among the more

competed in DUSO

than 500 students who

also qualified for the

won the division cham-

Scholarship competition.

Like Wells, Ryan attributes his academic success to the support of his teachers, family members, and friends.

"I am so proud to be in the presence of two young people who have brought so much to our school and have so much to offer," said High School Principal Dr. Mario Fernández. "These students understood the opposition and understood the opportunities. From their very first day of elementary school until now, they have shown a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication."

# #MaroonPride

### Valedictorian Named Prestigious National Merit Scholarship Winner

New Paltz Valedictorian Wells Willett has won the 65th National Merit Scholarship Program competition, as one of the three New Paltz High School students who advanced as finalists in the prestigious academic competition. New Paltz Salutatorian Philip "Ryan" Kelso and classmate Jacob Weinstein were also in the running. The competition awards the nation's top students with more than \$31 million in scholarships.

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT, commonly known as the PSAT. Jacob, Wells, and Ryan qualified as finalists by achieving top scores among the entrants in New York State. New York State has the second-highest score cut-off in the nation.

NPHS Principal Dr. Mario Fernández expressed his pride. "On behalf of the New Paltz High School learning community, I want to recognize the hard work and dedication Jacob, Wells, and Ryan have demonstrated towards becoming National Merit Scholars. A special congratulations to Wells for this

#### New Paltz Among New York's Top Public **High Schools**

New Paltz High School (NPHS) is among the best high schools in New York State, according to *U.S. News & World* Report. According to this highly competitive list, New Paltz ranks 182nd in New York State, and is the highest among high schools in Ulster County.

Among the factors taken into account in New Paltz's ranking was the school's Advanced Placement (AP) participation rate, which is 61%, as well as its graduation rate (97%).

The U.S. News & World Report's "scorecard" for New Paltz also noted that mathematics proficiency among students stands at 87%, as does reading proficiency.

NPHS Principal Dr. Mario Fernández is pleased, but not surprised, by his school's placement on this prestigious list. "New Paltz High School continues to offer a rigorous program of studies which includes a robust selection of electives that provides our students with significant opportunities in the development of their self-identity and post-high school plans," he said. "Learning at a high level coupled to a caring and nurturing environment that welcomes all students are the keys to our success as a highachieving school."

To view New Paltz High School's "report card," visit https://bit.ly/2LotxS0

## Congrats to the Class of 2020

ats off to New Paltz High School's Seniors! The New Paltz Central School District is exceedingly proud of you. Carry the lessons you have learned this year about the importance of community, compassion, and resilience with you. We will always be connected by our shared experiences, no matter where we are. We hope you tap that connection for love and support when you need it. We will be here, cheering you on!

Abramson, Madeline Ackhart, Cody Adams, Judith Molly Michele Aguilera, Yesenya Soluna Adams, Judith Molly Michele Almonte, Leydy Estefani Merejo Alvarez, Antonio Andres Arnold, Ryan Ashton, Samuel James Aube, Luke Aube, Thomas J. Avramis, Brandon Ayala, Joseph Patrick Barrese, Erik Baxter, Maryann Becker, Shawn Robert Bendell, Rebecca Bennett, Kate Bonagura, Mena Bongiorno, Jesse Caroline Bonilla, Bany Omar Boyle, Matthew Branco, Kyle Brendli, Maya Lisa Brenner, Hannah Bruck, Taylor Lauren Burda, Madison Byers, Elizabeth Caal Sub, Edwin Nelson Cammann, Jamishay Sori Cangieter-Gumbs, Grayson Casa, Nicholas Castellanos, Elan Chamas, Celina Cherry, Benjamin James Clasby, Orla R. Clement, Malik Cook, April Cook, Jorden Cramer, Sierra Madison Crocco, Elliot Jason Crocitto, Gabriel Cronin, Daegan Cuppett, Aidan Decker, Emma Defino, Griffin Desmery, Jude

Gibson, Mitchell Oean Gingold, Isabelle Ginn, Bailey Marie Giuliani, Caroline Gold, Chloe Goldleaf, Griffin Kiel Gorney, Alina Madeline Gose, Elijah Jude Grazioso, Zackary James Greenfield, Naomi Guardino, Sunshine Elizabeth Guido, Giovanni Gutierrez, Mateo Thomas Halbijohn, Tia Jeanicea Harding, Jason Hariram, Prithviraj Haughton, Emilus Hawkins, Ngaio Heenan, Jacob F. Hemminger, Keaton Layne Hermes, Gia Therese Hernandez, Julian Noah Hoffmann, Aidan Joseph Holod, Meredith Hui Hulbert, Caitlin May Indelicato, Anthony Vernon Jacone, Julian Kelton Johnson, Tyquan S. Kazan, Matthew Benj Keeney, Korrina-Marie Kelso, Philip Ryan Kern, Hunter Fulton Kniffen, Jake Konieczny, Anna A. Kulleseid, Gareth Jan Lawrence-Paine, William Vaughan Lemek, Abigail Elizabeth Levitz, Alexi Sarah Lewis, Zoe Mae Loughran, Megan Rose Maguire, Shelby Grace Maietta, Madeleine Samantha Lu Margueno, Jesus Alberto Martinez, Kevin Eduardo Martinez, Sharai Mast, Kyle J. Mazur, Lily June McCoy, McCala McGarvey, Deena Barbara McKnight, Mea Mejia, Yaritssa Melendez, Melissa Mercogliano, Lily Messina, Michael Alexander Metzger, Kevin Patrick Meyer, Natalie Bea Michael, Logan John Milhaven, John William Mize, Wesley Foster Moran, Areli Morgiewicz, Adelaine Mosbacher, Layla Hope Murphy, Patrick Musso, Zachary Andrew Ness, Shawn Miles Nicoletti, Grace Isabella O'Hara, Ashlyn Eve

Oehler-Marx, Sage C. Olejniczak, Camrine Steven Oukili, Amina Palmeri, Joseph Dominick Pardee, Olliah Patel, Jay Paul-LaRonca, Callie Frances Pisciotta, Isabella Puleo, Nicholas Ragmac, Carl John Gustilo Raji, Peace Oluwatomilola Abuja Ramaty, Phoebe Alexandra Reynolds, Jackson **Rober, Daniel Paul** Rodriguez Murcia, Carlos Sebastian Rodriguez, Ariana Tierra Romero, Selena Ronk, Miranda Nicole Rusillon, Azalea Bartley Rust, Christina Samuels, Cailey A. Santiago, Gadiel Antonio Saracino, Theodore Samual Williams Sarubbi, Ava Rocelia Sarvis, Paige Schmeltz, Avani Jade Sennett, Aedan Tara Shands, Eliza Sherwood, John Bradley Shipe, Elaina Shook, Wesley Alexander Smith, Anthony Smith, Ethernan P. Snyder, Adam **Snyder, Vincent Thomas** Soumah, Mohamed St. John, Amelia Lee Steinback, Sean Stevens, Anthony Javani Stryker, Emily Liliya Stutzman, Cormac Gallagher Swift, Michaela Tahsin, Mahmuda Tanzi, Jovonna ten Broeke, Oliver W. Thomas, Eric James Thomas, Matthew Thomas-Markarian, Jaden E. Thompson, Lauren Antonia Trapani-Banyra, Angelina Trifilo, Evan Turner, Tyrese Varriano, Francesca Minou Veeder, Keegan L. Verderosa, Amelia Jade Vos, Samantha Wayne, Ethan Christian Weinstein, Jacob Nathaniel White, Rayna Skye Wiedenkeller, Abraham David Willett, Wells Sky Witte, Grace Mae Wong-Pan, Emily Woodward, Tori Wyns, Levi Lashaun Zoksang, Tsering Ella

#### New Paltz High School Artist Earns National Recognition



New Paltz High School artist Dylan Keessen, a sophomore, has won a silver medal on the national level in the 2020 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. Dylan was recognized for a portrait he drew of the Queen of Spades.

Dylan was also one of ten New Paltz High School art students who received honors from the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers and were named 2020 Regional Scholastic Art Award Medalists earlier this year.

The New Paltz artists who took home coveted gold and silver medals in the regional competition, which included students from Dutchess, Ulster, and Sullivan counties, were Grade 12 students Pilar Duvivier (two gold, one silver), Gia Hermes (one gold, two silver), and Shelby Maguire (two gold, two silver); Grade 11 students Emma Bakker (three gold, one silver), Eliza Behrke (one gold, one silver), Madison Harp

(silver), Garrett Toman (gold), and Lake Willett (silver); and Grade 10 students Dylan Keessen (one gold, one silver) and Dexter Thompson (gold).

Since 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have celebrated the talent of creative teens, including artists and writers, filmmakers and photographers, poets and sculptors, video game artists, and science fiction writers.

New Paltz High School art teacher Laurene Pountain encourages students every year to submit works for the prestigious competition. This year, 25 young artists answered the call, submitting more than 102 works of art. Pountain, a District teacher for 20 years, has seen several students go to national competitions, including Dylan. "Dylan is a very talented art student," she said. "I am impressed by his focus and speed when working."

DiMarco, Anthony Dippel, Hailey Dixon, John Dorman, Julian Duvivier, Pilar C. Edwards, Brandon Erazo, Alexis Melinda Fanelli, Nicholas John Fantini, Daniel Emerson Ferland, Henry Moses Feshold, Ethan Finch, Abbigayle Elise Fischzang, Lilah Blue Forte, Angelina Franks, Ella Skye Cutler Coupe Fusco, Marco Gerber, Alana Jane Ghule, Surya Giancola, Jordan

Dickerson, Evan