



May
2019

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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For the complete District
calendar, schedule of
upcoming events and more
District news



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MISSION: "Through combined efforts of students, staff, parents, and community members, our mission is to foster the confidence, knowledge, cognition, and character necessary to instill a strong work ethic, to create an environment of tolerance and respect, and to ignite an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning that will enable students to become productive, responsible citizens."

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians, and School Community Members;

A challenge for any school district, regardless of size, is to provide the very best educational program for its students within the means of the local taxpayers and state aid. The 2019-2020 New York Mills Union Free School District budget reflects this responsibility. In addition, under the leadership of the Board of Education, and with careful day-to-day financial management, the financial health of this district remains strong. Much like last year (and potentially the foreseeable future), school districts in our county, region and state continue to combat economic and fiscal variables that challenge us to make difficult decisions as we annually review our budget scenario. Our mindset is always to develop a budget that supports viable and vibrant programming for our children and remains fiscally responsible to our tax payers. We have developed the 2019-2020 budget keeping these two factors in focus. Despite the challenges of the budget season, we are particularly proud that we continue to build upon student programming offerings and opportunities such as an elementary teacher focused on enrichment and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), as well as increased dual credit offerings at the secondary level.

upgrades such as a blue light warning system, and potential upgrades that could include cameras and new door hardware. The revenue proposed in this budget, coupled with the work that the Board of Education and District completed through the budget building process, allows us to propose a consistent, responsible balanced school budget for the 2019-2020 school year.

A public hearing will be held in the Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7. The annual budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at Beekman Gym. The polls will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The May 21 vote at Beekman Gym includes the 2019-2020 school budget and the election of two members to the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education. After a challenging budget season, we should all be very proud that we can continue to provide outstanding opportunities and viable curricula to our students at NY Mills. Thank you for your continued support of our district and our students.

Respectfully,

Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Our proposed 2019-2020 school budget is \$14,648,265. The budget proposal translates to an increase of 2.25% to the tax levy, which increases our revenue by \$171,692. We are pleased that we were able to stay under the NYS tax cap limit again this year. This budget also includes a capital outlay project specific to safety

BOE Candidates

There are **two** (2) seats open for the school board.
There are **two** (2) 5-year vacancies (2019-2024):

Steven King Kimberly Gyore Scott Carman



Please vote on the school budget and Board of Education member election on **Tuesday, May 21, 2019**, in the Beekman Gym.

Budget Components

Administrative Component

The administrative component consists of overall management activities including board of education, superintendent's office, business office operations such as central data processing, payroll, purchasing, BOCES administrative expenses, insurance, printing, mailing, personnel, legal and auditing services, and building administrative costs.

Function or Account	Budget 2018-19	Proposed 2019-20	Difference
Board of Education	\$25,250	\$26,950	\$1,700
Central Administration	\$169,001	\$194,390	\$25,389
Finance	\$153,017	\$180,698	\$27,681
Legal Services	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$30,000
Personnel	\$57,312	\$54,285	\$(3,027)
Records Management	\$5,069	\$5,289	\$220
Public Information	\$0	\$12,234	\$12,234
Other Central Services	\$258,737	\$167,240	\$(91,497)
Other Special Items	\$195,535	\$193,381	\$(2,154)
Curr. Dev. & Sup.	\$138,433	\$151,772	\$13,339
Supervision - Regular Sch.	\$265,780	\$280,071	\$14,291
Employee Benefits	\$251,389	\$265,333	\$13,944
Total	\$1,529,523	\$1,571,643	\$42,120

**Administrative
Component
is 10.73%
of Budget**

Program Component

The program component consists of funding the instruction of and educational support services for the district's 570 students. Transportation of students, athletics, and co-curricular activities are also included in this budget component.

Function or Account	2018-19	2019-20	Difference
Legal Services	\$30,000	-	\$(30,000)
Instruction	\$6,838,441	\$7,458,427	\$619,986
Other Dist. Transportation	\$398,661	\$459,699	\$61,038
Garage Building	\$52,169	\$52,813	\$644
Employee Benefits	\$2,702,440	\$2,790,663	\$88,223
Other Transfers	\$9,500	\$9,500	-
Total	\$10,031,211	\$10,771,102	\$739,891

**Program
Component
is 73.53% of
Budget**

Capital Component

The capital component consists of maintenance of buildings, upkeep of grounds, and electricity, heat, water & sewer, and telephone services. Funds are also included for the lease of school buses, payments on the capital project, and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

Function or Account	2018-19	2019-20	Difference
Operation of Plant	\$487,162	\$434,835	\$(52,327)
Maintenance of Plant	\$285,363	\$365,991	\$80,628
Refund of Taxes	\$10,000	\$10,000	-
Lease of Buses/Purchase	\$298,140	\$175,782	\$(122,358)
Employee Benefits	\$188,542	\$190,999	\$2,457
Debt Service	\$1,049,094	\$1,027,913	\$(21,181)
Transfer to Capital	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Total	\$2,318,301	\$2,305,520	\$(12,781)

**Capital
Component
is 15.74%
of Budget**

Total Budget	\$13,879,035	\$14,648,265	\$769,230
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**Total Budget
Increase
5.54%**



Budget Notice

THIS NOTICE IS MANDATED BY NEW YORK STATE New York Mills Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$13,879,035	\$14,648,265	\$14,349,483
Increase/decrease for 2019-2020 school year		\$769,230	\$470,448
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		5.54%	3.39%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$7,630,798	\$7,802,490	
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)	\$7,630,798	\$7,802,490	\$7,630,798
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$358,031	\$144,250	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,407,106	\$7,694,312	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,272,767	\$7,658,240	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$134,339	\$36,072	
Administrative component	\$1,529,523	\$1,571,643	\$1,571,643
Program component	\$10,031,211	\$10,771,102	\$10,748,102
Capital component	\$2,318,301	\$2,305,520	\$2,029,738

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)	Description	Amount

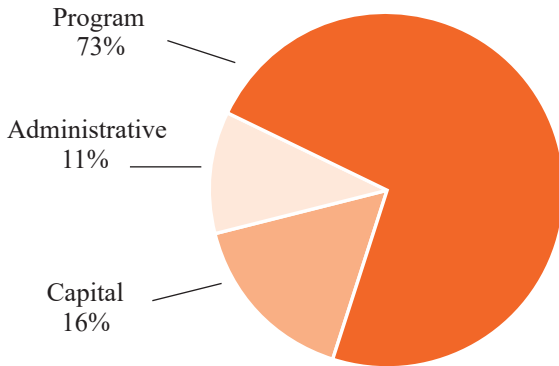
	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$658

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the New York Mills Union Free School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Beekman Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. prevailing time OR between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Beekman Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

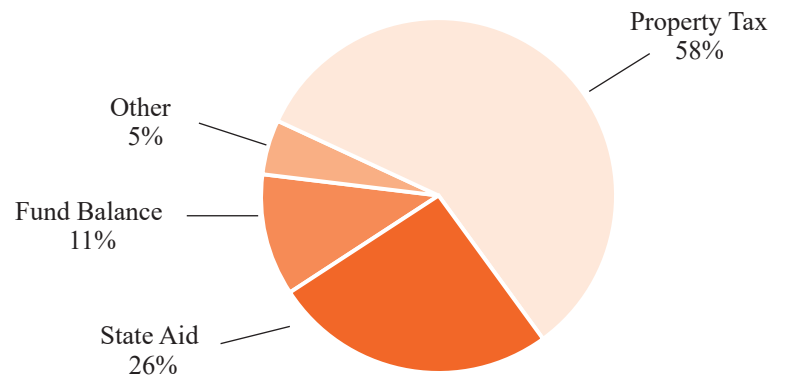
¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



Expenditures



Revenues



Budget Propositions

PROPOSITION 1 - RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$14,648,265 as a general fund appropriation for the 2019-2020 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

Tax on True

The tax on true value for the district in 2019-20 will be approximately \$21.14.

Tax Levy Increase

The tax levy increase for 2019-20 is projected to be 2.25%.

Note: Rates are estimated based on current information available. Final equalization rates will not be set by the State of New York until August. In the two previous years, the final tax on true was actually lower than projected at the time of budget development.

Absentee Ballots

Ballot Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk on or before May 8, 2019, if the ballot is to be delivered by mail, or on or before May 14, 2019, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voters. Absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the date of the election, May 21, 2019.

Voter Eligibility Requirements

A voter must meet the following eligibility requirements to vote in school elections:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have been a resident of the school district for a minimum of 30 days prior to the vote, including those who rent. Section 2018-C of the Education Law may require all persons who vote to provide one form of identification or proof of residency.
- Be at least 18 years of age.

Impressive Second Place Finish for NYM's Battle of The Books Club

In February, our Battle of the Books Club met to compete in our "Local Battle". Students "buzzed in" to answer questions based on direct quotes from 20 books. Correct answers consisted of the title of the book from which the quote came, and the author of that book.

Mrs. Howe, our library media specialist and club advisor, is very proud of all of the club members for their hard work and dedication. They had been reading and preparing for competition on the 20 books since September.

Congratulations to Jaden Roback, Zachary Matyjas, Selen Bilal, and Heidi Cilbrith for being the winning team in our "Local Battle". These four students went on to represent New York Mills in our debut at the Middle School Regional Battle of the Books Competition on March 19 at Hamilton College. Our young team of sixth graders competed fiercely against teams of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from Clinton, Dolgeville, Holland Patent, Little Falls, Mt. Markham, and Waterville School Districts. They had an impressive second place finish in a very competitive final battle against Holland Patent. Congratulations!



BOE Candidate Personal Statements

Steven King

Steve King is running for reelection to his second term on the New York Mills Board of Education. He has served 17 years as a PTSO officer (Treasurer and Palmentarian), and 15 years as the president of the Music, Arts and Drama Boosters. He also served as an officer of the School Foundation, sat on the District Steering Committee, several Building Project Committees, and pretty much any school committee that he was able to. In 2014 he successfully ran for the Board of Education. Since his election, he has gone to countless hours of training with both the New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA) and the Oneida, Madison, Herkimer School Board Association (OMHSBA). He has represented the Board of Education and the District as a NYSSBA voting delegate for the past four years and on the OMHSBA Executive Committee for the past two years, where he sits on the programing committee. Steve has served on the Boards Policy Committee, the Community Relations Committee, the Finance Committee and is currently the Board of Education Vice President.



Steven King

Steve lives in New York Mills with his wife of 37 years Roberta A. (Bobbi) King. His two daughters graduated from the New York Mills Union Free School District; Jennifer (class of 2000) and Kristie (class of 2008).

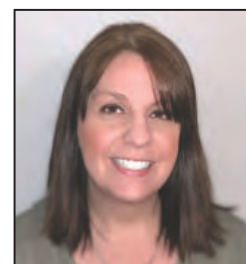
Steve asks for your vote. He's here for our students, here for our district and here for you.

Kimberly Gyore

My name is Kimberly Cirusuolo Gyore and I am running for the New York Mills School Board to help uphold our beliefs as a district. My two daughters, Alexis and Mia, currently attend my Alma Matter. New York Mills is where I met my husband Bryan and began a lifetime commitment to this district.

Not only did I graduate from New York Mills, but my siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, and a plethora of extended family have also attended. Each and every one of my immediate family members and I have remained in this district since graduation and remain loyal to our "stomping grounds."

I am presently employed as a pre-school teacher at St. Paul's in Whitesboro where I have worked for 19 years; thus, I have been fortunate enough to help matriculate students to New York Mills Elementary. Similarly, I strive to volunteer at various fundraisers within the area to increase the overall morale of our family-like communities.



Kimberly Gyore

There are a surplus of reasons that have culminated into my interest in running for the New York Mills' school board. Among the list of crucial targets, keeping our district's taxes under control is at the top. Similarly, I strongly care about our children's safety, security, and protection. Varying areas of interest are as follows: making sure that our children's voices are heard and considered, anti-bullying measures and bullying prevention, and protecting our close-knit community together and thriving.

At the end of the day, thank you for considering me for this position. I know that New York Mills has a legacy to protect, and I believe that, if elected, I would be the youngest current board member, putting me in the perfect position to fight for you, for our children, for our community, and most importantly for unity.

Scott Carman

My family and I have been residents of New York Mills for the past 13 years. We have two children who currently attend New York Mills School; Kaitlyn is currently a Senior and Kaileigh is a Freshman.

I have been employed as a Network Administrator at the Mohawk Regional Information Center over the past 15 years. Also, I am the owner of Scotty's DJ Service. I have a Bachelor's degree in Business Public Management from SUNY IT (SUNY Poly) in 1995 and also earned an Associate's degree in Business Administration from SUNY Canton in 1991.



Scott Carman

I have made the decision to run for the New York Mills School Board based on my desire to bring positive changes to the district. I will do my best to address any concerns that are brought to my attention. I have volunteered countless hours over the years for many events and activities that have taken place within the district. Some of these include elementary school dances, elementary fun nights, class fundraisers, and volunteering in some capacity at the New York Mills Craft Fair since 2006. I have also been an active member of the New York Mills PTSO since 2006 and have been an officer on the PTSO over the past years.



Optimist Students of the Month

Nicholas Despins has been named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for January 2019. Nicholas is a senior at New York Mills Jr./Sr. High School and the son of Brian and Kate Despins of New York Mills.

Nicholas has been on high honor roll consistently throughout high school and was selected as Student of the Month every year since middle school. He has been inducted into our National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society. As a junior, Nick was accepted into the Clarkson School, which would have allowed him early admission into the college while completing his senior year.



Nicholas Despins

Nicholas excels in running. Last year, Nick successfully campaigned for an indoor track team. In addition to that team, he has been a member of our cross country and track teams since 7th grade. His accolades in these sports are numerous: Scholar-athlete in cross country and track; Cross country Center State Conference All-Star and Most Outstanding Performer; Track Outstanding Boy Scholar Athlete Award and CSC Triple Jump Champion; Indoor Track 4x400 Section 3 Champion. Nick has also placed in the top 3 for his age group for multiple years in the Falling Leaves Road Race. His other activities include JV Basketball in 9th and 10th grades, for which he was captain, Yearbook Club president. Nick has volunteered many hours to various events and fundraisers throughout the community. Some of these are the PTSO craft fair, the Boilermaker Road Race, golf tournaments, walks, Olympic Day and numerous other school meets.

Nicholas plans to pursue a career in engineering and has been accepted to Clarkson University, Elmira College, Niagara College, RPI, RIT, SUNY Buffalo, The College of Saint Rose and Tulane University.

McKenzie Keator, a senior at New York Mills Jr/Sr High School, has been selected as the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for February 2019. McKenzie is the daughter of Carrie Keator of New York Mills and Sim Williams of Utica.

McKenzie has earned a spot on Honor Roll each quarter of high school and has been named Student of the Month. She was inducted into National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society, for which she currently coordinated the mentoring program. As a junior, McKenzie was awarded a scholarship for the Sage Colleges.



McKenzie Keator

McKenzie was elected Student Council Executive President for the past two years and was her class president in 9th and 10th grade. Through these positions, McKenzie has worked diligently for the betterment of our school. She has attended various leadership conferences and as a junior was granted the Leadership of Excellence award at one of the events. Other activities include the Drama Club, for which she has had roles on stage and on the stage crew, yearbook club, prom committee and chorus. She also spent numerous hours tutoring elementary students. McKenzie has also been a member of many sports teams including modified and varsity field hockey and softball, modified, junior varsity and varsity basketball, and AAU basketball. McKenzie has been captain of each of these school teams. In addition to the time she has spent through her leadership positions, she has also volunteered for events and fundraisers throughout the area, including the PTSO Craft Fair, the elementary drama club and dances and fall clean-up.

McKenzie plans to become an elementary teacher and has been accepted to SUNY Brockport, Oneonta, Cortland and Oswego. She is excited to attend Oneonta in the fall.

The Optimist Club of New York Mills has named **Angela Chen**, a senior at New York Mills Jr./Sr. High School, as the Youth of the Month for March 2019. Angela is the daughter of Tony Chen and Ai Xiang Lin of New York Mills.

Angela has consistently been named to high honor roll throughout high school and has been named Student of the Month each year since middle school. She has been inducted as a member in our chapters of the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society and currently is the NHS treasurer and tutoring coordinator. As a junior, she was awarded scholarships to RPI, RIT and the University of Rochester.



Angela Chen

As a junior and a senior, Angela has been her class secretary, a member of the debate club and a participant in our newspaper club, for which she is now president. Previously, she spent a number of hours tutoring an underclassman in Spanish, attended Colgate Seminar and was a member of our chorus. Angela has been a member of our JV and Varsity volleyball and field hockey teams for four years and the track and field team for three years. She served as captain of the volleyball team during her senior year. In addition, Angela has volunteered her time to a number of organizations including the PTSO and the American Red Cross. She has also worked part-time at her family's restaurant and at a local retail store.

Angela wishes to pursue a career as a physician. Through the Regional Program for Excellence she is participating in an internship with an OB/GYN at a women's health center. She has been accepted to the University of Rochester, RIT, SUNY at Buffalo, Colgate University, Lehigh University and RPI.



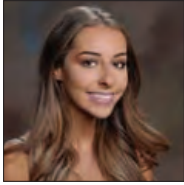
School News

Grades 7-11 Students of the Month

Students are chosen using the following criteria:

1. Academic effort
2. Positive attitude
3. Respectful behavior
4. School involvement
5. Community involvement

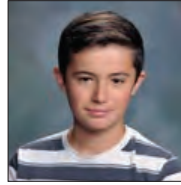
January 2019



**Olivia
Achen-Tebsherany**
Grade 11



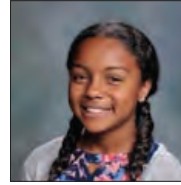
Victor Lee
Grade 10



Joseph Odarchuk
Grade 9



Kamryn Williams
Grade 8

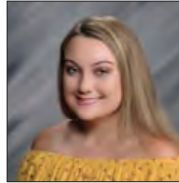


Alivia Rizzo
Grade 7

February 2019



Ethan Pavlus
Grade 11



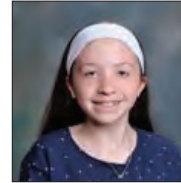
Jillian Ryan
Grade 10



Danil Donchuk
Grade 9



Mason Palmer
Grade 8



Emily Pavlus
Grade 7

March 2019



Robert Murray
Grade 11



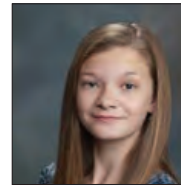
Judy Chen
Grade 10



James Treen
Grade 9



Julie Roberts
Grade 8



Samantha Jordan
Grade 7

The Little Mermaid

On March 22 and 23 the drama club presented the musical *The Little Mermaid*. After months of hard work, the students here at New York Mills entertained the community with two nights of packed houses. The musical was a huge success thanks to the help of the entire community. Thank you to everyone for your support and for filling the school with the joy of music!



Music News All-County

On March 15 and 16, five of our New York Mills 7th-9th graders were selected by audition to be members of Junior High All-County. Hundreds of students auditioned and five of our students were selected to be members of the choir and band. Congratulations to Ariellah Bova, Torie Bullen, Julie Roberts and Ethan Hurst who performed as members of the 2019 Oneida County Junior High All-County choir and Hailey Mahardy who was a member of the All-County Band.

On April 5 and 6, the New York Mills elementary school musicians were selected to be members of the Elementary All-County. Congratulations go to Alexa Grande, Rose Jeff, and Chelsy Plows who represented our school in the chorus and Zachary Matyjas and Abigail Pavlus who represented our school in the band.

On March 29, members of the band and chorus were able to attend "Industrial Rhythms" at Whitesboro High School. "Industrial Rhythms" is a drumming group out of New York City. The students enjoyed an evening of drumming, with group participation, dancing and music. This was an event the students will never forget.





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Board of Education

Jacqueline Edwards, *President*
Steve King, *Vice President*
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Kristin Hubley
Michelle Jordan
Dr. Gary W. Porcelli
Janet Wroblecki

Administration

Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, Superintendent of Schools
Mary Facci, K-12 Executive Principal
Brent Dodge, K-12 Principal

Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>



Technology Club

On March 28, Mr. Eramo and the Technology Club represented New York Mills in a celebration showcasing education in our region to area board of education members, administrators, and the Commissioner of Education.

Upcoming Free Music Concerts

Thursday, May 16 **7-12 Band and Chorus Concert, 7p.m.**

Tuesday, May 21 **K-3 Concert, 7 p.m.**

Thursday, May 30 **Elementary Band and Chorus Spring Concert, 7 p.m.**