

April 19, 2023

Dear Friends of the New Paltz Central School District,

The third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year ended last Friday. Spring break is behind us as well. A lot has happened this year at the NPCSD and there is still a lot of action ahead of us before the year ends. Therefore, I thought it was time for a quick update on how things are going:

Great News About Pre-Kindergarten

This year we have one Pre-K classroom that houses 16 students. Many students were unable to attend Pre-K at the NPCSD this year because we only had one class. In an effort to solve this problem, the district sought out bids from community organizations who would be willing to run Pre-K classrooms using monies from our Universal Pre-K grant. We are very happy to announce that at last night's school board meeting the school board approved a proposal from Healthy Kids Programs (<https://www.healthykidsprograms.com/>) to run three additional Pre-K classrooms in Duzine next school year. Having four Pre-K classrooms will allow us to accept any student who wants to go to Pre-K next year. In addition, Healthy Kids will run before and after school programs for Pre-K and Kindergarten students next year. We are very excited that we will be able to meet the needs of all of our Pre-K students. Stay tuned for additional information about a Pre-Kindergarten information night. It will be a good place to get all of your questions answered.

The Budget

The school board has adopted a \$71,428,660 budget for the 2023-2024 school year. This represents a 3.5 % increase in spending over 2022-2023. Qualified community members will have the opportunity to vote on the budget on May 16 between 7 am and 9 pm in the high school gymnasium.

Vacant School Board Seats

We have two vacant board seats that will need to be voted on during the budget vote on May 16th. We have four candidates running for these two positions. The names of these four individuals were placed in a hat and they were drawn out randomly to determine the order in which they will appear on the ballot. The four candidates (in the designated order) are Heather Kort, Jason Clark, Liz Bonhag, and Joseph Londa.

Social Media and Drug Awareness Presentation

Being a parent, especially one with a Middle School or High School child, can be very difficult. We want to assist parents as they help their children navigate their teenage years. To this end, the Middle School will be hosting a Social Media and Drug Awareness Presentation on Thursday, April 20th from 6 pm – 8 pm in the Middle School

Auditorium. Trooper Anca Watt will be speaking on successfully navigating social media. Representatives from the Ulster Prevention Council will be giving parents information on drug awareness. We invite all interested parents to attend. This event is not open to students.

All Gender Bathrooms in the MS and HS

At NPCSD we believe in making our school a place of acceptance for all individuals. One fact that I wanted to share with you that you might want to share with your student is that we have single occupancy all gender bathrooms in both buildings. In the high school we have one all gender bathroom upstairs and one downstairs. Private locations can also be accessed in the high school nurse's office. In the middle school there are six all gender bathrooms.

Students who have questions about the location or the use of these bathrooms should contact a school counselor, nurse, social worker, or administrator for more information.

There is a lot going on

It would be hard for me to list all of the cool things going on at NPCSD. Spring sports are in full gear. Spring concerts are coming up. Classes are going on field trips. Even end of the year activities are starting to be scheduled.

Rather than try to make a list and leave something out, I encourage you to check us out on social media. Our webpage can be found at <https://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/>. You can access our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NewPaltzCentralSchoolDistrict>. You can also search for the New Paltz Central School District on our new Instagram page. We work hard to keep these social media platforms up to date and we encourage you to take advantage of them.

I hope this brief update has been helpful to you. As always, please reach out to us if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Best Wishes,

Stephen Gratto
Superintendent
New Paltz Central School District
196 Main St.
New Paltz, NY 12561
845-256-4020
845-256-4020