

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Continues all pre-pandemic programing for students.
- Adds an elementary librarian, so there is a librarian at each school.
- Expands electives by adding two secondary STEAM/Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers, along with STEAM/CTE classes.
- Adds a secondary French/Spanish teacher to make foreign language programs more accessible for students.
- Provides Chromebooks to expand our 1:1 technology program.
- Provides new microscopes and scales for the Senior High.
- Adds robotics kits for Junior High School students.
- Adds a reading specialist.

Meet the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2022.

Read the full story on Page 2.



Kristiane Rell



Marlo Rothe

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Saugerties

Central School District

BUDGET 2022

2022-2023 Proposed Budget is LESS THAN the Current Budget, and Meets NYS Tax Cap Criteria while Increasing Opportunities for Students

The Saugerties Central School District Board of Education adopted a \$66,426,716 proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year that is \$110,249 **LESS THAN** the current year’s budget. The decrease in the budget was accomplished through savings generated by the decision to repurpose an elementary school and by the payoff of bonds related to previous capital projects.

According to Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt, a responsible school budget accomplishes three things: it stays under the tax cap, it maintains a student-centered learning environment, and it reduces the possibility of negative fiscal fluctuation in the future. “This District administrative team and the Board of Education have worked tirelessly to be good financial stewards, and the proposed budget adheres to those principles,” says Reinhardt.

The proposed budget reflects a 2.36 percent tax levy increase and meets the New York State Tax Cap formula criteria for a simple majority voter approval. The community is encouraged to participate in the school budget vote and Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 17, between 6 AM and 9 PM. Polls will be open at each of the four elementary school buildings.


New Opportunities for Students

Despite the decrease in the budget from the current year, the proposed budget preserves all existing student programs (including several that were added during the current school year), while providing new opportunities for student extracurricular programs, a librarian at each school building, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Career and Technical Education electives, new microscopes and scales for High School science courses, robotics kits for Junior High students, technology server upgrades, and devices to expand our 1:1 technology program. The proposed budget also provides support to address

CHECK OUT THE NEW STUDENT CLUBS!

- Science Club
- Business Entrepreneurship Club

- Poetry Club
- Japanese Animation & Culture Club
- Fishing Club



Board of Education

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Krista Barringer
Katie Emerson-Hoss
Susan Gage
Raymond (Mike) Maclary
Elena Maskell
Paul Van Schaack
Timothy Wells

Superintendent of Schools

Kirk Reinhardt

Newsletter produced/designed by Ulster BOCES

New Courses for Students

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Gwendolyn Roraback, is pleased to announce that this budget also includes the availability of 15 newly approved courses for students (with the caveat that enough students will need to enroll to ensure the programs run). These courses include:

- Desktop Publishing
- Digital Advertising and Design
- Sports Broadcasting and Event Planning
- Digital Citizenship
- Algebra 1B
- Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis
- Graphing Calculator Fundamentals
- Piano 3

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Chemistry and Forensics
- College Physics
- Real World Physics 1 and 2
- Scientific Research and design
- History Through Film
- Introduction to Robotics

academic and mental health challenges brought on by the pandemic.

This was accomplished through \$1.18 million in staff reductions, some through retirements, along with federal pandemic-relief funding.

“Although repurposing Mt. Marion Elementary School was a difficult solution for the District’s Governance Committee to recommend, and a more difficult decision for the Board of Education to make, it is already helping the District achieve some financial stability, while enriching opportunities for students,” explains Reinhardt. “This was a Governance Committee goal, and also responds to some of the feedback that we heard at our Town Hall meetings. Parents want more options for their children academically, mentally, and physically, and this budget offers that,” he explains.

Reinhardt also says that the changes will help align the curriculum throughout the District and will offer the ability to create new learning opportunities to help all students reach their potential.

Building Leadership Teams at each of the elementary schools have been busy preparing students for the blending of Mt. Marion students and organizing meet-and-greet-style events to explain the new K-6 three-building configuration that will be in effect in September. Teacher transfers have been announced, and principals’ locations will be shared in the coming days. Elementary school boundaries were redrawn to help balance enrollment and class size at each of the elementary schools. Letters have been sent to parents regarding their children’s new elementary school.

Continued on page 3

Save the Date

May 30

School Closed for Memorial Day

June 20

School Closed for Juneteenth Observance

June 24

Graduation, 6 PM

September 6

First Day of School, ½ Day K-6, Full Day Grades 9-12

Saugerties Artist Takes Center Stage

Saugerties senior Brynn Shultis loves art and has taken a plethora of art classes during her time at Saugerties High School. Last October, Schultis built a papier-mâché Beetlejuice sandworm for the PTA's Trunk or Treat car-decorating contest. That eye-catching Halloween project caught the attention of a Saugerties teacher, who asked her if she would be interested in making a hand puppet for this year's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Shultis agreed to do it.

The specifications for the puppet were that it needed to be lightweight and have an articulated mouth that could open and shut with easy hand movements. After spending several hours researching different kinds of puppets and different mediums, Shultis decided to make the dwarf potted plant out of foam and painted fabric. She crafted the teeth out of modeling clay and attached a green sleeve to the back of it to cover the arm of the person holding it. Shultis was thrilled to see it being used in the play.



Saugerties High School Announces Top Two Students of the Class of 2022

Saugerties Central School District Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt and Saugerties High School (SHS) Principal Tim Reid are proud to announce that Kristiane Rell has been named the valedictorian of the Class of 2022 and Marlo Rothe is this year's salutatorian.

Rell, the daughter of Kari and John Rell of Saugerties, earned top honors with a grade point average (GPA) of 101.96. During her time at SHS, she maintained a rigorous course schedule that included AP English Language, AP US History, AP Government, AP Computer Science Principles, and Precalculus. She excelled in both math and science classes throughout her high school career.

Rell is a member of the Student Council and the National Honor Society. Besides excelling academically, Rell also participated in many clubs, including Key Club, Yearbook, and *The Spirit* newspaper. She was selected to attend Girls State in Grade 11. She also participated in Varsity Soccer since she was a sophomore, and served as captain of the team this year. On the weekends and during the summer, Rell works as a cashier at Target.

Rell plans to major in Civil Engineering this fall. Her top two college choices are Clarkson University and Syracuse University.

Salutatorian Marlo Rothe, who is the daughter of Jill and Richard Rothe of Saugerties, has a GPA of 101.45. She took an array of college and AP courses in high school, including AP European History, AP English, AP US History, Precalculus, AP Biology, Spanish 4 and 5, AP Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, and AP Chemistry.

Rothe is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Government. She participates in Key Club, *The Spirit* newspaper, and the Robotics Club. In addition, she has played on the Varsity Tennis team since she was a sophomore. She also holds a part-time job as a pizza delivery driver four days a week.

Upon graduation, Rothe plans to attend the University of Connecticut or Syracuse University, where she would like to enroll in a pre-med program and major in Biology.

Principal Reid is honored to have Rell and Rothe as students. "I appreciate the drive and dedication to education these two students have," he says. "I look forward to seeing what lies ahead for them."

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Thrills Audiences

Theater lovers were introduced to a quaint little flower shop that was hiding a most exotic plant—a man-eating one—when the Saugerties High School Drama Club staged *Little Shop of Horrors* April 1-3. The adaptation featured all the popular characters from the award-winning musical, including: the shop owner, Mrs. Mushnik, played by senior Maddie Jabs; the hapless florist, Seymour, played by sophomore Sean Mahoney; the voluptuous co-worker, Audrey, played by senior Starle Bolle; and the demented dentist, Orin, played by senior Matthew Lewellyn.

The cast and crew put on an exuberant production of this beloved musical comedy while adding their own creative touches. Music teachers Rebecca MacDougall and Justin Zelamsky were the show's assistant



director and director. They also served as vocal directors of the musical, which featured book and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music written by Alan Menken. Band teacher Marisa Trees served as the pit band conductor, students Morgan Hallam and Caelin Piper were stage managers, Art teacher Elisa Tucci was set designer, and Family and Consumer Science teacher Erin Park was costume designer.



Congratulations to the Class of 2022! You've worked hard, and it has paid off. The Saugerties Central School District is so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. Although this marks the end of your high school career, it also marks the beginning of a new adventure. We urge you to commit yourselves to being lifelong learners and to follow your dreams without fear. Enjoy this moment, and remember you will always be a Sawyer. As of print time, these are the candidates on track to graduate:

Kevin Aguayo
Daniel Aills
Ashley Altieri
Brian Argueta
Edwin Arias Sorto
Tyler Aupperlee
Ivan Avallone
Mackenzie Bach
Renee Baldwin
Amber Banas
Mya Barth
Chad Bellanca
Kierstin Benson
Stephen Bocchimuzzo
Tyler Bodie
Starla Bolle
Brianna Bollella
Catalina Bower
Alexander Brennan
Emily Brink
Christopher Brooks
James Bryant
Joseph Bubel
James Bucci
Elise Burley
Alexandra Calderon
Skyler Catalano
Ariana Catalinotto
Abigail Chase
Isabelle Chauncey
Ethan Conrad
Ava Cooper
Judah Copeman
Tyler Corvin
Nicole Costello
Christina Cox
Camren Creisstoff
Paul Croce
Liam Curtis
Allison Czebatol
Madison Daw
Daniel DeAngelis
Casey DeCelle
Ginger Defino
Ashlynn DeRonda
Gabriella DeSantis
Maia Dienos
Liam Dowdall

Espia Dunkley
Alivia Dyke
Olivia Elliot
Stella Emerson
Brady Essency
Sage Fanelli
Christian Fasano
Shana Feldman
Brynn Fisher
Eoin Fitzgerald
Benjamin Fox
Robert Freer
Gabrielle Gambino
Joseph Garcia
Philip Gaulin
Hailey Gerace
Salih Ghafur
Jordan Gibbs
Mellanie Girón

Tyler Hoyt
Michael Hunter
Luis Irizarry
Madelyn Jabs
Merrick Janice
Anthony Jarman
Aidan Johansen
Caroline Johansen
Audrey Kain
Helen Karolys
Brian Klein
Tyler Knapp
Joshua Kosturik
Kaden Krauss
Sophia Lawkins
Angel Lemus
Kelly Lenahan
Ricardo Leon
Matthew Lewellyn

Jace Misiano
Mehal Mitra
Robert Moon
Alicia Mooney
Luke Moorhus
Nicole Moorhus
Paige Moro
Heidi Mulford
Hasanpreet Multani
Mathew Murtagh
Caiden Myer
Marciano Neglia
Shana Nerone
Andrew Nunez
Arielle O'Donnell
Ryan Olsen
Joshua Oyola
Roger Paff
Arya Patel

Kristiane Rell
Molly Reynolds
Sierra Reynolds
Kylie Rifenburgh
Jude Risley
Gryphan Ritvanen
Peyton Rose
Marlo Rothe
Ethan Rowles-Naccarato
Megan Rua
Adrian Sanchez
Savannah Scarpa-Meade
Lacey Schatzel
Brynn Shultis
Sebastian Silipo
Thane Simera
Kayle Smith
Isaiah Snyder
Ariana Sprague
Samone Staccio
John Stegmayer
Cody Stopczynski
Shaun Sussman
Joshua Swart
GB Sweeney
Autumn Taliaferrow
Jabeek Tenjen Tamang
Jace Tompkins
Ayla Trees
Mindy Tse
Samantha Tubby
Antonino Tuccillo
John Turk
Sophie Turner
Ryan Tyler
Erick Umana
Erica VanValkenburg
Kaylynn Vickery
Sergio Visciano
Elliot Wakefield
Jasmine Welch
Adrian Williams
Eliza Wilson
Dale Wolgamuth
Addison Yang
Cameron Young
Mariyah Zuluaga



Sara Goetz
Marena Graham
Mighlee Grant
Madilin Green
Katelyn Haberski
Abigail Hanson
Mitchell Hart
Connor Hatfield
Karissa Heiss
Alexa Heller
Stephanie Hogan
Tyler Hommel
Fiona Horvath
Emelia Horvath
Ryan Hosford

Alison Lundy
Aiden Lydecker
Alexa Macek
Dreama Manganiello
Fawn Miller
Alejandro Martinez
Gavino Martino
Tobias Matheus
Emily Mazariego
Kelly Mazariego
Ryleigh McArdle
Jared McCaig
Brendan McLoughlin
Ashley Mergenthaler
Hannah Mills

Dylan Patterson-Sprance
Devlen Pettit
Olivia Phillips
Samantha Pineiro
Caelin Piper
Lucas Pipitone
Alison Polanco
Jack Quinlan
Elian Agustin Quintanar
Morales
Isabella Rabiner
Benjamin Rappoport
Leif Rebis
Jack Reece
Ariana Reed

Saugerties 2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

THREE-PART BUDGET

Budget Components

	2021-22 Adopted Budget	2022-23 Proposed Budget
Program	\$53,604,920	\$55,128,466
Capital	\$ 6,726,819	\$ 5,103,853
Administration	\$ 6,205,226	\$ 6,194,397
TOTAL	\$66,536,965	\$66,426,716

The Program component - provides funding for instruction and educational support services for

students. Funds for transportation are also included in this component.

The Capital component - pays for maintaining buildings and grounds, including electricity, heat, repairs, phone services, and the principal and interest payments on debt service.

The Administrative component - provides for overall general support and management activities, including business office operations, payroll, accounts payable, purchasing, tax collection, general administration, personnel, legal representation, public information, insurance, and auditing services. Cost of administration and supervision of each of the schools is also included here.

2022-2023 Proposed Budget is LESS THAN the Current Budget, and Meets NYS Tax Cap Criteria while Increasing Opportunities for Students

Continued from page 1

Managing Energy Expenses

School Business Official Jane St. Amour has been closely monitoring market volatility, especially around electric and heating oil expenses. The District's electric rates are currently locked in through participation in an energy cooperative, which has resulted in stable usage costs. In December of 2020, the voters approved an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) to make upgrades that will generate energy efficiencies over time. This work is now underway and will result in reduced electricity and heating costs.

Weatherization at Riccardi, Cahill, Mt. Marion, Hildebrandt, and the High School, as well as pipe insulation installation at Mt. Marion, Morse, Cahill, Hildebrandt, and the High School, have already been completed. Desktop Computer Power Management has also been completed. "These cost savings will give us the ability to redirect those savings to where it can better serve our students," says St. Amour.

Staff & Supply Chain Shortages

St. Amour is also closely monitoring other areas of the economy that are creating challenges. The nation is currently experiencing a paper shortage, and food suppliers are reluctant to bid on items used in the school meal program because of price volatility. A severe shortage of bus drivers, along with the escalating price of fuel, will impact transportation contracts. There is also a shortage of teacher substitutes as well as all non-instructional substitutes.

Capital Project Update

The Capital Project approved by voters in December 2020 is progressing. Final plans for the project were created by the District's architects, engineers, and construction managers and were submitted to the State Education Department (SED) in October of 2021. SED approved the project in April of 2022, and the project is currently in the bidding stage. Once bids are awarded, work can begin.

Included in the 2022-2023 budget is a Capital Outlay project for \$100,000. This project will either be additional flooring work at Riccardi Elementary School or work inside and outside of Cahill Elementary School.

Contingency Budget

If the proposed budget fails to receive approval, the Board of Education has the option of re-submitting the same budget or a revised budget to voters, or adopting a contingency budget. If a budget is defeated a second time, then the District is required to adopt a contingency budget.

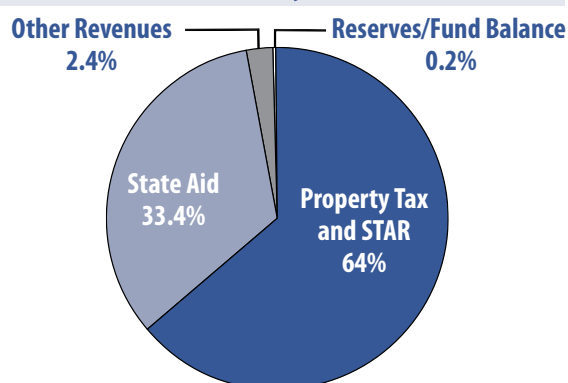
Under a contingency budget, reductions would need to be made to maintain the 2022-2023 tax levy at the same level as the 2021-2022 school year. By law, all equipment purchases would be removed from the budget and there would only be essential maintenance performed on the facilities. The District would also be required to eliminate free community use of facilities.

REVENUE SUMMARY

Revenue By Category

	2022-23 Proposed Revenues	
Property Tax & STAR	\$42,503,847	64.0%
State Aid	\$22,171,617	33.4%
Other Revenue	\$ 1,613,183	2.4%
Reserves/Fund Balance	\$ 138,069	0.2%
TOTAL	\$66,426,716	100.0%

Where the Money Comes From



Property Tax The Saugerties Central School District serves the Town and Village of Saugerties and parts of the Towns of Woodstock and Ulster. The District receives a portion of its funding through taxes levied on real property within these municipalities. The District calculates the tax levy and the corresponding tax rate based on assessments provided by each municipality. New York State law states that all property within a municipality be assessed at a uniform percentage of the market value.

State Education Aid The New York State Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 decreased State aid to the Saugerties Central School District by approximately 5.8%, even though Foundation Aid increased by \$534,247. The overall decrease is due to the completion of building aid payments in 2021-2022 for previous capital projects.

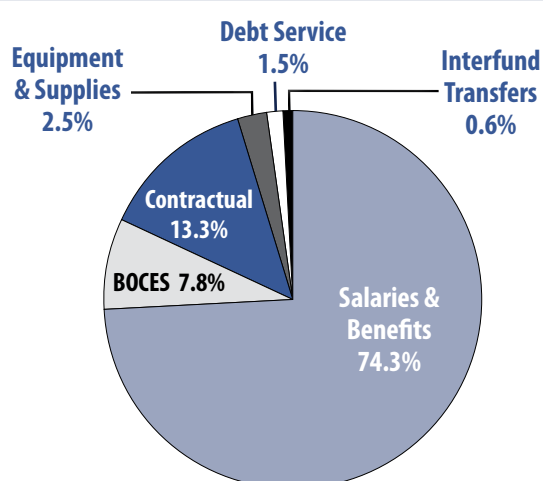
Other Revenue Sources The District will use a portion of the available fund balance and reserves to support the 2022-2023 budget; this will include \$138,069 towards the replacement of equipment in various departments. Other revenue includes interest income, rental of space by non-profit organizations, payments for tuition and health services from other school districts, money from PILOT agreements, medicaid reimbursements, and refunds of prior year expenses.

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

Expenditures By Category

	2022-23 Proposed Expenditures	
Salaries & Benefits	\$49,346,979	74.3%
BOCES	\$ 5,196,881	7.8%
Contractual	\$ 8,863,836	13.3%
Equipment & Supplies	\$1,629,325	2.5%
Debt Service	\$ 989,695	1.5%
Interfund Transfers	\$ 400,000	0.6%
TOTAL	\$66,426,716	100.0%

Where the Money Will Be Spent



Here is how the proposed budget breaks down by category:

Salaries/Benefits In the 2022-2023 school year, the District will have approximately 511 employees, including teachers, librarians, nurses, teacher assistants, teacher aides, administrators, secretaries, school psychologists, social workers, guidance

counselors, maintenance, custodial staff, and other support staff. Benefits include District costs for the following: health insurance, Social Security, Unemployment, Workers' Compensation, and mandated contributions to the State retirement systems for the approximately 511 employees.

BOCES Services BOCES services refer to contracted services with Ulster BOCES. These cooperative services range from administrative services such as the student management program, to student services such as career and technical education and special education programs. Purchasing services through BOCES allows the District to receive a portion of the cost the following year through BOCES State Aid. The BOCES was set up in 1948 to allow districts to share services.

Contractual Contractual costs refer to those services the District cannot perform in-house and need to contract out. This includes various required health and safety inspections and other speciality services as well as outside program placements for students with disabilities.

Supplies/Equipment This includes all materials and supplies needed for schools and offices, including textbooks. It also includes funding for the replacement of cleaning equipment, grounds equipment, athletic equipment, and computer upgrades. The District has a technology plan to guide the research, budgeting, and purchase of technology equipment—plus, a large portion of computer purchases will receive either direct 1:1 State Aid or BOCES Aid.

Debt Service This is the amount set aside annually to pay interest and the portion of the principal due on debt. The decrease in this category is the result of Bonds for previous Capital Projects being paid off in June 2022.

Interfund Transfers This is for the school lunch fund, a capital outlay project, and the local share of the State-aided summer school program for special education students that is accounted for in the Special Aid Fund.

Saugerties 2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District



Along Came the Cat in the Hat, and Students Began to Read just like that!

On Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2, elementary school students typically celebrate by dressing up as characters from one of the author's books, or by eating green eggs and ham, or by listening to readings of some of the writer's classic, rhyming tales. But in Rina Liepshutz's Grade 5 class at Cahill Elementary School, students did something different: they read and annotated Dr. Seuss's biography! In addition, they journaled about several of Dr. Seuss's quotes in conjunction with a responsive classroom positive affirmation exercise.

Sasso and Teammates Take First Place in Contest

Saugerties junior and Ulster BOCES Aviation/ Drone program student, Sean Sasso helped his team of five to take first place in a Federation Aviation Administration (FAA) contest.

The "Straw Hat Pilots" team, made up of Sean Sasso, Saugerties Central School District; Connor Bruschi, Wallkill Central School District; Daiven Leath, Highland Central School District; Joe Carpino, Kingston City School District; and Dalton Veeder, New Paltz Central School District, competed against more than 3,000 students from 50 states and 18 different countries in the FAA STEM Aviation and Space Education Airport Design Challenge.

In November, the young professionals were tasked with researching a local airport and constructing a model of it using the Minecraft video game. They chose to recreate the Kingston-Ulster Airport and had seven weeks to complete the challenge.

The assignment required the group to analyze a variety of factors, including airport layout, pavement, lighting, structures, and innovative growth. They also had to employ their project-management skills to accommodate all of their busy schedules so they could meet virtually after school for approximately 12 hours a week.



Estimated Tax Impact

The projected real property tax levy required to support the proposed expenditure plan is \$42,503,847, which is a 2.36% increase over the current year levy. This figure also includes an estimated \$3 million reimbursement from the State for the STAR program. The budget meets the criteria of the NYS Tax Cap calculation for a simple majority voter approval.

Estimated Equalization Rates

Each municipality has its own way of assessing property. Actual tax impact is based on assessments and equalization rates set by New York State. This process is created to "equalize" assessments from town to town, which helps ensure that a house in Saugerties, for instance, is taxed the same as a house in Woodstock. Rates are finalized by the State in July or August, months after the budget vote. By law, the District must hold their budget vote on the third Tuesday in May, so actual tax implications are impossible to determine. When a municipality undergoes a revaluation, there may be an effect on taxes. The District has no part in determining assessments or revaluations.

Tax Levy vs. Tax Rate

The **tax levy** represents the total amount of taxes a school district needs to support the school budget. The cost of the tax levy is shared among all taxpayers included in the tax base. The **tax rate** is the dollar value per assessed property value, apportioned by township, necessary to collect the full levy. The tax rate is calculated by dividing the total levy by the total assessed values and multiplying by \$1,000.

The Towns do not finalize their assessment rolls, which are made up of all assessed values, until the summer. The tentative assessment rolls show values are increasing within the Town of Saugerties. This increase in values will cause the tax rate to **decrease**. This happens because when new homes or increased assessment values are added to the tax rolls, the levy is then divided by a larger number, therefore reducing the individual rate per \$1000.

Voting Information

Any resident of the Town of Saugerties may vote in the School Budget/Trustee election whether or not they are registered with the Ulster County Board of Elections, provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are a citizen of the United States
- Age 18 years, or older
- Have been a resident of the school District for a period of 30 days or more

Absentee ballots are available for eligible voters who are unable to vote at the polls on May 17. New York State has also recently amended the allowable reasons for casting an absentee ballot in school district elections to include concerns over contracting COVID-19. This reason may be selected by checking the temporary illness option on the application for an absentee ballot. If the voter wishes the ballot to be mailed to them, the completed application must be received by May 12. A voter who would like to pick up an absentee ballot in person must return the completed ballot by 5 PM on May 17. If you have any questions regarding voting, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 845-247-6550 ext. 9005.

STAR Program Updates

Why switch to the STAR credit from the STAR exemption?

If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive a check instead. The value of the STAR credit savings may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings cannot increase. The STAR exemption savings can never be higher than the STAR credit savings.

New Property Tax Rebate Credit

A new property tax relief program, called the Homeowner Tax Rebate Credit, was included in this year's NYS budget. The program benefits eligible low- and middle-income households, as well as eligible senior households. Under this program, both basic STAR exemption and credit beneficiaries with incomes below \$250,000, along with Enhanced STAR recipients, are eligible for a property tax rebate. The benefit is calculated as a percentage of the homeowners' existing STAR benefit and is equal to between 18-163% of the basic STAR benefit depending on qualified gross income and 66% of the enhanced STAR benefit. According to the Governor's Office, this \$2.2 billion investment will help approximately 2.5 million homeowners.

How do I get more detailed information about the budget?

The Budget document is available on the District website. Please contact Business Manager Jane St. Amour at 845-247-6520 if you have specific questions.

How is the Tax Cap Impacting the Budget?

Under current NYS law, a school district must plan its budget around a complex State formula that calculates a baseline tax levy increase, called their "tax cap." This calculation will be different for each school district and will change from year to year.

The Board of Education has adopted a 2.36 percent levy increase that is at the allowable levy limit under the State's Tax Cap formula and therefore will need a simple majority voter approval.

Budgets that carry a tax levy increase at or below this calculation need the approval of a simple majority (50 percent plus one) of voters. Any proposal higher than this calculation requires a supermajority approval (60 percent).

Specific exemptions are considered in the formula. Another component of the complex calculation is completed as either the CPI (consumer price index) or two percent, whichever is less. The extraordinary increase in the cost of goods and services that consumers are experiencing at this time has created a significant gap in our tax cap calculation. Although New York State has identified the CPI level at 4.7 percent, we were only permitted to use 2 percent in this component of the formula, which capped our levy at a level below the existing CPI.

Saugerties

Central School District

2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2021-2022 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 66,536,965	\$66,426,716	\$65,777,929
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		(\$110,249)	(\$759,036)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		(0.17%)	(1.14%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$41,522,330	\$42,503,847	
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)	\$41,522,330	\$42,503,847	\$41,522,330
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$983,758	\$885,151	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$40,538,572	\$41,618,696	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$40,538,572	\$41,618,696	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-0-	-0-	
Administrative component	\$6,205,226	\$6,194,397	\$6,162,084
Program component	\$53,604,920	\$55,128,466	\$54,651,992
Capital component	\$6,726,819	\$5,103,853	\$4,963,853

In the event that the budget is defeated, the Board of Education would be required to adopt a contingent budget, pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law, in which the tax levy may not exceed the prior year tax levy and is subject to an administrative cap. Certain items required by law to be excluded from the contingent budget include expenses related to equipment purchases, certain student supplies, capital appropriations, non-represented personnel salary increases, and costs associated with community use of school facilities. These items are equal to \$648,787.

** 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
No Separate Propositions	



Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings ¹ —————→ \$592

¹The 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 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi Elementary schools in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Elementary schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Sample Ballot

The wording on the proposition will appear as shown in this example and you will have a choice of either YES or NO:

PROPOSITION 1: Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to expend the sums of money which will be required for School District purposes for the 2022-2023 school year in the total amount of \$66,426,716 (the budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the District?

Election of Board of Education Members

Three (3) 3-year term vacancies are available at this time. Voters may select no more than THREE candidates. The following six candidates filed petitions to run for the Board of Education:

Scott Polston Randi Kelder Danielle Carter Christine Bellarosa Vincent McLaughlin William Ball



Saugerties Partnership Helps Students with Different Abilities Develop Job Skills

For teenagers, looking for and securing a first job may cause feelings of anxiety. There are the interviews, first-day jitters, concerns about making a mistake, worries about getting along with coworkers or the boss, and more. The process can be even more overwhelming for young people with disabilities. However, with support and planning, these students can not only land employment, but can also be assisted on their path towards independent living.

Students enrolled in the Life Skills program at Saugerties High School (SHS) are receiving that support through a special partnership with The Arc Mid-Hudson, a private not-for-profit agency that believes children with disabilities should have the same opportunities as their peers.

The Saugerties students, all of whom have Individualized Education Plans—also known as IEPs—split their time between attending classes at the High School and visiting different job sites through a School-to-Work program with The Arc Mid-Hudson. Currently, eight SHS students are participating in the program, working approximately six hours a week at Price Chopper. At the supermarket, they are learning skills like bagging, stocking shelves, replacing “go backs” (items that need to be restocked), collecting carts, and performing cleanup tasks. During the rest of the week, back in school, the students are learning both academic and “soft” skills related to employment, such as how to write a resume, how to conduct oneself in an interview, how to dress on the job, and how to speak with customers.



Job Postings

The Saugerties Central School District currently has several vacancies for substitute monitors, food service helpers, school nurses, and custodial workers, as well as other positions. Please use the QR code at the right to apply, or click on “employment” on our website. We would love to have you join our team!



Students Go Hog Wild Over a Reading Challenge

In February, the District’s Junior High and Elementary School students kept track of how long they spent reading for fun. It all was part of this year’s Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) challenge, which was arranged by the four elementary Parent Teacher Associations and the Junior High Parent Teacher Student Association. Throughout the month-long challenge, Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt watched as students met their reading goals. One-by-one, building leaders had to fulfill their promise to kiss a farm animal when their school building’s reading goals were met. Superintendent Reinhardt was so proud of the students’ accomplishments that he decided to pucker up as well. Reinhardt said, “I wasn’t excited about kissing a mini mare, but I am over the moon that our students value the importance of reading for pleasure.” When Reinhardt has the time, he says, he enjoys reading books about military history, science fiction, and string theory (because he loves learning about physics).



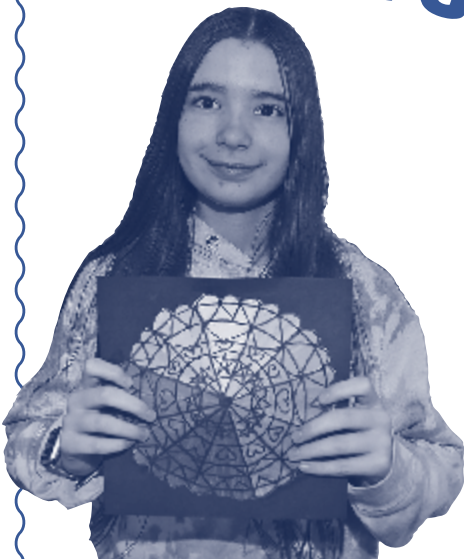
Honorable Mention Winner Announced in Writers’ Contest

Congratulations to Saugerties Grade 8 student Julian Travis-Reda for receiving an Honorable Mention in the 2022 Hudson-to-Housatonic Scholastic Writing Awards!!

During the month of November, Julian and his teacher Katharine Squires worked almost every day editing one of the chapters of his science fiction novel, *The Supercell Chase*. He submitted a chapter at the beginning of December and only recently heard back. There were nearly 1,900 works submitted this year. We are so proud of Julian and his teacher!



Color our World Bright and Beautiful!



Our art teachers not only love art, but also love our students. They are not only passionate about their profession, but are also enthusiastic about their students’ artwork. They not only produce creative works of art, but also creatively teach hundreds, if not thousands through the years, of students with various backgrounds, talents, and interests daily. In just one week, our teachers have taught painting, copper embossing, printmaking, pop art coloring, and color wheel art. In March, the District celebrated Youth Arts Month on our social media pages with a showcase of recent works by our talented student artists.



Students Try their Luck at Capturing Leprechauns

Mt. Marion students in Stefanie Colclough's Grade 1 class spent the week before St. Patrick's Day learning about simple machinery and leprechauns. What do the two have in common? Students were encouraged to create a leprechaun trap using the engineering skills they had recently learned. Their snares included pulleys, ladders, and ramps. Most traps lured the leprechauns with faux gold coins, a favorite of these elusive creatures.

Students also read a story about a mischievous leprechaun known as Silly McGilly, who likes to carry out pranks in the middle of the night. The night before St. Patrick's Day students set their traps. According to legend, if you place your traps out the night before, you'll have a better chance of capturing one. Unfortunately, when students entered their classroom in the morning, they found their traps empty, their desks turned around, green footprints all over the floor, and their bathroom's toilet water as green as shamrocks. Despite their best efforts, the students were not able to capture Silly McGilly. Maybe students will get lucky next year!



Science Olympiad is Like a Track Meet for the Brain

Saugerties High School's inaugural Science Olympiad team participated in two competitions this year, one virtually and another in-person. During the in-person regional contest, the team, which consists of 11 High School students, placed 13 out of 34 competing schools.

Club Advisor and Coach Chelsea Defino is extremely proud of her students for doing so well and for rising above first-year challenges, which included a lack of practice equipment,

building supplies, and science experiment attire such as lab coats, goggles, and gloves.

Defino and club members recently met with Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt to discuss a budget to maintain a safe and competitive team for next year. Reinhardt says he is dedicated to helping to build the club, because it provides opportunities for students to explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering, art, math, and the health sciences.

Science Olympiad teams, which welcome students who have an affinity for the sciences, compete in State and regional Science competitions. These competitions can be paper and pencil tests, or they can be build-something-on-the-spot type of challenges.



Saugerties Students Strut Their Stuff at Star-Studded Soiree

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, Grade 2 students at Riccardi Elementary School kicked off a star-studded catwalk event. After being on hiatus for two years due to COVID-19, Riccardi once again held its popular Planet Runway event. This project, featuring vibrantly vogue ensembles presented against a backdrop of out-of-this-world music, was the culmination of everything the students have learned about the planets in our solar system. Students shared factoids about asteroids, as well as other wonderful details about the planets, like which is the biggest, coldest, and stormiest. They also made planetary jokes such as, what kind of music do planets like to sing along to? (The answer, of course, is Neptunes!)



ASL Club Immerses Students in Sign Language and Deaf Culture

Sara Schmidt and Nicole Gavner are both English teachers at Saugerties High School. Besides having English in common, the two also know another language called American Sign Language (ASL). After several discussions, the duo decided to start an after-school club to help teach students ASL and increase their knowledge about deaf culture.

ASL Club members, who are meeting once a week, are learning how to communicate with basic sign language. On a recent day, the students learned how to sign different feelings and colors.

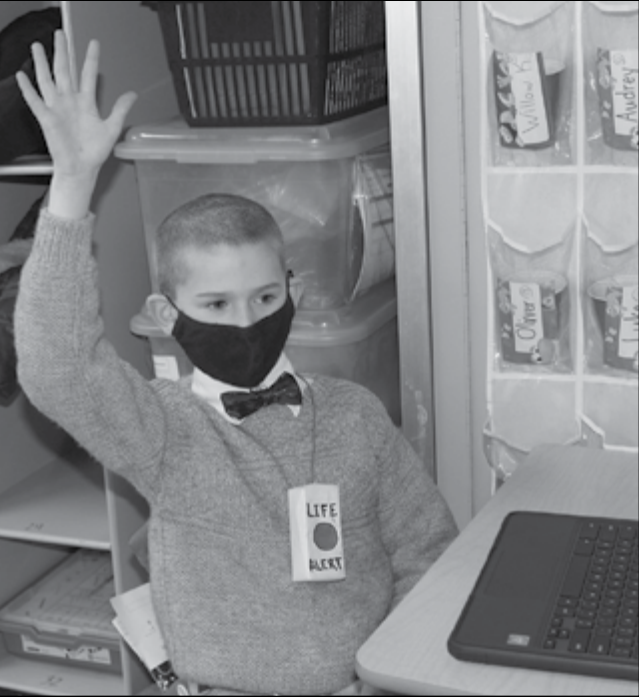
Schmidt said that the club will provide students with the opportunity to practice conversational sign language in a low-stakes environment. Eventually, the sign language team would like to invite a deaf person to a meeting so that students could interact with them and practice what they've learned.

The ASL Club is open to all who are interested. No prior ASL experience is necessary.

GDM Celebrates 100 Days of Learning



One hundred days of school can certainly change a person! Students in Grade 2 at Grant D. Morse Elementary School had the opportunity to dress up as 100-year-olds to commemorate the first 100 days of school. We love our awesome Grade 2 teachers (Catherine Averill and Hope Kraft,) who continue to make second grade enjoyable each and every day! We are also so proud of our students for reaching this important learning milestone!



Girls Bowling Team Strikes a Win

A big congratulations to the Saugerties Varsity Girls Bowling Team, which won the Section 9 Division I Championship in March. The bowlers earned the title of champion, with a 5,193-4,807 win over Kingston. Lacey Schatzel led the Sawyers with a tourney-high 240 game and a 631 series. The team consists of Lacey Schatzel, Ashley Altieri, Tyler Bodie, Harper Ferraro, Keiran Hinchey, and Grace Hopf.

Girls Wrestling Wins Big

Saugerties High School had two female wrestlers place at the Sectional Championship this year. Freshman Savannah Tittelback (left) finished 1st in the 110-pound weight class. She finished the season with a winning record (13-9). Junior Gillian Mills (right) finished 2nd at 132 pounds. She also had the distinction of being voted as one of the captains of the Varsity wrestling team. "They are both incredible athletes with outstanding work ethics," said Saugerties Athletic Director Dominic Zarrella. Female wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, Zarrella added. Saugerties had five females in the program this year—the most in the Section. The District is very proud of these two talented athletes!



NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The Saugerties Central School District affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide an environment that is free of harassment and intimidation as required by Federal and state law. Harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the District prohibits and condemns all forms of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, veteran status, disability, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, or domestic violence victim status by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors as well as any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaging in activities subject to the supervision and control of the District. All inquiries regarding the Non-Discrimination policy and/or all complaints regarding violation(s) of these policies should be directed to the Compliance Officer, Dan Erceg, Director of Human Resources; (845-247-6550).