



April 2024 – May 2024

Volume 20, Issue 5

2024-2025
School Budget
Details Inside

“Home, School and Community Educating for Life”

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

I would like to share some exciting updates and initiatives across our school district.

Continuing to Prioritize Safety and Security: Our Utmost Commitment

Considering recent events, I want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the safety and security of all students and staff within our schools. We continuously strive to maintain a nurturing environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported. To that end, we have continued our safety protocols and procedures, conducted regular drills and examinations of our safety plans, and enhanced our partnerships with law enforcement and community agencies. We will remain vigilant in our efforts to uphold the highest safety standards throughout our district.

Introducing the New Husky Huddle: A Podcast Platform for Engagement

I am pleased to introduce the latest addition to our school community - the Husky Huddle! This innovative podcast aims to foster a sense of unity and engagement among students, faculty, and families. Through the Husky Huddle, we will provide a space for open communication, collaboration, and celebration of our collective achievements. Whether sharing success stories, announcing upcoming events, or seeking feedback, the Husky Huddle will serve as a vital hub for our community.

Please tune into our discussion! You can find the Husky Huddle at our website: <https://www.oleanschools.org>. You can also subscribe to our podcast on Apple, Spotify, and many other podcast platforms.

Looking Ahead: Developing a New Budget for the Future

One of our primary objectives in the next months will be presenting a new budget for the upcoming school year. This process requires careful consideration of various factors, including our strategic plan, student needs, resource allocation, and community priorities. We are committed to maintaining fiscal responsibility while ensuring our schools have the resources to provide a high-quality education for all students. Your input and feedback will be invaluable as we work together to shape the future of our district.

In closing, I want to thank each member of our school community for their ongoing support and dedication. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and create a learning environment where every student can thrive.

Dr. Genelle Morris
Superintendent of Schools



2024-2025 Proposed Budget

| | Budget Components | | | 2024-25 | 2023-24 | Inc (Dec) \$ |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Administrative | Capital | Program | | | |
| General Support | | | | | | |
| Board of Education | 59,450 | | | 59,450 | 59,450 | - |
| Central Administration | 290,120 | | | 290,120 | 282,120 | 8,000 |
| Finance | 450,562 | | | 450,562 | 431,626 | 18,936 |
| Legal/Personnel/Public Info | 1,092,967 | | | 1,092,967 | 1,016,924 | 76,043 |
| Operations & Maintenance | | 3,314,839 | | 3,314,839 | 3,465,839 | (151,000) |
| Central Storeroom and Printing | 167,050 | | | 167,050 | 148,050 | 19,000 |
| Insurance/Refunds/Dues/Unclassified | 149,705 | 6,000 | | 155,705 | 155,705 | - |
| BOCES Central Data/Admin/Capital | 1,419,869 | | | 1,419,869 | 1,380,096 | 39,773 |
| TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT | 3,629,723 | 3,320,839 | | 6,950,562 | 6,939,810 | 10,752 |
| Instructional Support | | | | | | |
| Curriculum/Supervision/In service | 2,331,336 | | | 2,331,336 | 2,533,066 | (201,730) |
| Instruction - Regular School | | | 13,715,372 | 13,715,372 | 13,047,591 | 667,781 |
| Instruction - Special Needs, Summer, Occ Ed | | | 10,047,895 | 10,047,895 | 10,244,019 | (196,124) |
| Instruction - Media/Technology | | | 1,750,239 | 1,750,239 | 1,745,563 | 4,676 |
| Guidance/Health/Psychological | | | 1,537,814 | 1,537,814 | 1,311,446 | 226,368 |
| Co-Curricular/Interscholastic Activities | | | 846,688 | 846,688 | 809,396 | 37,292 |
| TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT | 2,331,336 | | 27,898,009 | 30,229,345 | 29,691,081 | 538,264 |
| Student Transportation | | | | | | |
| District Transportation | | 175,197 | 183,250 | 358,447 | 332,252 | 26,195 |
| Contract Transportation | | | 1,499,550 | 1,499,550 | 1,387,077 | 112,473 |
| TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION | | 175,197 | 1,682,800 | 1,857,997 | 1,719,329 | 138,668 |
| Employee Benefits | | | | | | |
| TRS & NYS ERS/Retirement | 345,821 | 198,173 | 2,151,006 | 2,695,000 | 2,544,500 | 150,500 |
| Social Security | 178,396 | 104,492 | 1,348,112 | 1,631,000 | 1,550,000 | 81,000 |
| Worker's Compensation | 15,887 | 9,305 | 120,054 | 145,246 | 143,661 | 1,585 |
| Unemployment Insurance | 2,188 | 1,281 | 16,531 | 20,000 | 20,000 | - |
| Health Benefits/Other | 667,542 | 362,008 | 4,700,155 | 5,729,705 | 4,341,240 | 1,388,465 |
| TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 1,209,833 | 675,260 | 8,335,858 | 10,220,951 | 8,599,401 | 1,621,550 |
| Debt Service | | | | | | |
| Serial Bonds - Building | | 6,713,670 | | 6,713,670 | 2,880,812 | 3,832,858 |
| Revenue and Bond Anticipation Note | | - | | - | 1,344,500 | (1,344,500) |
| Electrical Performance Contract | | - | | - | - | 0 |
| TOTAL DEBT SERVICE | | 6,713,670 | | 6,713,670 | 4,225,312 | 2,488,358 |
| Interfund Transfers | | | | | | |
| Transfer to Special Aid | | 97,000 | | 97,000 | 97,000 | 0 |
| Transfer to Cafeteria | | - | | - | 30,000 | (30,000) |
| Transfer to Capital Project | | 100,000 | | 100,000 | 200,000 | (100,000) |
| TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS | | 197,000 | | 197,000 | 327,000 | (130,000) |
| TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET | 7,170,892 | 11,081,966 | 37,916,667 | 56,169,525 | 51,501,933 | 4,667,592 |

Explanation of Three Part Budget Presentation - Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 require public school boards of education to present the proposed budget in three parts. As a result, this presentation is organized around the following components; administrative, capital, and program:

Administrative Component: Includes expenses associated with the operation of the school board, superintendent's office, and business office. Includes salaries and benefits for

all certified administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing administrative duties, consulting costs not directly related to instructional programs, and all other activities that are administrative in nature.

Capital Component: Includes debt service for all facilities financed by bonds and notes of the district, lease expenditures, costs resulting from judgments in tax certiorari proceedings, awards from court judgments, administrative orders and settled claims, cost of construction,

acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and improvements of school buildings, all expenses associated with custodial and maintenance salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, and repair of school facilities.

Program Component: Includes salaries/benefits of teachers and any school administrator or supervisor who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties, and all transportation operating expenses.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

TUESDAY, MAY 7TH at 6pm

*Olean Intermediate Middle School
LGI Room*

BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 21ST

*7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Olean Intermediate Middle School
Music Suite*

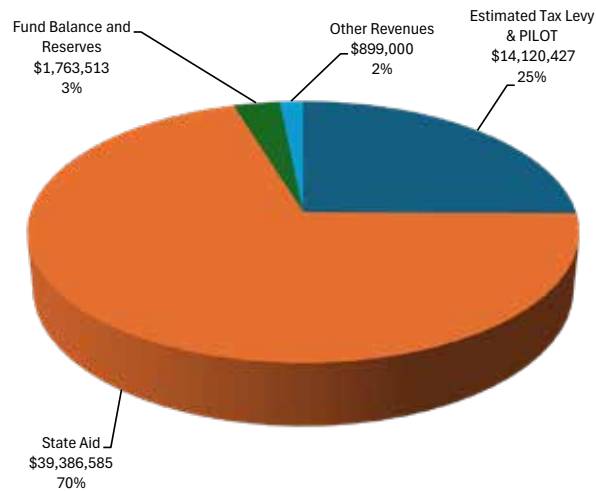
***Must be a
registered
voter to cast
your ballot.**



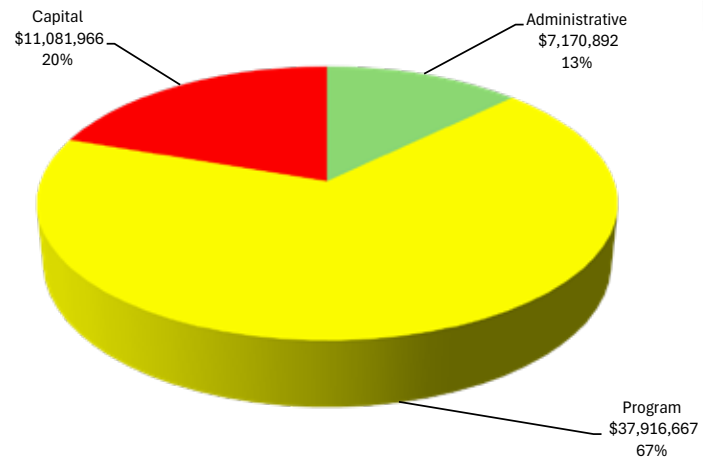
Summary of Revenues & Other Sources of Funding

| | 2023-24 Actual | 2024-25 Proposed | Inc (Dec) Over Prior Year |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| State and Federal Aid | 35,479,160 | 39,386,585 | 3,907,425 |
| Other Revenue | 687,000 | 899,000 | 212,000 |
| PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) | 79,173 | 93,448 | 14,275 |
| Estimated Tax Levy & STAR Reimbursement | 13,888,098 | 14,026,979 | 138,881 |
| Total Revenue | 50,133,431 | 54,406,012 | 4,272,581 |
| Appropriated Reserve Contribution | 162,002 | 175,197 | 13,195 |
| Appropriated Reserves (ERS, Debt, Tax) | 71,500 | 453,316 | 381,816 |
| Transfer from Capital Fund | 535,000 | 535,000 | 0 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 600,000 | 600,000 | 0 |
| Total Revenue and Other Sources | 51,501,933 | 56,169,525 | 4,667,592 |

2024-2025 Sources of Education Funding



2024-2025 Uses of Education Funding



Federal, State & Special Grants: 2023-24 School Year

The following program dollars are used to support and enhance the local educational programs offered to all students of the Olean City School District.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| ARP - ESSR 3 | \$ | 4,943,603 |
| ARP IDEA 611 | \$ | 75,960 |
| ARP IDEA 619 | \$ | 9,195 |
| COPS GRANT | \$ | 424,997 |
| CRRSA/ESSR 2 | \$ | 1,060,775 |
| IDEA 611 | \$ | 635,454 |
| IDEA 619 | \$ | 46,458 |
| July/Aug 4408 Tuition | \$ | 130,212 |
| July/Aug 4418 Transportation | \$ | 12,000 |
| Liberty Partnership | \$ | 11,000 |
| STEP | \$ | 31,673 |
| Title I | \$ | 1,164,094 |
| Title I - SIG | \$ | 19,600 |
| Title IIA | \$ | 131,219 |
| Title IV - Allocational | \$ | 96,296 |
| Title V | \$ | 60,664 |
| Universal Pre-K | \$ | 479,459 |
| Walmart | \$ | 2,250 |
| Total | \$ | 9,334,909 |

ESTIMATE OF 2024-2025 SCHOOL TAX INCREASE FOR PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

| | Tax Bill Last Year | Tax Bill This Year | Increase |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <i>Assessed Value of Property \$30,000</i> | | | |
| With Basic STAR | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| With Enhanced STAR | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| <i>Assessed Value of Property \$50,000</i> | | | |
| With Basic STAR | \$ 379 | \$ 383 | \$ 4 |
| With Enhanced STAR | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| <i>Assessed Value of Property \$70,000</i> | | | |
| With Basic STAR | \$ 758 | \$ 766 | \$ 8 |
| With Enhanced STAR | \$ 15 | \$ 29 | \$ 13 |
| <i>Assessed Value of Property \$100,000</i> | | | |
| With Basic STAR | \$1,327 | \$1,340 | \$ 13 |
| With Enhanced STAR | \$ 584 | \$ 603 | \$ 19 |

NOTE: Estimated tax changes are based on 2023 equalization rates and assessed values for the City of Olean. Final values are not known at this time and will be calculated when the Board of Education adopts the tax warrant in August 2023.

This year's process of developing the 2024-2025 school budget proved to be quite challenging. Initially, our draft budget projected an expenditure nearly \$2.5 million higher than the final budget that we are now presenting to our taxpayers. The Board and Administration devoted significant effort to reducing this budgetary gap by realigning our expenditures with our strategic plan and district objectives. This involved scrutinizing non-program expenses, restructuring our special education initiatives, and streamlining district operations to enhance efficiency. Notably, by reintegrating several special education classes into our district for the upcoming year, we anticipate a net savings of \$700,000.

Over the past decade, our district has been fortunate to raise taxes only one time, limiting that tax levy increase to just 1%. Despite the potential for substantially higher increases under the tax cap calculation since the 2012-2013 school year, our Board of Education prioritized fiscal responsibility, opting against raising taxes beyond this minimal rate. However, faced with significant cost escalations due to inflation and other factors, we find it necessary to propose a 1% increase in the levy this year to safeguard against potential program reductions for our students.

This additional revenue is essential for sustaining our current academic offerings, facilitating the introduction of new programs, preserving positions established during the COVID Pandemic, and maintaining our commitment to small class sizes. Moreover, it enables us to enhance security measures and cyber insurance, thereby ensuring a safe environment for our students and staff.

While the future sustainability of our Foundation Aid (State Aid) remains uncertain, a modest increase in our tax levy will contribute to maintaining the financial viability of our district. Should you have any inquiries regarding this year's budget, please do not hesitate to contact our Business Administrator, Jenny Bilotta, at 716-375-8020 or reach out via email at jbilotta@oleanschools.org.

No cuts to programs or positions

Continuing a handful of Federal Stimulus Fund positions that are instrumental in the advancement of our students

Offering additional academic programs

Maintaining small class sizes

Bringing back several special education programs and students

Additional security personnel in our schools

Additional cyber security insurance being purchased



News From OHS

DECA Students Compete at NYS Career Conference



Over 2,900 students across NYS qualified and competed in the 64th Annual State Career Conference in Rochester, NY on March 6-8, 2024. Among those students, Olean High had eight students competing.

Each student can choose the event/topic they want to compete in at the conference. Adrian Bohdanowycz and Ava Moran competed in Principles of Finance. Sullivan Hoffman competed in the Business Finance Series. Lilli Khettry competed in the Human Resource Management Series. Tyler Camp competed in Restaurant & Food Service Management. Michael Bader competed in

Sports & Entertainment Marketing Series Event; and Heartly Phipps and Rose Scordo competed in Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making.

Heartly received a medal for being in the Top Ten for the Written Test, while both Heartly and Rose received a medal for being in the Top Ten for their Role Play event.

Congratulations to all of you for all your hard work and dedication!!!



Olean High School Model United Nations

The Olean High School Model United Nations team had a highly successful year. This year, the team competed in conferences hosted by the following universities: Canisius University, St. Bonaventure University, University of Pennsylvania, and Cornell University. Competing in MUN conferences requires that delegates conduct extensive research on topics of international significance, prepare written papers, deliver speeches, and debate with students from other schools. In March, 20 members of the team competed at the St. Bonaventure University conference (see photo). From among those attending, three superior delegate awards (Phipps, Ruszkowski, and Scordo) and five excellence awards (Chahal, Conner, Herbert, Simons, and Spring) were earned.

Pictured from left to right, front to back: Wyatt Menter, Calvin Spring, Jourdan Morris, Miley Crawford, Zynah Rafi, Tatiana Warmley, Ruby Chahal, Rose Scordo, Heartly Phipps, Des Muir, Lina Chauhdry, Hannah Marshall, Mia Rivera, Ava Moses, Colin Simons, David Ruszkowski, Tyler Camp, Brandon Herbert, Preston Conner, and Ethan Peace.

News From OIMS



No One Eats Alone



In February, the OIMS Student Activities Council held their annual No One Eats Alone lunch. This is their major event of the year where invited guests included community members and athletes from St. Bonaventure, staff and students promote community, unity and friendship at lunch. No One Eats Alone is a national initiative created to bring student communities together during lunch time and ensure that no student eats alone. OIMS has been celebrating this event for three years. With this, students sit with new people to get to know each other during their lunch period. After this event, students and SAC members strive to continue to build community and encourage all to eat, to get together, and get to know one another.



Character Ed Assembly



OIMS celebrated perseverance at the Character Ed assembly. Students were so excited to win prizes for their hard work and dedication to school. And a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny!



Washington West Elementary School



The Great Husky Hunt of 2024

Husky pups and their families gathered together at Raymour and Flanigan to find hidden huskies around the store. Students received new books and additional husky pup swag as they sat with their families reading and relaxing. Thank you to our husky pups and families for coming out for the event, as well as to Raymour and Flanigan for hosting our Washington West pack. We hold true to our mantra "don't stop the reading!"

"PAWSOME" Readers

This pack of pups read over the February break to

get their individual picture with our own husky pup mascot. They smiled from ear to ear as they spotted the husky walking the halls, and over 140 students participated in the latest and greatest husky reading challenge of 2024. Reading and leading here in the halls of Washington West!

Follow your Husky Pups on Twitter @OleanWW

East View Elementary School



At East View we are doing so much to get students and families engaged in our school community. Our PTO has been hard at work organizing events and fundraisers for our Husky Pups! Since the beginning of the year, they have hosted several popcorn days here at school, we held a festive and fun Santa Night, they put on an awesome Superhero Dance where 86 families came together for an evening of fun, dancing, crafts, and snacks! The PTO also hosted a family Ice Skating Event where over 125 of our students and families attended!

East View also loves to celebrate our students!! We made an addition to our monthly Rockstar Assemblies by inviting the parents of the students who earned the title of East View Rockstar to attend. The students each get a T-Shirt and rockin' pair of sunglasses to take home and then they eat lunch with Mrs. Hodara!! We also started celebrating our Weekly Leaders. These students are recognized by their teachers for being excellent leaders in their classrooms throughout the week. They are announced on the loudspeaker, they get to come to the office to ring the "Good News Bell", and dance in the bubbles...they each get a certificate, and get to pick a prize!! Their names then go into a drawing and at our monthly

assemblies we draw two lucky winners – they get to take home an East View t-shirt and their own stuffed husky pup!! Our partnership with CUTCO is a huge part of East View.

Each month, CUTCO hosts a lunch for students who have been recognized for their kindness and good character!! We have a great lunch together and talk about the importance of being kind along with the habit of the month. Speaking of kindness – East View recognizes one adult and one student every week for exactly that – making people smile and being kind. This weekly tradition is called "Sending Smiles." Students and staff are asked to fill out nomination forms and place them in the drop off boxes to nominate who made them smile and explain why. One adult and one student each week are selected, announced on the loudspeaker and get to come to the office for a prize!!

Our teachers and grown-ups are working hard to finish out the year strong – focusing on teaching, learning, growth, and the social-emotional well-being of all. East View is an awesome place to learn and grow together!

Follow our school on twitter @OleanEastView

April 2024 - May 2024



OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.

Olean, NY 14760

www.oleanschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Mary Hirsch-Schena

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Alan Peters

Kevin Stevens

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Genelle Morris

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

Dr. Michael Irizarry

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Jenny M. Bilotta

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ORGANIZATION

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Olean, NY 14760

ECRWSS

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

WE ARE HIRING!

Join Our Team!

- Special Education Teachers
 - Elementary Level
 - Secondary Level
- English Teachers
 - Secondary Level
- Business Teacher
 - Secondary Level
- Mathematics Teacher
 - Secondary Level
- Science Teacher
 - Secondary Level
- Elementary Teachers
- Social Studies Teacher
 - Secondary Level
- Spanish Teacher
 - Secondary Level
- School Counselor
 - Elementary
- Tech/Comp Sci.
 - Secondary Level
- School Psychologist
- Athletic Trainer
- Music Teacher

To learn more about opportunities, or to apply, please visit:

www.oleanschools.org/hr



OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mission Statement:

The Olean City School District is a student-centered community of excellence in which all members are challenged to learn, achieve, contribute, and innovate.



Vision Statement:

- The Olean City School District will support excellence by holding everyone to high standards in academics, character, extracurriculars, and service.
- Our district will uphold a culture of acceptance, inclusion, and equity for all, while embracing the diversity of our community. We will create and foster a safe and positive climate for our students, staff and families that is adaptive for the ever-changing needs of society.
- Our students will graduate future-focused, engaged, resilient, and prepared to achieve their goals.
- Our staff will be learner-centered, innovative, inquisitive, professional, and committed to student success.
- Our families will be engaged, collaborative partners in academic success for all.



Guiding Principles:

A commitment to fostering:

- A respectful, safe, and welcoming environment
- Embracing diversity
- Continuous improvement
- Academic excellence and lifelong learning
- Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability
- Student potential and achievement



Strategic Plan Action Steps:

- Create and Support a Positive Culture
- Maximize Success for All
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Progressive and Enriching Learning for All Students
- Engaging Parental and Community Involvement

www.oleanschools.org