

Learning at...



BUDGET 2023

# Wallkill

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Wallkill Central School District Announces Valedictorian and Salutatorian

**THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT COLIN MCCARTNEY HAS BEEN NAMED VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2023, AND JOSEPH (J.J.) WAGNER HAS BEEN NAMED SALUTATORIAN.**

Rounding out the “top ten” students of the graduating class, in order of rank, are: Mia Ferrante, Lillian Glembocki, Kiran Simon, Marco Martini, Charles Price, Edwin Herrera II, Jordan Marwin, and Matthew Swider.

Wallkill Senior High School (WSHS) Principal Brian Masopust is full of praise for the seniors. “We are extremely proud of what the top 10 students of the Class of 2023 have accomplished,” he said. “Their work ethic and their dedication to their studies and our learning community are an outstanding representation of what it means to be a Wallkill Panther. In addition to their talents and their academic success, these students embody the values of our community. They are so much more than just scholars; they participate in interscholastic athletics and music, and give back as members of scholastic clubs and service organizations. I have no doubt that they will go on to do great things as young adults!”

Colin, the son of Erin and Eric McCartney of Wallkill, achieved his Valedictorian status by earning a weighted grade point average (GPA) of 102.2 while taking a challenging course load, including Advanced

Placement (AP), college-level, and honors classes.

Outside of the classroom, Colin was a member of the Spanish Honor Society, served as vice president of the National Honor Society, and was a student representative for the Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP). A talented multi-sport athlete, Colin was named captain of the Varsity Basketball

and Lacrosse teams, and earned All-American status in Lacrosse. He was also a member of the Football team.

Colin credits his family with helping him to achieve his goals. “My parents have supported and encouraged me throughout my life,” he said. “They always ensured I was doing fine mentally before concerning themselves with my performance in school or other activities.” He also expresses gratitude for his older brother, Aidan, who he says always made him feel appreciated.

Referring to Wallkill’s “spectacular teaching staff,” Colin said, “They were always more than traditional teachers. They made me think creatively and visualize new solutions rather than

telling me how it is always done. Their care for my well-being inside and outside of class was always greatly appreciated. Specifically, I would like to thank Mr. [Samrat] Pathania for helping me discover my interest in Computer Science.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



*Wallkill High School has announced its valedictorian, Colin McCartney (left), and its salutatorian, Joseph Wagner.*

# VOTE

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023  
12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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

*Budget  
Details  
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## Valedictorian and Salutatorian CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the fall, Colin plans to continue his studies in Computer Science, with the ultimate goal of earning a master's degree in the field. "I am particularly interested in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity," he said. "I wish to create technology in a way that is ethical and beneficial to the user, not just the company."

Colin is especially grateful for the friends and memories he made at WSHS. "I cherish every memory I have created with the amazing people at Wallkill," he declared. "It will be incredibly hard to say good-bye, but they will always be with me in my heart."

Salutatorian Joseph Wagner, the son of Joe and Agnes Wagner of Newburgh, earned an impressive weighted GPA of 101.6 while participating in many extracurricular activities, including National Honor Society, Science Club, Varsity Cross County, and Varsity Tennis.

His family has played a key role in his accomplishments. "My parents were always loving and supportive, and provided me with the best childhood one could ask for," he said. His Aunt Cathy, who lived with his family until he was about 12 years old, was also a major influence. "She was someone I could talk to, play with, and learn from — a true role model, who sparked my curiosity in the sciences," he explained.

Joseph is also grateful to Bishop Dunn Memorial School, which he attended through Grade 8. The school, he said, helped him to develop a strong work ethic and an open-minded character, while providing him with a solid educational foundation.

After eighth grade, Joseph enrolled at Wallkill Senior High School, moving from a class of 26 students to one with 260. "This transition was already difficult, and just when I was starting to make friends COVID-19 occurred, which made it difficult again," he remembered. "Once we were able to return to in-person learning, I was able to find my place in High School and made some really great friends."

Among his mentors at Wallkill, he said, were his Cross-County coaches, Nick Mancuso and Eric McLaud, who taught him "the importance of giving 100 percent of one's effort." He also has fond memories of his former Pre-Calculus teacher and Tennis coach, Arthur Higby, whom he admires for his "unmatched personality and straightforwardness."

Like Colin, Joseph is especially appreciative of Math/Computer Programming/Physics teacher Samrat Pathania. "Mr. Pathania helped me find my passion in Computer Science and enlightened me of the importance of sustainability in our day-to-day lives to help our environment," he said. "Because of him, I was able to obtain my certificates and course credits from Georgia Institute of Technology."

Outside of school, Joseph plays tennis, and works as a lifeguard and tennis instructor, at Sportsplex New Windsor where, he says, he has benefited from "amazing coaches" over the years.

Joseph, who is still waiting to hear from several colleges and universities, plans to study Electrical Engineering or Computer Science after he graduates.

## Class of 2023 "Top Ten" Named at Wallkill Senior High School



*The Top 10 students of this year's graduating class pose for a photo with Wallkill Superintendent Kevin Castle (far left) and Wallkill Senior High School Principal Brian Masopust (far right).*

**T**he Wallkill Central School District congratulates the Top 10 students in the Class of 2023 in order of grade point average (GPA): Colin McCartney, Joseph (J.J.) Wagner, Mia Ferrante, Lillian Glembocki, Kiran Simon, Marco Martini, Charles Price, Edwin Herrera II, Jordan Marwin, and Matthew Swider. We're proud of you!

# 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 2023-2024 school district budget. The District is proposing a 4.59% budget increase for the 2023-2024 school year that equates to a **1.99% tax levy increase (below the tax levy limit)**. As a result of the fiscal foresight of the Board of Education and Administration, our proposed 2023-2024 budget will result in a tax levy that is either at or below the limit for the 12th year in a row. Since the proposed tax levy is **below** the tax levy limit, it will require a simple majority of voters for approval (50% +1) instead of a super majority for approval (60% or more).

The 2023-2024 proposed budget includes two (2) sections of an in-house Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) program with a maximum class size of eighteen (18) students per section. Enrollment for the program will be determined by a random lottery. There may also be additional slots with outside agencies through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. More information about the UPK program is also included on page 12. For more information and to obtain a lottery application, please visit our webpage at [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

The 2023-2024 proposed budget also includes the addition of a District-Wide Elementary School Social Worker to address the mental health needs of our students and a full-time Athletic Trainer (currently part-time) to address the medical needs of our student-athletes during practice and home games. We are also excited about the addition of Unified Sports, which joins students with and without disabilities on the same basketball team. Lastly, the Board of Education made it a priority to maintain low class sizes, academic programs, extracurricular activities, student support services, and police officers in all school buildings.

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 2023-2024 school district budget.

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

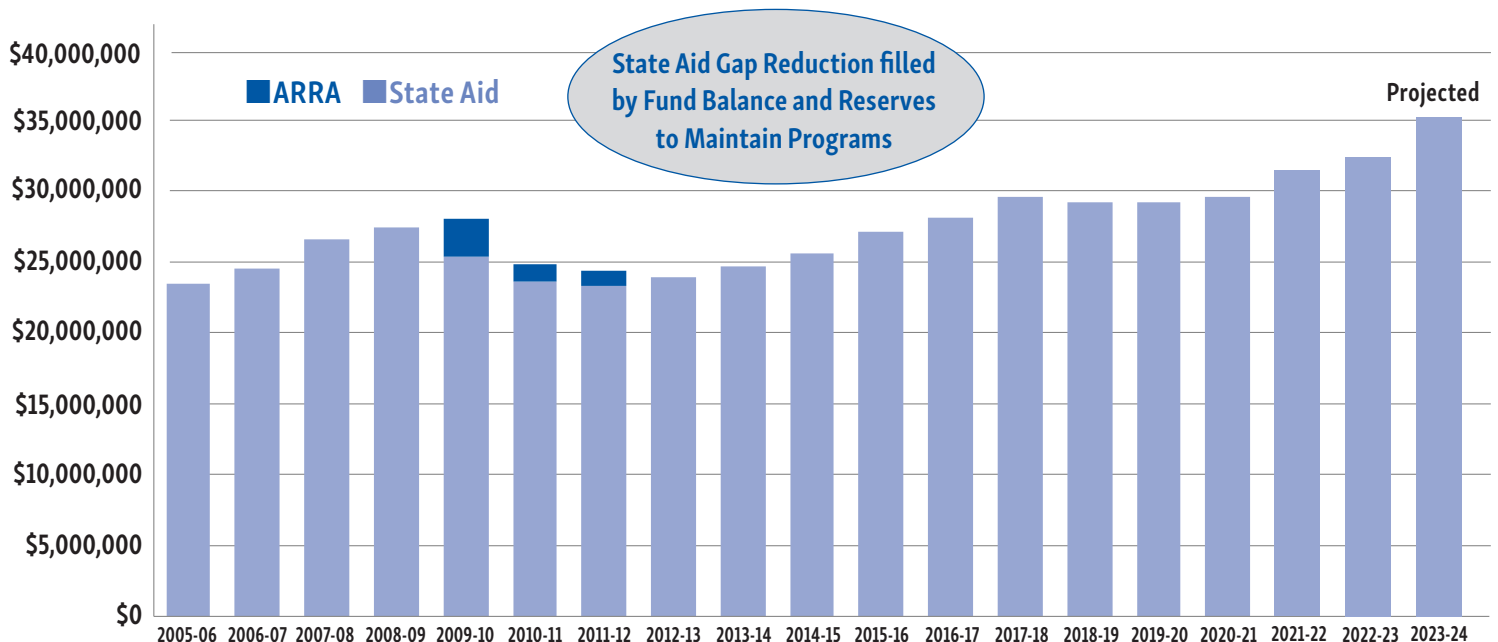
Stay Panther Strong!

Sincerely,



Kevin Castle, Superintendent of Schools

## History of State Aid 2005-2023





# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2023-2024 School District Budget

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

The proposition voters will cast a ballot for on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, will be:

**Proposition #1: RESOLVED**, that the proposed Wallkill Central School District budget for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$85,467,681 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 2023-2024 tax levy within the limit?

Yes, the 2023-2024 tax levy is below the allowable limit by **\$395,480**; therefore, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval (50% + 1). The tax levy increase with permissible exemptions is **1.99%**.

### 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 voters (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 assessed property values. At this time, individual town tax rates are undetermined due to the lack of final 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 2023-2024 budget when compared to the 2022-2023 budget?

The 2023-2024 budget increase is **4.59%**.

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

The District is projected to receive \$35,200,000 in State Aid in 2023-2024. In addition, the District continues to balance its budget with reserves and fund balance.

### What programs for students are included in the 2023-2024 budget?

1. Create two (2.0) FTE Elementary Teaching Positions for a newly established UPK program
2. Create two (2.0) Full-Time Teacher Aide Positions and two (2) .97 Part-Time Teacher Aide Positions for the newly established UPK program
3. Create one (1.0) FTE District-Wide Elementary Social Worker Position
4. Eliminate one (1) Part-Time Athletic Trainer Position and create one (1.0) FTE Athletic Trainer Position
5. Create a Unified Sports Team - Basketball - Spring Season
6. Maintain programs, extra-curricular activities and equipment money for technology
7. Maintain low class sizes for K-12 to allow for enhanced learning opportunities (K-6 average class size of 20)
8. Professional Development opportunities to support classroom instruction and student learning
9. Maintain support services to address the mental well-being of our students
10. 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 16, 2023**



**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**



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

# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

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

- ▶ Reduction of eight (8) instructional positions resulting in larger class sizes and loss of programs for our students
- ▶ Any new proposed programs including UPK
- ▶ 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 for students residing less than 15 miles from their home to school
- ▶ 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 16, 2023?

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 16, 2023; 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:

kcrcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us if you have any questions regarding how you may obtain an absentee ballot. Information on how an unregistered voter, who meets the definition of a qualified voter, may receive an absentee ballot is available at: [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

## Preguntas frecuentes sobre el presupuesto del distrito escolar 2023-2024

### ¿Quién puede votar, el 16 de mayo de 2023?

Los votantes son elegibles para votar si son: (a) un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos; (b) de al menos 18 años de edad; (c) residente del distrito escolar durante al menos 30 días antes del 16 de mayo de 2023; y (d) no ineligible para votar de acuerdo con sección 5-106 de la Ley Electoral. Las personas no necesitan estar registradas para votar. Comuníquese con la Secretaria del Distrito al 845-895-7101, o por correo electrónico a: [kcrcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcrcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a cómo puede obtener una boleta en ausencia. La información sobre cómo un votante no registrado, que cumple con la definición de un votante calificado, puede recibir una boleta en ausencia 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

The Tax Levy increase has remained at or below the Tax Cap level beginning with the 2012-13 school year.

Year	Tax Levy Increase
2019-20	2.68%*
2020-21	2.49%*
2021-22	1.47%**
2022-23	2.50%**
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>1.99%**</b> <b>(\$395,480 below the tax levy limit)</b>

The District has proposed tax levies that have been below the limit for three (3) consecutive years resulting in a compound savings for the taxpayers of \$999,828 over that period of time.

\*at the tax levy limit

\*\*below the tax levy limit

## Plattekill Elementary School Students Had a “Rootin’-Tootin’ Time” During Spirit Day

**STUDENTS AND STAFF ALIKE ENJOY SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS**, which are designed around various themes. Students at Plattekill Elementary School recently had a great deal of fun with a country and western theme. The value of spirit days is deeper than a few smiles, however. It is believed that there is a correlation between school spirit and academic success. Studies suggest that students who feel that their school has a positive culture and feel connected to their peers are happier, perform better academically, and are more socially and civically engaged than their less-connected peers.



## Ostrander Elementary School Students Practice Skills and Engage in Family Fun

**T**his March, students and their families engaged in a productive night of learning and family fun. More than 200 people attended the sixth annual Family Game Night, which featured such favorite games as Candyland, Connect Four, Hedbanz, and Apples to Apples. All the games help strengthen children’s reading and math skills.

“Our Family Game Nights are invaluable,” said Grade 4 teacher Deborah Reese, who helped organize the event. “They allow the school community of students, parents, administrators, and teachers to all get together in an informal setting.”

“It reinforces that some of the most important things parents can do to support their children are also the simplest: eating, talking, and playing games,” she added.

While parents and students worked up an appetite, faculty and staff were on hand to make sure that all the players stayed fueled up for learning. They cooked more than 20 trays of ziti, and the PTO provided water and cookies. Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Anthony White, and Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Intervention Services, Tara Rounds, chatted with families, and as a special treat, the food was served by our very own Superintendent of Schools, Kevin Castle! Members of the High School’s Leo Club also joined in to lend a hand where needed.

At the end of the night, families were invited to choose a few donated children’s books to take home and add to their own libraries. A great time was had by all!



*Students and parents at Family Game Night, held in March at Ostrander Elementary School, engage in a game of Hedbanz. Players were tasked with asking a series of questions to guess the name of an object displayed on a card that was tucked into a headband.*



# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

## Tax Levy Limit Calculation 2023-2024

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$45,784,030	
Tax Base Growth	x 1.0083	
PILOT	+ \$2,535	
BOCES Exemption	- \$119,912	
Capital Exemption	- \$647,207	
<b>Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy</b>	<b>= \$45,399,453</b>	
	x 1.0200	← Allowable Growth Factor
PILOT	- \$8,623	
<b>Tax Levy Limit Prior To Exemptions</b>	<b>\$46,298,820</b>	← Voter Threshold
BOCES Exemption	+ \$117,116	} Estimated
Capital Exemption	+ \$674,544	
TRS Exemption	+0	
ERS Exemption	+0	
<b>= \$47,090,480</b>		← *Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

*\*The District's is proposing a tax levy of \$46,695,000 which is \$395,480 below the tax levy limit*

### Three Component Budget

**Administrative Component: \$8,328,845**

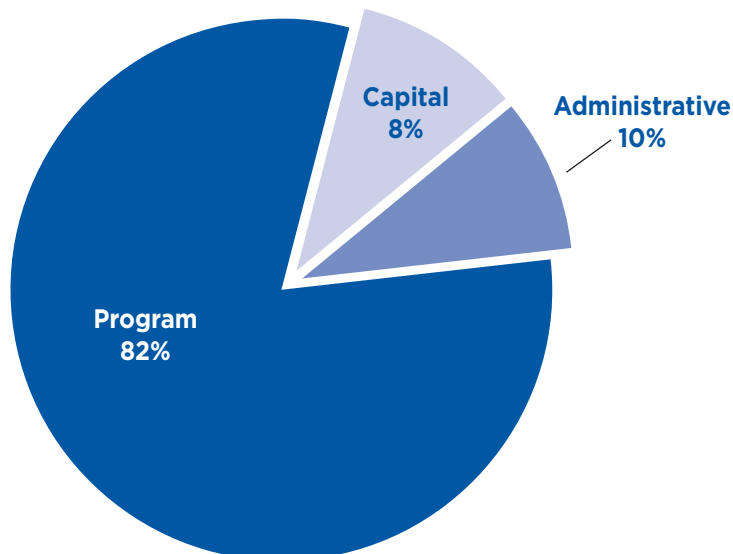
► Central Administration, Building Supervision, BOCES (partial)

**Program Component: \$69,909,349**

► Instructional Areas, Transportation, Extracurricular Activities

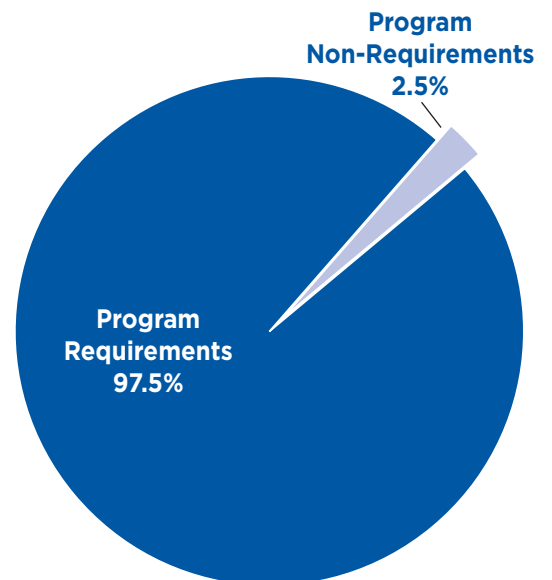
**Capital Component: \$7,229,487**

► 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.



# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

## Wallkill Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$81,713,970	\$85,467,681	\$84,556,711
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$3,753,711	\$2,842,741
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.59%	3.48%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.00%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$45,784,030	\$46,695,000	
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)	\$45,784,030	\$46,695,000	\$45,784,030
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$767,119	\$791,660	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$45,086,673	\$46,298,820	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$45,016,911	\$45,903,340	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$69,762	\$395,480	
Administrative Component	\$8,106,664	\$8,328,845	\$8,224,647
Program Component	\$66,840,042	\$69,909,349	\$69,162,577
Capital Component	\$6,767,264	\$7,229,487	\$7,169,487

\*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Elimination of: Eight (8) teaching positions, any new proposed programs including UPK, all field trips (including Ashokan) and all equipment purchases (except technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment for health and safety).

Total: \$910,970

\*\*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 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> \$617.30

<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 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Wallkill Central School District, Ulster/Orange Counties, New York, will be held at the High School, Leptondale and Plattkill schools in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the High School, Leptondale and Plattkill schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Information about requesting an absentee ballot can be found on the District's website or by contacting the District Clerk at 845-895-7101.

**ANNUAL BUDGET  
VOTE**  
& Election of Trustees

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**  
**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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



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

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

- ▶ Full-day Kindergarten
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) system and 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

# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

## Candidates for the Board of Education

The four 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, beginning July 1, 2023, and expiring June 30, 2026. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will earn these three seats. There is also one (1) vacancy for the remainder of Ursula Petricek's term (created by her resignation). The candidate with the fourth highest number of votes will fill this vacancy and take office upon the declaration of the results at the annual meeting. The term of this seat ends on June 30, 2025.

*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.*

### VINCENT PETROCELLI

To the residents of the Wallkill Central School District: My name is Vinny Petrocelli and I am running for a position for the upcoming Wallkill Central School District Board Elections.

I have totally enjoyed my past service on the Board for the past 15+ years and especially working with the Administration, Board, the Faculty, Community and especially the students. I am proud also that the Wallkill Central School District has a reputation in Ulster County for outstanding academic excellence.

It is rewarding to know that I had a small part in the positive changes and advancements that have maintained and raised the education standards of the District.

While serving in this position, I have also had the honor of currently representing the Wallkill Central School District as a member at large on the Ulster County BOCES Board.

Thank you,  
Vinny Petrocelli

### ERIN MCCARTNEY

My name is Erin and I have lived in the Wallkill community for over 30 years, I am a Wallkill graduate. I have 2 sons that also attend/attended Wallkill Schools. I currently work at Allstate Insurance company as a District Manager. I attended MSMC in Newburgh, where I received my BS degree. I hold the following licenses: FINRA Series, 7,63,24,51. Certified Financial Planner™, Yale Women in Leadership Certificate, Life and Health Agent, and Property and Casualty Agent licenses. As a professional financial planner, I was on several corporate boards, 2 of which were at the state and national levels. I am currently on the professional CFP® scholarship board. I was the treasurer of the Wallkill youth lacrosse board for 7 years. I volunteer for the Autism community, I am the Co-Chair for the Senior Celebration drug/alcohol free graduation party, and Team Mom and head fund raiser

for Varsity Lacrosse Team. I would like to continue my seat on the board. I would be a part of continuing the positive school experiences that both my children and I have known. If elected, I will work hard to continue to improve health and safety opportunities, expand inclusivity and be an approachable sounding board for the community. I have a passion for teamwork and collaboration. I would be honored to be elected as your school board representative and bring my talents and experience to the board and community.

Warm regards,  
Erin McCartney, CFP®

### DAVID BARTOLONE

My name is David Bartolone, and I am running for re-election to the WCSD BOE. I have been a resident for 20 years, where I reside with my wife Brea, who is an employee of the WCSD, and our 3 children.

As a current School Board member, I made it my mission to ensure that I represent the students, parents, and educators with the utmost integrity.

I look forward to continuing to serve the community as a School Board Member to ensure that we create a healthy and safe environment for our students and staff.

I will continue to work effortlessly with staff to build strong learning programs that meet the needs of all our students.

I look forward to continuing to work with members of the Special Education committee to ensure that we are meeting the needs of students in this program by providing the most innovative technology and up to date core programs to these students.

I would appreciate it if the residents of the WCSD would allow me the opportunity to continue to bring new ideas and vision to the Wallkill Central School District.

Sincerely,  
David Christopher Bartolone

# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

## KATHRYN ANDERSON

I am an incumbent seeking re-election to the Wallkill Central School District Board of Education. I believe the education of all our children is one of the most important responsibilities we have as a community, for they are our future.

I believe one objective of our educational system should be to promote learning as a lifelong activity. Our district strives to be a supportive community where that responsibility is shared by all stakeholders, students, parents, staff, and administration.

During my tenure on the Board of Education in Wallkill, we have been fiscally responsible in every way possible when putting forth a budget, within the tax cap allowed by the state, without damaging programs and extra-curricular activities for students or layoffs for personnel. Educating the students in Wallkill, who are well prepared to meet future challenges, while keeping in mind our community and the burden we all share as taxpayers, is my top priority as a Board Member.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving you in this capacity.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Anderson

## 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

### Total Proposed Budget

Amount ..... \$85,467,681

### Increase from the 2022-23

School Year..... \$3,753,711

Percentage of Increase..... 4.59%

## 2023-2024 District Revenue

Revenue Source	Amount Received
Estimated State Aid	\$35,200,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$780,000
Appropriated Reserves	\$1,571,000
Other Sources	\$1,221,681
Tax Levy	\$46,695,000
Total Revenue	\$85,467,681
Tax Levy Increase	1.99%*

\* \$395,480 below the tax levy limit

## District Honored with Regional Impact Award from SUNY New Paltz

The Wallkill Central School District (WCSD) was awarded a Regional Impact Award from SUNY New Paltz for its partnership with SUNY New Paltz. The award, which was presented on April 21 as part of the SUNY New Paltz Presidential Inauguration event, recognizes WCSD's strong commitment to providing placements for teacher candidates as well as its support of other programs and grants designed to provide opportunities for post-secondary students. In recent years, more than 70 SUNY New Paltz students have fulfilled their student teaching requirements working alongside the faculty at WCSD, including 23 this year.



Anthony White, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Superintendent Kevin Castle, with the award they accepted at SUNY New Paltz.

## Annual Budget Vote & Election of Trustees

**TUESDAY,**  
**MAY 16, 2023**  
**12 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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





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

**THE 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET**, which was adopted by the Board of Education on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, includes funding for two (2) sections of in-house Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) with a maximum class size of eighteen (18) students per section.

**The ability to provide the in-house UPK program is contingent upon voter approval of the 2023-2024 school budget on Tuesday, May 16.** If the budget is approved, the program will start in September. Please note that **District transportation will not be provided for the program.**

Additional seats may also be available through outside service providers. A Request for Proposal (RFP) process is currently underway to identify interested providers. These proposals are due to the District by May 18 and will determine the availability of additional seats.

Applications for the proposed UPK program can be found at [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/8129](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/8129).

Acceptance will be determined by a random lottery, which will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 4 PM. All eligible applicants will be entered individually into the lottery. The lottery drawing will be livestreamed on the Wallkill Central School District website.

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, 2023.
- **You must complete and return the lottery application form, either online or a paper version, by 12 PM on Tuesday, May 16.**

All families will be notified of their child's status on June 2, 2023. Any student not selected in the lottery will also be notified and placed on a waiting list.

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



## Highlights from the New York State School Report Card

Data based on the 2021-2022 School Year

AREA	WALLKILL CSD	NEW YORK STATE AVERAGE
Expenditures per pupil*	\$23,457	\$25,870
Graduation Rate	96%	87%
Graduation Rate for Students with Disabilities	86%	69%

**\*Wallkill Central School District is approximately \$2,400 less than the state average and is still able to provide students with a robust educational experience (see page 9)**

## Leptondale Elementary's Fun-filled "Family Feud" Competition Helps Students Build Character

**LEPTONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is always a magical place, and this year is no different! In March, Principal Scott Brown and Intervention Specialist Anita Hoyt hosted a Family Feud-style game show, during which faculty dressed as Disney heroes, to demonstrate the qualities that can help make a student a good friend as well as a valuable member of the Leptondale community. These same qualities are key to meeting the school's PAWS Expectations for Success, namely demonstrating a **P**ositive attitude, **A**cting responsibly and respectfully, making **W**ise choices, and remembering **S**afety.

Students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 enjoyed the fun and informative afternoon, which gave them the opportunity to reinforce character-building skills with characters they know and love. "Using Disney characters helped students connect with some of their favorite villains or heroes in a way that will help guide them in their own living," Mrs. Hoyt said. "How we treat people on a daily basis was the focus."

Earlier in the year, the Leptondale community responded to a survey about the same topic. Feedback was used to create the questions for the game show. Some of the questions included such prompts as "reasons why you might be sent to the office (positive or negative!)", and "Disney characters that come to mind when you think of courage and bravery."

Since this year's school theme is "Believe in the magic of Leptondale," having faculty and staff face off in the competition dressed as Disney heroes and villains was a perfect idea.

"It was amazing to watch as contestants not only dressed like their character, but encompassed their whole being, getting into and responding in full character," said Mrs. Hoyt. "I am confident students learned that lesson while having a great time!"



*Teachers and staff at Leptondale Elementary School dressed as the Disney "hero" team in a Family Feud-style competition. During the event, the "heroes" displayed positive character traits for a student audience.*



*Teachers and staff at Leptondale Elementary dressed as the Disney "villain" team in a Family Feud-style competition. During the course of the event, the "villains" displayed negative character traits for a student audience.*

## WHS Senior Recognized in Poetry Contest

**T**he Friends of the Woodstock Library and the family of the late Michael Perkins - a longtime area resident who was a poet, novelist, essayist, aphorist, critic, and self-described culture vulture-have announced that Tia Pignetti, a senior at Wallkill Senior High School, has earned a third place prize in the First Annual Michael Perkins Poetry Prize contest. The contest was open to all high school students in Ulster County and its purpose was to celebrate poetry and inspire young writers. The contest winners were celebrated at an awards ceremony and reception, which included a poetry reading by all participants and judges, at the Woodstock Library on Saturday, April 15.







The cast and crew of *Newsies JR.* treated audiences to two nearly sold out performances on March 24 and 25 at John G. Borden Middle School.

## Middle School Presents *Newsies JR.*

**STUDENT ACTORS AT JOHN G. BORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL** truly “delivered” on their promise of a musical extravaganza when they presented Disney’s *Newsies JR.* on the evening of March 24 and the afternoon of March 25. Both performances were nearly sold out!

Teachers Debra Rosenfeld and Jesse Wallen da Silva led the cast and crew in this 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. Inspired by the true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, *Newsies JR.* features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein.

When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys’ expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together the newsies learn that they are stronger united, and they create a movement to fight for what’s right.

### *Students Take the Stage and Deliver a Spectacular Show!*

**T**he Panther Players wowed the community on April 13-15 with an extravagant rendition of *Mama Mia!* Over four separate shows, the talented performers continued to impress audiences with their talents, hard work, and showmanship. Bravo to the cast, crew, and everyone involved in the spectacular production! We are so proud of you all!





## Plattekill's Family STEAM Night a Rousing Success!

**THE PLATTEKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PES)** community enjoyed its annual "STEAM (science technology, engineering, art, and math) Night," which attracted more than 250 guests! The event provides a fun and educational way to reinforce STEAM skills and was supported by the Parent Teachers Association (PTA).

This year's event was facilitated by approximately 25 teacher volunteers as well as about 20 student volunteers, including some PES alumni who are members of the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and Leo Club.

Principal Monica Hasbrouck said, "We enjoy having the Middle School and High School students volunteer at this event. The younger students look up to them and it creates a strong community bond." She added that it was great to see how respectful, helpful, and grown-up the student volunteers were.

Stations were set up throughout the cafeteria and gymnasium. Attendees were able to enjoy each station for 15 minutes before rotating to the next one. Activities ranged from building a volcano or a tall, sturdy structure; to operating a robot or a drone; to creating delicious concoctions or an impressive work of art.

Some of the stations required participants to use a variety of skills. For example, the ice cream making, slime making, and make-your-own trail mix stations all involved learning about measurements and following directions using skills that aligned with their academic level. As an added bonus, the youngsters were able to eat, or take home, the treats they made.

Technology stations were popular with the students. At the drone station, students used their computer-coding skills to make their devices take flight. At the Ozobot station, participants arranged a series of colors to operate their robots. And at the Lego station, students employed game-like controllers to complete the required tasks.

Art was brought into the mix through a monoprint station, where the students created prints using an aluminum foil board, bingo markers, and their own imaginations. This station differed from the other ones because instead of following instructions, the students came up with their own ideas, which required them to think outside of the box and sparked their creativity.

At the conclusion of STEAM Night, the students were able to visit with volunteers from the Plattekill Public Library and select a free scholastic book of their choice. The books, which had been generously donated by the PTA, are allowing students and their parents to continue learning about the STEAM-related topic that they had most enjoyed during this fun experience!

**"We enjoy having the Middle School and High School students volunteer at this event. The younger students look up to them and it creates a strong community bond."**

**— Monica Hasbrouck,  
PES Principal**





## Wallkill Central School District

Office of Educational Services

1500 Route 208, PO Box 310

Wallkill, NY 12589

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The Wallkill Central School District does not discriminate. Our Non-Discrimination Statement can be read in full at [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/643](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/643). A copy may also be requested by contacting Brian Devincenzi, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, by phoning (845) 895-7102, emailing [bdevincenzi@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:bdevincenzi@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us), or writing to 1500 Route 208, PO Box 310, Wallkill, NY 12589.

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

## Wallkill Teacher Named a NYS Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to longtime Wallkill Physical Education teacher Jennifer Gravelle, who received the New York State Adaptive Physical Education Teacher of the Year award! Ms. Gravelle, who teaches at Wallkill Senior High School, is an inspiration to us all!



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

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Mr. Anthony White, *Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*

Mr. Brian Devincenzi, *Assistant Superintendent for Support Services*

Ms. Tara Rounds, *Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Intervention Services*

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

Leptondale Elementary School..... 895-7200

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

Plattekill Elementary School..... 895-7250

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

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