

Learning at...



BUDGET 2024

# Wallkill

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Wallkill High School Names Valedictorian and Salutatorian for Class of 2024

**WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (WSHS) IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT ANDIE PSILOPOULOS IS VALEDICTORIAN AND TREVOR STRANO IS SALUTATORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2024.** These students have not only excelled in their academic pursuits, but have also made outstanding contributions through community endeavors and extracurricular activities.

WSHS Principal Brian Masopust has high praise for both students. "Andie is naturally gifted in both academics and athletics. But perhaps what is most impressive about Andie is her drive, discipline, competitiveness, and will to succeed," he said. "Trevor," he added, "excels in academics, athletics, and music and has made giving back to his school community a priority. His future is bright, and he will succeed in anything that he dedicates himself to."

Andie, the daughter of Karen and Kris Psilopoulos of Gardiner, leads her class with a 101.43 grade point average (GPA). Taking honors, advanced placement (AP), and college-level classes, she has received academic excellence awards in Math, Social Studies, Foreign Language, and Health. She has served her classmates as the vice president of National Honor Society, treasurer of Spanish Honor Society, and secretary for the Class of 2024.

Beyond the classroom, Andie has been a leader as well, being named captain of the Varsity Swimming,

Nordic Ski, and Track teams. She is a two-time Section IX Champion for Nordic Skiing, earning league champion status for Swimming and Track. "I am grateful to my coaches, especially Nordic Ski Coach Nick Mancuso, for pushing me outside my comfort zone and never accepting less than 100%," she said. This work ethic helped earn Andie the title of All-American triathlete at the World Triathlon Championships in Germany, where she competed for Team USA last summer.

In addition to crediting her parents for helping her to

become the person she is today, Andie is grateful to the many educators at WSHS who pushed her to be the best version of herself, including AP Calculus teacher Stephanie Barnes, Algebra II teacher Kimberly Earl, and AP U.S. History teacher Margaret Pelosa.

This fall Andie plans to study biology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where she will also compete on the school's Division I Triathlon team. Andie hopes to attend medical school and to one day become a medical examiner.



*(Left to right) Salutatorian Trevor Strano and Valedictorian Andie Psilopoulos.*

Salutatorian Trevor Strano, a resident of Wallkill, has kept busy during his time at WSHS, earning a 101.39 GPA while taking AP, college-level, and honors classes. Trevor received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and has also achieved distinction playing the clarinet, competing on the golf course, and serving as a leader in the Science

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# VOTE

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024**  
**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School,  
Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School

*Budget  
Details  
Inside*

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Club. Trevor calls his parents, Michael and Kimberly Strano, and siblings Michael and Hannah, his biggest supporters.

Trevor has fond memories of playing clarinet in school concerts and caroling through the halls of the High School. His eight-plus years of music lessons have, he said, taught him the value of effort and persistence. This hard work helped him achieve chairs in the All-County and Area All-State Bands. He is thankful to his Band teachers, Grade 8 Band teacher Adam Kuliszewski, and WSHS Band teacher Ashley Contzius, along with his private music instructor, Sonia Nosovsky.

Golfing has also taught Trevor important life lessons. A member of the Varsity Golf team since Grade 7, Trevor was named captain in Grade 11 and has earned medals in the Metropolitan Junior PGA and U.S. Kids Golf tournaments. "Golfing," he said, "has taught me to think positively when faced with hardships." He is grateful to Golf Coach and Athletic Director William Earl and Coach Andy Crane, as well as his employer and Turtle Creek Golf Course owner Jennifer Salemo, for all they have

done to support him.

The Wallkill Science Club is a more recent pursuit. Trevor joined in Grade 10, serving as president last year. He has spearheaded several of the club's projects, including the remodeling of the WSHS courtyard and the planting of trees along the Wallkill River. He expresses his appreciation of Computer Coding/Physics teacher Samrat Pathania, who played a key role in the club's success. "I am thankful to him for molding the Science Club into a place where a diverse group of thinkers can come together to make real change in their community," Trevor said.

Trevor will be attending Yale University, where he plans to study Earth and Planetary Science with a specialization in Paleontology. He hopes to study the effects of abrupt climate change on ancient ecosystems, and to one day provide advice on efforts to address climate change. When considering his future, Trevor said, "I hold the lessons I have learned at Wallkill High School in my heart and plan to use them to change the world for the better."

## *Class of 2024 "Top Ten" Named at Wallkill Senior High School*

The Wallkill Central School District congratulates the Top 10 students in the Class of 2024 in order of grade point average (GPA).



Andie Psilopoulos



Trevor Strano



Justin Sprankle



Durward Entrekin III



Anthony Lease



Catherine O'Brien



Olivia Yankanin



John Canavan



Lauren Cambalik



Satara Stephenson

# A Message from the Superintendent

*Dear Wallkill Community,*

The Wallkill Central School District Board of Education and Administration have worked diligently over the past several months to prepare the proposed 2024-2025 school district budget. The District is proposing a 4.68% budget increase for the 2024-2025 school year that equates to a **2.47% tax levy increase (below the tax levy limit)**. As a result of the fiscal foresight of the Board of Education and Administration, our proposed 2024-2025 budget will result in a tax levy that is either at or below the limit for the 13th year in a row. In fact, this is the 4th year in a row that we are below the limit. Since the proposed tax levy is below the tax levy limit, the proposed budget will require a simple majority of voters for approval (50% +1) instead of a super majority for approval (60% or more).



The 2024-2025 proposed budget will maintain:

- ▶ All programs and extra-curricular activities for students
- ▶ All instructional and non-instructional positions
- ▶ The current structure of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program (84 slots)
- ▶ Low class sizes in grades K-12 to allow for enhanced learning opportunities (K-6 average class size of 20)
- ▶ Professional Development opportunities to support classroom instruction and student learning
- ▶ Support services to address the mental health and academic needs of our students
- ▶ Police officers in all five (5) buildings

In addition to the above, the budget includes an additional School Psychologist to meet the needs of our students with disabilities, as well as the increasing mental health needs of our students.

This issue of *Learning at Wallkill* provides the public with valuable information on District program highlights, the candidates who are running for the Board of Education, and the proposed 2024-2025 school district budget.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all District residents for your continued support of our students!

Stay Panther Strong!

Sincerely,



Kevin Castle, Superintendent of Schools

**ANNUAL BUDGET  
VOTE**  
& Election of Trustees

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024**  
**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School,  
Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School



# 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2024-2025 School District Budget

### What is the proposition to be voted on?

The proposition voters will cast a ballot for on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, will be:

**Proposition #1:** RESOLVED, that the proposed Wallkill Central School District budget for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$89,466,000 be approved and the Board of Education of said School District be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefore.

### Is the Wallkill Central School District's 2024-2025 tax levy within the limit?

Yes, the 2024-2025 tax levy is below the allowable limit by \$262,655; therefore, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval (50% + 1). The tax levy increase with permissible exemptions is 2.47%.

### What is the tax levy limit?

Essentially, it is an eight-step formula that each school district must use to calculate the tax levy limit. The result (the limit) is the maximum allowable tax levy (including permissible exemptions) that a school district can propose and would require only the approval of a simple majority of voter (50% + 1). Any proposed tax levy amount above the limit would require budget approval by a super majority (60% or more) of voters. For more information on the tax levy limit, please visit [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

### Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

No, the tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay toward the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another based on such things as equalization rates and total town assessed values.

### What strategies were used to have a tax levy within the tax cap?

1. Projected increase in State Aid
2. Lower health insurance renewal rates
3. Use of fund balance and reserves
4. Multi-year financial planning

### What is the percent increase of the proposed 2024-2025 budget when compared to the 2023-2024 budget?

The 2024-2025 budget increase is 4.68%.

### How much State Aid is the District projected to receive?

The District is projected to receive \$38,000,000 in State Aid in 2024-2025. In addition, the District continues to balance its budget with reserves and fund balance.

### What programs for students are included in the 2024-2025 budget?

1. Maintain programs and extra-curricular activities
2. Maintain all instructional/non-instructional positions
3. Maintain the current structure of the UPK program (84 slots)
4. Add one (1.0) FTE School Psychologist to address the needs of our students with disabilities and the increasing mental health needs of our students
5. Maintain low class sizes for K-12 to allow for enhanced learning opportunities (K-6 average class size of 20)
6. Professional Development opportunities to support classroom instruction and student learning
7. Maintain support services to address the mental health and academic needs of our students
8. The continued assignment of Police Officers in all five (5) school buildings

### What happens if voters reject the proposed budget?

If voters reject the proposed budget, the school district may put up a revised budget for a second vote or adopt a contingent budget.

# VOTE!

## TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

### ★ 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. ★

Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High School, Leptondale Elementary School, and Plattekill Elementary School

# 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

## What additional programs/positions will be reduced if the budget fails (contingent budget)?

- ▶ Reduction of seven (7) instructional positions resulting in larger class sizes and loss of programs for our students
- ▶ Reduction of one (1) school psychologist
- ▶ The UPK program
- ▶ All field trips (including Ashokan)
- ▶ All equipment (except for technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment necessary for health and safety purposes)
- ▶ Charges to community groups that result in identifiable costs for use of buildings

## What is included, as allowed by New York State Education Law, in a contingent budget?

A contingent budget will allow:

- ▶ All regular transportation to and from school at current levels of more than .6 miles and to private/parochial schools
- ▶ All legal obligations
- ▶ All health and safety repairs
- ▶ All expenses to maintain mandated educational programs
- ▶ All other budgeted items as determined by the Board of Education

## Who can vote on May 21, 2024?

Voters are eligible to vote if they are: (a) a U.S. Citizen; (b) at least 18 years of age; (c) a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to May 21, 2024; and (d) not otherwise ineligible to vote under Section 5-106 of the Election Law. Individuals do not need to be registered to vote. Please contact the District Clerk at 845-895-7101, or by email at [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) if you have any questions regarding how you may obtain an absentee or early mail voter ballot. Information on how an unregistered voter, who meets the definition of a qualified voter, may receive an absentee or early mail voter ballot is available at: [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

## Preguntas frecuentes sobre el presupuesto del distrito escolar 2024-2025

### ¿Quién puede votar, el 21 de mayo de 2024?

Los votantes son elegibles para votar si son: (a) Ciudadano de los Estados Unidos; (b) Por los menos 18 años de edad; (c) residente del distrito escolar 30 días antes del 21 de mayo de 2024; y (d) no ineligible para votar de acuerdo con sección 5-106 de la Ley Electoral. No necesitan estar registradas para votar. Comuníquese con la Secretaria del Distrito al 845-895-7101, o por correo electrónico a: [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a cómo puede obtener una boleta en ausencia o votante por correo temprano. La información sobre cómo un votante no registrado, que cumple con la definición de un votante calificado, puede recibir una boleta en ausencia o votante por correo temprano está disponible en: [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

Si necesita una versión en español de estas preguntas, vaya a nuestro website:

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

## Tax Levy Increase – Yearly Analysis

Year	Tax Levy Increase
2020-21	2.49%*
2021-22	1.47%** (\$150,000 below the tax levy limit)
2022-23	2.50%** (\$69,762 below the tax levy limit)
2023-24	1.99%** (\$395,480 below the tax levy limit)
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2.47%** (\$262,655 below the tax levy limit)</b>

The Tax Levy increase has remained at or below the Tax Cap level beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

\*at the tax levy limit  
\*\*below the tax levy limit

## Leptondale Student Wins Ulster Prevention Council Poster Contest

**LEPTONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** Grade 6 student Giana Cubito won first place for her poster submission in the Ulster Prevention Council (UPC) 2023 Media Contest! Pictured here is Giana and UPC Prevention Educator/Intern Taryn Rowan. Giana received an award certificate and a \$75 gift card. Congratulations, Giana!



## Learning to Grow at Plattekill Elementary with Greenhouse Revitalization

Students at Plattekill Elementary School (PES) are once again growing flowers and vegetables in their school greenhouse, and staff is finding ways of incorporating this unique space into the curriculum.

The PES greenhouse was originally built in 2005 by parents and volunteers from the Ulster YouthBuild program, who used a kit that had been purchased through a grant from Assemblymember Kevin Cahill. "We were utilizing the greenhouse until spring of 2020," explained Principal Monica Hasbrouck. "During COVID the Greenhouse was unable to be utilized, but as a goal for the school we have begun to make the updates needed to bring it back to a fully functioning greenhouse."

Several issues had to be addressed as part of the revitalization plan, including making sure that the mechanical parts were operating properly and ensuring that the heating system was working. Necessary window repairs were made, and additional gutters were added.

Wallkill Central School District Physical Therapist Fritz Meier volunteered his time to clean up the greenhouse. He built additional planter boxes with lumber donated by Sedmak Custom Contracting and created a trellis for the string beans. Mr. Meier also constructed an irrigation system for watering the plants, using a hose, weights, and a timer for days when school is not in session.

"We also wanted to incorporate the greenhouse into our curriculum," said Mrs. Hasbrouck, who noted that Ulster BOCES Model Schools Content Specialist Shelley Cuccia worked with Grade 3 teacher Breanna Friedman to curate a book of lessons focused on plants and on utilizing the greenhouse.

Learning about the process of composting will be one of those lessons, with the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency visiting classes this spring to teach students more about how they can recycle food scraps and plant material into fertilizer. Mrs. Hasbrouck expects to include greenhouse activities, such as collecting food waste from the cafeteria, as student job options for the next school year. "We really want the students to get involved and take advantage of this wonderful resource," she said.



*Students from Melissa Space's Kindergarten class check on the plants sprouting from vegetables seeds they had planted.*

# 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

## Tax Levy Limit Calculation 2024-2025

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$46,695,000	
Tax Base Growth	x 1.0106	
PILOT	+ \$8,623	
BOCES Exemption	- \$117,116	
Capital Exemption	- \$674,544	
<b>Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy</b>	<b>= \$46,406,930</b>	
	x 1.0200	← Allowable Growth Factor
PILOT	- \$9,105	
<b>Tax Levy Limit Prior To Exemptions</b>	<b>\$47,325,964</b>	← Voter Threshold
BOCES Exemption	+ \$119,731	} Estimated
Capital Exemption	+ \$666,960	
TRS Exemption	+0	
ERS Exemption	+0	
<b>= \$48,112,655</b>		← *Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

*\*The District's is proposing a tax levy of \$47,850,000 which is \$262,655 below the tax levy limit*

### Three Component Budget

**Administrative Component: \$8,640,868**

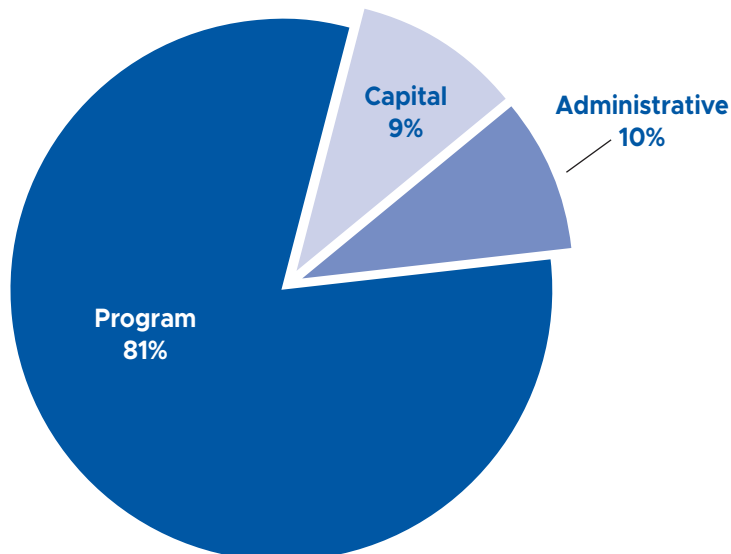
► Central Administration, Building Supervision, BOCES (partial)

**Program Component: \$72,543,422**

► Instructional Areas, Transportation, Extracurricular Activities

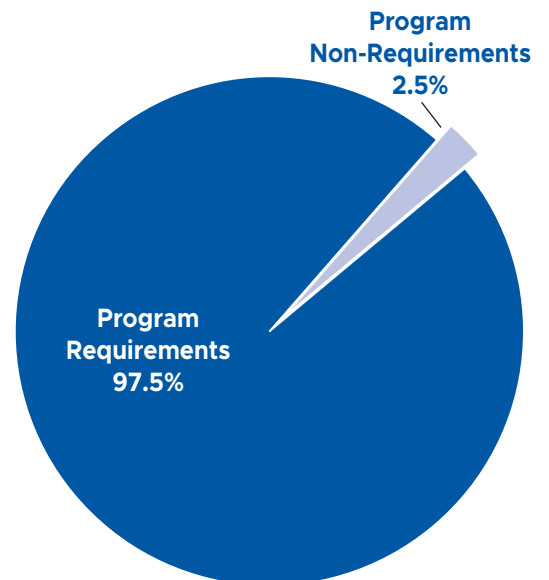
**Capital Component: \$8,281,710**

► Operations and Maintenance, Debt Service



### Program Budget: Required vs. Non-Required

As the chart indicates, 97.5% of the program budget is devoted to New York State Education Department required programs.





# 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

## Wallkill Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$85,467,681	\$89,466,000	\$88,311,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$3,998,319	\$2,843,319
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.68%	3.33%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$46,695,000	\$47,850,000	
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)	\$46,695,000	\$47,850,000	\$46,695,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$791,660	\$786,691	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$46,298,820	\$47,325,964	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$45,903,340	\$47,063,309	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$395,480	\$262,655	
Administrative Component	\$8,328,845	\$8,640,868	\$8,519,652
Program Component	\$69,909,349	\$72,543,422	\$71,569,638
Capital Component	\$7,229,487	\$8,281,710	\$8,221,710

\*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Elimination of: Seven (7) teaching positions, one (1) school psychologist position, the UPK program, all field trips (including Ashokan) and all equipment purchases (except technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment for health and safety).

Total: \$1,155,000

\*\*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 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$576.60
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<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Wallkill Central School District, Ulster/Orange Counties, New York, will be held at the High School, Leptondale and Plattekill schools in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the High School, Leptondale and Plattekill schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Information about requesting an absentee or early mail voter ballot can be found on the District's website or by contacting the District Clerk at 845-895-7101.

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VOTE**  
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## Programs Offered to Students in the Wallkill Central School District

### LEPTONDALE, CLARE F. OSTRANDER, AND PLATTEKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- ▶ Full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) – 84 students
- ▶ Math instruction includes the use of technology and manipulatives for hands-on learning
- ▶ Arts and Environmental Education
- ▶ Active parent organizations
- ▶ Character Education programs
- ▶ After-school programs and events
- ▶ Specialized multi-sensory instruction (Orton-Gillingham and Wilson Learning programs) for early reading intervention
- ▶ Active Learning Labs and iPad carts
- ▶ SMART Boards in K-6 classrooms
- ▶ 1:1 student computers in Grades K-6
- ▶ D.A.R.E. program
- ▶ Family Nights for Math, Literacy, STEM, and the Arts
- ▶ Grade 6 Olympics
- ▶ Enrichment programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Gifted and Talented programs
- ▶ Climbing walls: leadership and trust building
- ▶ Ashokan Field Campus
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity
- ▶ Safety and wellness programs
- ▶ Fire safety education
- ▶ Field days
- ▶ Project-based learning with makerspaces
- ▶ School newsroom studios
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ STEM lessons
- ▶ Coding instruction
- ▶ Too Good for Drugs program
- ▶ Before and after-school academic support programs
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy—federally funded

### JOHN G. BORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ▶ SMART Boards in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Instructional teams
- ▶ Interdisciplinary curriculum
- ▶ Enrichment activities

- ▶ Field trip experiences
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ Character Education program
- ▶ Active Learning Lab
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Active parent organizations and community involvement
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Accelerated courses
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Gifted and Talented programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ Career Day
- ▶ Family Coding Night
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity
- ▶ Summer Learning Academy—federally funded

### WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Extensive Advanced Placement/college course offerings
- ▶ College offerings in pre-engineering through Project Lead the Way
- ▶ Annual scholarship attainment of over \$4 million
- ▶ Career and Technical Education provided through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ An award-winning vocal and instrumental music program
- ▶ A diverse offering of clubs, organizations, and groups to benefit the ever-changing needs of our students
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ SAT prep course
- ▶ Summer school
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Academy Model
- ▶ College and Career Fair
- ▶ Instant college admissions program
- ▶ Peer tutoring
- ▶ VEX Robotics team
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity

# 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

## Candidates for the Board of Education

The four (4) candidates below (shown in ballot order) are seeking election to the Board of Education. There are three (3) vacancies for full terms of three (3) years, and one partial-term vacancy created by a resignation. The three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will earn the three (3) available full-term seats and serve from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. The candidate with the fewest votes will fill the partial-term seat, taking office immediately and serving through June 30, 2026.

*The Wallkill Central School District's practice has been to annually afford each candidate filing a petition an opportunity to present a bio about themselves, including reasons why they are seeking office. The views expressed by these candidates should not be construed in any way as being endorsed or promoted by the Wallkill Central School District.*

### WILLIAM HECHT

I am seeking a seat on the Wallkill Board of Education in this coming election after serving a 40-year career in education as a teacher, coach, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. After retiring as chief operating officer for Orange-Ulster BOCES in January of 2023, I made the decision to remain active in our community and volunteer as a church elder, Sunday School teacher, and Lion's Club member, and I am also currently filling seats on the Wallkill School Board and Ulster BOCES Board.

I am a lifelong resident of Wallkill and my wife Nancy (Riggins) and I graduated together from Wallkill High School in 1979. Together we raised a family and are proud to say that our children Abby ('05) and Chad ('10) are also Wallkill grads who hold successful careers as a result of the foundation they received while attending our outstanding schools.

My goal is to work collaboratively and responsibly with the current board members, school administrators, and staff as we continue to provide our students with outstanding opportunities and access to the exemplary educational opportunities that exist within the Wallkill Central School District.

### THOMAS NAFEY

My name is Thomas Nafey. I have been a resident of Wallkill since March of 2002, where my wife and I built our home and raised our twins, Kaleigh and Liam. I retired from the City of Newburgh Police Department in 2021, completing my career as a patrol sergeant, and I'm currently working part time for a local police department as a detective.

Over the last 16 years, I have volunteered my time as a youth coach for Little League baseball, youth football, and lacrosse. I am also a past board member of the Wallkill Youth Lacrosse Program. This spring, I'm volunteering to coach the

Wallkill Youth Lacrosse Program (grades K-2).

One of my objectives as a member of the Board of Education has been to ensure the safety of our students and faculty. I am also supportive of the teacher's innovative approach to the curriculum and how it is dedicated to our student's success. In the Wallkill School District, we are a family that is focused on making a brighter future for our children, and that is what I will continue if I am re-elected.

Respectfully,  
Thomas S. Nafey

### DONNA CROWLEY

My name is Donna Crowley and I have served on the School Board since 2009. I have been a community member for 28 years and have three children. I am a CPA working for an accounting firm, specializing in governments including school district audits. I am the chairperson of the District Audit and Budget Committees. I am proud of the Wallkill School District and that I have been a part of so many of its accomplishments, along with navigating its challenges.

During my time on the Board, our facility and technology enhancements were ahead of the curve. We challenged ourselves to adjust class offerings aligning to student interests and community needs, such as sign language and adding Universal Pre-Kindergarten. We also have prioritized the safety and mental wellbeing of our students during our budget development decisions.

We have passed responsible budgets below or at the tax cap annually, while still addressing District goals and maintaining reserves to stabilize and reduce future budgets. I support a positive learning climate in our community along with a respectful and healthy dynamic. I have enjoyed, and want to continue, my Board experiences and believe these and my financial background are valuable to our Board.

# 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

## THOMAS FRISBIE

My name is Thomas Frisbie and I am seeking re-election to the Wallkill Central School District Board of Education. For more than 18 years, I have had the privilege of serving this community on the Board of Education. For the past eight years I have served as the vice president of the Board. I have also been a key contributor in decision making with the Board at large and several sub-committees. Currently, I serve on the Audit sub-committee and as chairman of the Building and Grounds sub-committee.

During my time as chairman of the Building and Grounds committee, the District has completed two large capital improvement projects, one energy performance project, and is currently completing a third capital improvement project. Each project helped to make improvements to our facilities. My project management and engineering experience was integral in aiding the District with the successful completion of these projects. My educational background from Union College and my experience as a licensed professional engineer has allowed me to continue to be a valuable resource to the Board of Education.

I am a husband, father of three, and dedicated member of this community. I have proudly watched my two daughters graduate from Wallkill and look forward to my son graduating this June.

I will continue to work diligently in order to guarantee our children are given the resources to reach their highest potential. I would be honored to continue to serve the students and taxpayers of our district.

Thank you for your support.

## 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

### Total Proposed Budget

**Amount** ..... **\$89,466,000**

### Increase from the 2023-24

**School Year**..... **\$3,998,319**

**Percentage of Increase** .....**4.68%**

## 2024-2025 District Revenue

Revenue Source	Amount Received
<b>Estimated State Aid</b>	<b>\$38,000,000*</b>
<b>Appropriated Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$720,000</b>
<b>Appropriated Reserves</b>	<b>\$1,746,000</b>
<b>Other Sources</b>	<b>\$1,150,000</b>
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$47,850,000</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$89,466,000</b>
<b>Tax Levy Increase</b>	<b>2.47%**</b>

*\*This includes new building aid for Phase I of the capital project*

*\*\*below the tax levy limit*

## A NIGHT AT THE RACES AND BORDEN CON: A Middle School Student Showcase

**J**ohn G. Borden Middle School students and their families are invited to come and race the CO<sub>2</sub>-powered cars students built in their Technology classes during “A Night at the Races and Borden Con,” which is taking place at the school on May 30. This special event, which begins at 4:30 PM, will showcase student works, including 3D-printed projects. As part of the showcase, there will also be a talent show highlighting students’ skills and abilities.

## Annual Budget Vote & Election of Trustees

**TUESDAY,**  
**MAY 21, 2024**  
**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Polling locations: Wallkill Senior High  
School, Leptondale Elementary School,  
and Plattekill Elementary School**





## Now Accepting Applications for Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program!

**THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET**, which is being proposed to Wallkill residents on May 21, 2024, will include the current Universal Pre-kindergarten (UPK) program available to four (4) years olds who reside in the District. The program will include one (1) section at Plattekill and Ostrander Elementary Schools, with a maximum class size of eighteen (18) students per section and forty-eight (48) slots assigned to

Community-Based Organizations [Building Blocks (8) and Most Precious Blood (40)]. As a result, there will be eighty-four (84) slots available in the 2024-2025 school year.

**Please be advised that our in-house UPK program is contingent upon the passing of the 2024-2025 school budget on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. In addition, District transportation will not be provided for the program.**

Applications for the proposed UPK program can be found at <https://forms.office.com/r/h873WmrwDn>

The District will hold a random lottery to determine enrollment in the proposed UPK program. All eligible applicants will be entered individually into the lottery. The lottery will be held Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 4:00 PM. Access to the lottery will be via the Wallkill Central School District website.

Please note that you will be offered the opportunity to select a preferred location on the UPK application, which will be determined by the lottery selection process.

To be eligible for the lottery:

- You must be a resident of the Wallkill Central School District.
- Your child must be four (4) years old on/before December 1, 2024.
- **You must complete and submit the lottery application form to the Wallkill Central School District Office for Educational Services by Friday, May 17, 2024, by 3:00 PM.**

All families will be notified of their child's status on Monday, June 3, 2024. Any student not selected in the lottery for a seat will be placed on a waiting list.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Anthony White via email at [awhite@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:awhite@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) or phone at 845-895-7103.

## Music to Our Ears; Panthers Rack Up Honors at Competition

**P**anther musicians returned from their annual trip to the New York City Festivals of Music Competition with a long list of accolades for their outstanding performances, including the Espirit De Corps Award for Exemplary Attitude of Positive Support and Outstanding Personal Behavior. We are so proud! Here's the list of achievements:



**Symphonic Band:** 1st Place, Excellent Rating  
**Symphonic Band Sight Reading:** Excellent Rating  
**String Orchestra:** 1st Place, Superior Rating  
**String Orchestra Sight Reading:** Superior Rating  
**Chamber Orchestra:** 1st Place, Superior Rating  
**Overall Orchestra:** String Orchestra  
**Treble Choir:** 1st Place, Excellent Rating  
**Mixed Choir:** 1st Place, Excellent Rating  
**Mixed Choir Sight Reading:** Superior Rating  
**Hand Chime Ensemble:** 1st Place, Excellent Rating  
**Madrigal Choir:** 1st Place, Excellent Rating  
**Overall Concert Choir:** Treble Choir  
**Overall Speciality Choir:** Madrigal Choir  
**Overall Vocalist:** Jaslyn Ramos

# Leptondale Students Take Time to Unplug and Reconnect

**LEPTONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** students took time to unplug from their technology devices and engage in real-world activities during March as part of the school's observance of Unplugged Month. Inspired by the Global Day of Unplugging, which occurs on the first Friday of March, the school encouraged students to shut down their devices at various times throughout the school day and take part in a variety of fun activities.

"Some classes played different tactile games, others worked on STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics] projects like building cars or boats," explained Grade 1 teacher Megan Ryan, one of the organizers of the program. "While it seemed daunting at first, students found they enjoyed taking time to do

these special things," she said.

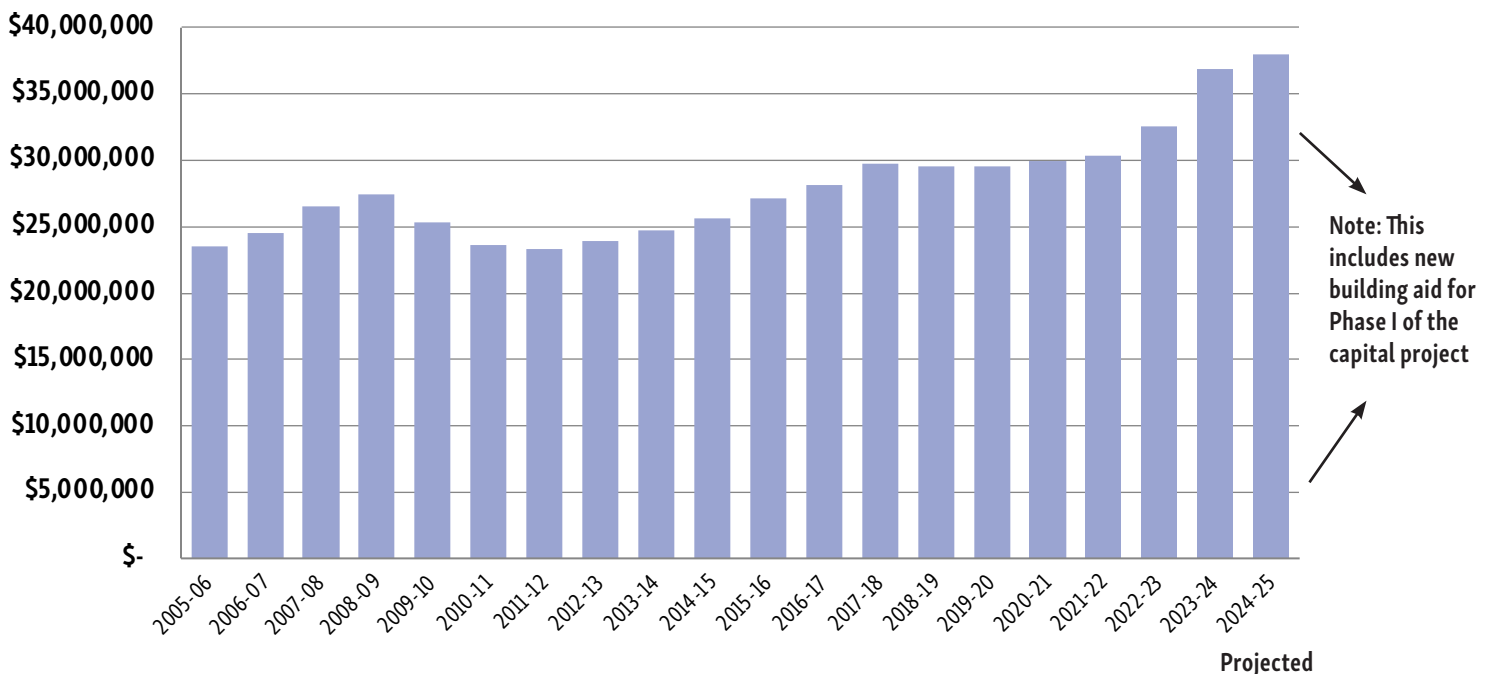
Students were encouraged to bring the challenge home as well. The next day at school, they participated in "show-and-tell" sessions, talking about the different activities they had done. Included in the students' discussions were comments about what they had found hard to do as well as what they had enjoyed about their experiences. Many students played sports, others engaged in craft activities, and another popular activity was baking. A few students and their families took trips to museums. "Students get such a kick out of coming up with things to do,"

observed Mrs. Ryan. "Overall, they enjoyed the extra time talking and reconnecting with friends and family the most."



*Students enjoyed working together on puzzles as part of their Unplugged Month activities at Leptondale Elementary School.*

## History of State Aid 2005-2024





# Jumping into Health at Ostrander Elementary School

**THE GYMNASIUM OF OSTRANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** (OES) was filled with the click-clack of jump ropes hitting the hardwood floors as laughter and words of encouragement were heard over the background music. More than a hundred OES students stayed after school on March 14 to show off their skill at an activity that has the potential to keep them healthy and strong at any age—jumping rope.

The Jump into Health event for students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 was organized by Physical Education instructors Thomas Palazzo and Joseph Kutcha. They, along with 16 student assistants from Wallkill Senior High School's chapters of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society, supervised and guided students while reinforcing the importance of exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. In fact, as Mr. Palazzo told the participants, "Jumping rope for 10 minutes straight can roughly equate to the energy needed to run a mile."

As students skipped rope, Mr. Palazzo explained why this activity is one of the best workouts you can

do. "Jumping rope is a great way to get exercise," he said. "You can do it anywhere, you don't need a lot of space, and the only equipment you need is a jump rope." Students at OES start practicing their jump roping skills in Kindergarten and continue throughout their time at the school. "It doesn't matter if you already know how to jump rope or not, you will get better through practice," Mr. Palazzo added.

Students tried a variety of jumping techniques throughout the event, including skipping backwards, turning in a circle, and even jumping on one leg! Because jumping rope requires upper and lower limb coordination, it is multifunctional exercise that can be used for fitness, recreation, or competition. At the end of the event, students were provided with a healthy snack of apples and pretzels and reminded to drink plenty of water.

OES Principal Alyssa Greany was full of praise for the event and those who participated in it. "This is a fantastic way to bring students together," she said. "They are also having fun and encouraging each other, which is great to see."



*Ostrander Elementary School Grade 5 student Olivia Fitzsimmons jumps rope as part of the Jump into Health school-wide event.*

## Panthers Players Performance is Perfection!

The High School Drama Club's production of the musical comedy *Something Rotten!* was delightfully funny and entertaining. The Panther Players put on four performances for general admission and an additional show for senior citizens, all of which received phenomenal reviews. Bravo to students in the cast and crew for all their hard work both on and off stage!





## FORMULA FOR SUCCESS: Middle School Math Team Adds Accolades

### THE JOHN G. BORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEAM

has experienced its share of calculations—and celebrations—this past season. As part of the Mid-Hudson Math League, Wallkill students in Grades 6-9 competed against schools in Orange, Ulster, and Sullivan Counties. The team finished first in its section, outscoring Valley Central and Goshen, to move on to the playoffs, where they came in third in the League and Grade 7 student Sameer Zafar won a trophy for being the top individual scorer.

Several of the team's 28 members also participate in sports and other afterschool activities, and joined the Math Team because they really enjoy math. "It's not all about winning," explained Library Media Specialist Debra Rosenfeld, who is the team's advisor along with Math teacher Mike Hall. "If they win it's fantastic, but if not, as long as they are having fun, that's what's important." Many of the students became really good friends through the practices and competitions, she added.

Ms. Rosenfeld expects to be exceptionally successful next year because the majority of this year's team are expected to return. "The seventh graders performed really well, and we are looking forward to getting more seventh graders next year," she said.



*The Middle School Math Team finished first in its section and third in the Mid-Hudson Math League playoffs. Students that competed in the playoffs included (from left to right): Gianna Mancuso Krasher, Alexis Astras, Ariel Culver, Jack Hanke, Sameer Zafar, Jackson Wager and Isabella Wager.*

## Plattekill Students Brainstorm Solutions with IBM Engineers at STEM Event

**O**n April 19, Plattekill Elementary School (PES) students in Grades 3 through 6 worked with IBM engineers designing and building gliders for a miniature duck. IBM engineers and PES parents Keila Martinez and Alex Jorge have organized Engineering Week events like this one for several years now. "These hands-on lessons are engaging and filled with opportunities to hone their ability to solve problems," said PES Principal Monica Hasbrouck. "Students are learning teamwork and communication skills while trying to put forth the best solution."





## Wallkill Central School District

Office of Educational Services

1500 Route 208, PO Box 310

Wallkill, NY 12589

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

**T**alented student and artist Catherine Badu has completed this beautiful mural in the art hallway at Wallkill Senior High School! What started as an idea for an art project blossomed into a timeless work of art inspiring Panthers to "lift each other up."



***"Learning at...Wallkill" is an official publication of the Wallkill Central School District.***

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### ***Important Telephone Numbers to Know***

Leptondale Elementary School.....845-895-7200

Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School....845-895-7225

Plattekill Elementary School.....845-895-7250

John G. Borden Middle School .....845-895-7175

Wallkill Senior High School.....845-895-7150