

CONNECTION

Special
BUDGET
ISSUE
2017

A publication for the residents of the Williamsville Central School District



touches on their rain barrel entry. Clockwise are Jessica Ireland (seated), Quinn Guy, Isabella Custodi, Ellia Yang, Ashley Kim, and Sarah Jiang. Congratulations to all of the students and their art teachers, Beth Aschbacher at Forest and Denise Woods at Heim Middle.

Forest Elementary won first prize and Heim Middle School took second place in their respective divisions in the 2017 Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Rain Barrel Painting Contest. Open to schools and student-based community groups in Erie and Niagara counties, the painting contest is held annually in honor of Earth Day. The theme this year was "Harvest a Resource, Recycle the Rain". An awards presentation was held April 20 at the Albright Knox Art Gallery. The Forest Team is pictured above with their winning barrel, which will be donated to the Village of Williamsville. At left, Heim Middle eighth graders put the finishing

For detailed information about the
2017-18 Proposed Budget, visit the District website:
www.williamsvillek12.org/budget

ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

**TUESDAY,
MAY 16, 2017**

7 a.m.- 9 p.m.

North High School Gym
1595 Hopkins Road



Budget-At-A-Glance

**2017-18
Proposed Budget**

\$186,135,210

Budget-to-Budget Increase:
1.70%

Tax Levy Increase:
2.67%
(per New York State tax levy cap)

Estimated Tax Rate Increase:
1.42%*

*(*Based on 2016 property assessment information. Expected to decrease as result of Amherst's town-wide reassessment program.)*

Budget Highlights

- Maintains current level of academic and extracurricular programming for students.
- Includes nearly \$1.4 million in salary expense reductions.
- Lowers class size in third grade.
- Adheres to state-imposed tax levy cap.





Dear Members of the Community,

I am pleased to present the 2017-18 Proposed Budget for Williamsville Central Schools. This student-centered budget will allow the district to maintain its excellent instructional program to ensure that all students have the resources and support they need to meet their full potential.

The proposed \$186.1 million budget supports the current level of academic and extracurricular programming for students. The conservative plan represents a 1.7 percent spending increase driven mainly by contractual obligations and health care costs. Salary costs were reduced by nearly \$1.4 million as a result of a board-authorized retirement incentive offered to members of the Williamsville Teachers' Association. Budget-neutral realignments will support one FTE special education teacher for a new 15:1 high school class as well as a new high school summer program for students with special needs. A slight drop in enrollment allows us to reduce class size in third grade at no additional expense. For the seventh consecutive year, the district budget adheres to the property tax cap, a target we have attained every year since the cap was imposed by New York State.

A town-wide reassessment program in Amherst is underway and will impact the school tax rate. While our schools serve three municipalities, Amherst makes up 89 percent of the district's tax base. The school district has no input into the town's reassessment program and any increase in property values does not increase the amount of revenue the school district receives. However, when property values go up, the school tax rate generally goes down because the levy is distributed across a wider base. We expect to see a significant drop in the school tax rate when assessments are finalized by the town in July.

Strong schools mean strong communities. The 2017-18 budget has been developed with the important goal of ensuring opportunities and success for all students. It delivers a strong, well-rounded instructional program in a fiscally responsible manner, underscoring Williamsville's long-standing role as a top-ranked school district both in terms of academic performance and operating efficiency.

Detailed budget information is presented in this newsletter. You may also visit our website at www.williamsvillek12.org/budget. Thank you for all the ways you support our schools. I look forward to seeing you at the polls on May 16 at Williamsville North High School!

Sincerely,

Scott G. Martzloff, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Dear Neighbors,

The 2017-18 proposed budget balances the needs of our students within a responsible, efficient fiscal plan. It reflects our commitment to continue the investment in our students so they have the resources needed to complete their education and the preparation necessary to be successful in college, career, and community.

In developing and approving this budget, the Board of Education adhered to a transparent process working closely with the Superintendent, the district's Leadership Team, and stakeholders to build a budget that reflects our community values and priorities. All district residents are impacted by the school budget and it is our goal, as elected representatives, to be accountable and responsive to the needs of the entire community. We are fortunate to be a part of a community that places such a high value on education and understands that its investment is, indeed, a pathway to the future where our children will assume important roles.

This budget maintains the level of instructional programming, lowers class sizes in third grade, and reduces salary costs through a retirement incentive offered to teachers. It also continues our commitment to supporting the whole child by addressing social-emotional needs that are critical to student learning. Programs such as Link Crew in our high schools and the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program in our middle schools, which help students transition to the next level; the newly implemented recess program in our elementary schools; and the Sources of Strength Program in our high schools, a youth suicide prevention project, are all supported by this budget.

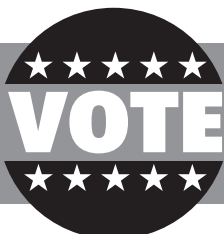
The proposed tax levy increase adheres to the state-mandated tax cap of 2.67 percent. An estimated increase in the school tax rate of 1.42 percent is based on last year's property assessment values and is expected to decrease by August due to the Town of Amherst's town-wide reassessment program.

Please take time to learn about the budget and participate in the Annual District Vote on Tuesday, May 16. Board of Education members are available to answer any questions about how your tax dollars are used to support top-rated programming for all students.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the polls!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Toni Vazquez
President, Board of Education



For detailed information about the
2017-18 Proposed Budget visit the District website:
www.williamsvillek12.org/budget

SAMPLE BALLOT



Tuesday, MAY 16, 2017



PROPOSITION #1 - BUDGET

SHALL IT BE RESOLVED: That the Budget for the year 2017-18 presented by the Board of Education be approved? YES NO

PROPOSITION #2 - VOTE FOR ANY THREE BOARD MEMBERS

Election of three (3) board members, the highest three vote recipients, each for a term of three (3) years beginning July 1, 2017 and concluding June 30, 2020.

1A

Dr. Michael Littman

2A

Philip S. Meyer, ESQ/MBA

3A

Dr. Susan D. McClary

4A

Kurt Venator, PhD, DVM

5A

Shonda Brock

6A

Liam O'Mahony

7A

Julie Algubani

School Board Election

Seven candidates are vying for three seats on the Williamsville Board of Education. The three top vote-getters on May 16 will be elected to serve three-year terms on the school board beginning in July. More information about each candidate is available on the district website, www.williamsvillek12.org/candidates. They are (in the order they will appear on the ballot):

1A-Dr. Michael Littman, Chair and Associate Professor for the Business Department at SUNY/ Buffalo State College. Dr. Littman previously served nine years on the school board including two years each as board president and vice president. He is the father of two Williamsville North graduates.

2A-Philip S. Meyer, an attorney in private practice who also serves as Deputy Town Attorney and Prosecutor for the Town of Amherst. He and his wife, Cecile, have an infant daughter.

3A-Susan D. McClary, Ed.D., a semi-retired educator currently serving as assistant to the Amherst Town Supervisor.

4A-Kurt R. Venator, Ph.D., DVM, a veterinarian specializing in small animal nutrition and veterinary medicine for Nestle Purina. Dr. Venator is a graduate of Williamsville East High School. He and his wife, Dr. Kristin Campbell, have three sons attending Williamsville schools - a first grader at Maple East, a fifth grader at Transit Middle, and a freshman at Williamsville East.

5A-Shonda L. Brock, a medical sales representative. Mrs. Brock and her husband, Carlton, have four children including two Williamsville East graduates, a daughter at Transit Middle School, and a son at Maple East Elementary.

6A-Liam T. O'Mahony, Director of Sales & Marketing for the Niagara International Sports & Entertainment Center in Niagara Falls. He and his wife, Stephanie, have a two-year old daughter.

7A-Julie Algubani, a paralegal for the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc. Her two children attend Williamsville South High School where her daughter is a senior and her son is a freshman.

The three incumbents who will be exiting the school board at the end of June are Dr. Patricia Losito, Michael Schmidt, and Ronald Shubert. Dr. Losito, a past president and vice president of the board, is completing two terms of service. Mr. Schmidt is also finishing his second term, serving previously as board vice president and parliamentarian. Mr. Shubert has served on the board since 2000 and is one of the longest-serving school board members on record in Williamsville. Mr. Shubert has held every leadership role serving as board president three times, vice president twice, and parliamentarian. Thank you to the outgoing board members who have devoted countless hours of their time and unique talents in service to their community, public education, and children.

General Support

The General Support category of the operating budget covers instruction-related managerial functions for the entire District. Included are funds which make it possible for the Board of Education and its Chief School Officer, the Superintendent of Schools, to carry out required responsibilities. Also included in this category are funds for the strictly regulated financial operation of the District; for operation and maintenance of the school buildings and grounds; for fire and liability insurances, personnel management, legal affairs and public information expenses; and for BOCES administrative charges.

Instruction

Instruction is the core of the school budget. This general category covers salaries for administrators, teachers, nurses, aides, related instructional personnel (library media specialists, school counselors, psychologists and social workers) and all materials, supplies, and equipment necessary to support the educational environment. Co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities are also included in this general area of instruction.

Pupil Transportation and Other Community Services

Pupil Transportation - The District currently utilizes both its own employees and outside contractual services to provide regular transportation within and outside of the District for all students and for co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities at other locations, as well as for instructional-related field trips. **Other Community Services** - This general category includes costs related to District census activities and for support for certain community use of facilities.

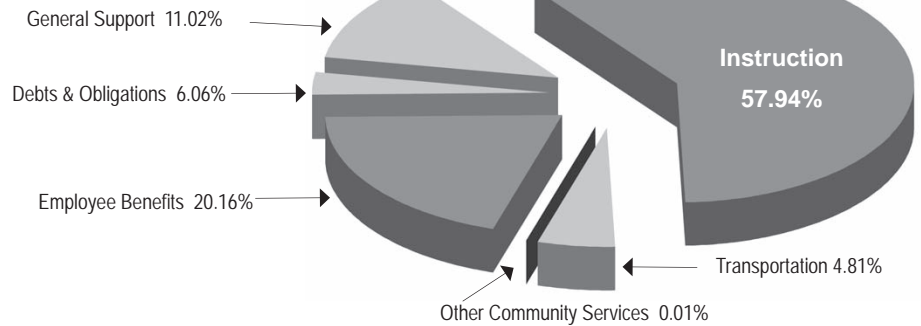
Employee Benefits

This category groups a variety of District benefit costs including required contributions to the State Retirement Systems, Social Security, Workers' Compensation, and an Unemployment Insurance Fund. Also included are medical insurance and other contractual costs.

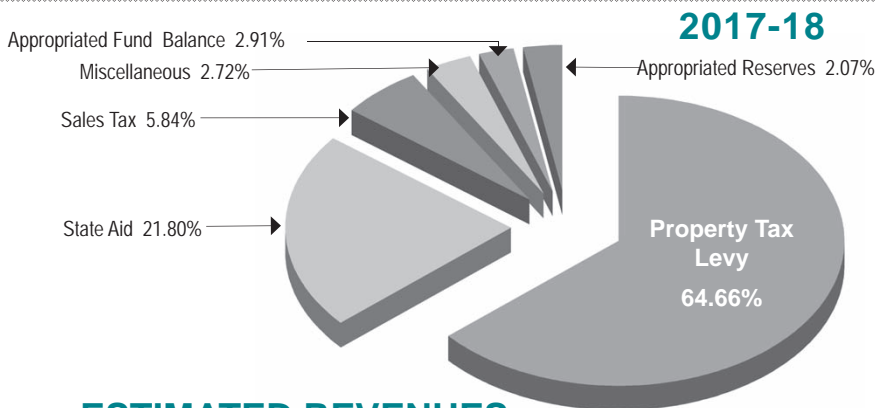
Debts & Obligations

This category groups a variety of district-wide costs which are not included in other areas such as long term debt payments.

	2017-18 PROPOSED	2016-17 BUDGET
General Support		
Board of Education	\$ 110,761	\$ 106,064
Chief School Administrator	\$ 345,697	\$ 335,365
Finance	\$ 624,226	\$ 621,969
Public Information	\$ 242,295	\$ 241,693
Human Resources & Legal Services	\$ 1,480,462	\$ 1,417,422
Operations & Management	\$ 13,763,950	\$ 13,549,892
Central Printing & Mailing	\$ 510,850	\$ 505,305
Data Processing	\$ 1,095,497	\$ 877,671
Special Items	\$ 2,332,568	\$ 2,281,131
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$ 20,506,306	\$ 19,936,512
Instruction		
Curriculum & Staff Development	\$ 1,468,982	\$ 1,454,056
Supervision: Regular School	\$ 4,041,650	\$ 4,300,984
Teaching: Regular School	\$ 68,527,300	\$ 65,807,425
Exceptional Education & Student Services	\$ 17,938,557	\$ 19,059,258
Occupational Education	\$ 2,412,631	\$ 2,370,955
Teaching & Supervision: Special Schools	\$ 650,728	\$ 594,444
School Library & Audio-Visual Services	\$ 1,570,996	\$ 1,496,820
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$ 3,303,360	\$ 3,061,431
Guidance Services	\$ 3,148,456	\$ 3,112,429
Other Pupil Services	\$ 2,767,942	\$ 2,689,819
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 357,746	\$ 367,746
Interscholastic Athletics	\$ 1,656,353	\$ 1,578,910
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$ 107,844,701	\$ 105,894,277
Pupil Transportation & Community Services		
Pupil Transportation	\$ 8,950,233	\$ 8,772,196
Other Community Services	\$ 19,005	\$ 19,005
TOTAL	\$ 8,969,238	\$ 8,791,201
Employee Benefits		
New York State Retirement Systems	\$ 10,835,295	\$ 17,223,833
Social Security	\$ 7,019,654	\$ 6,969,654
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000
Medical Insurance	\$ 18,937,583	\$ 18,519,830
Other Benefits	\$ 615,611	\$ 623,477
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 37,513,143	\$ 43,441,794
Debts & Obligations		
Long Term Debt	\$ 11,126,822	\$ 4,776,822
Special Aid Fund	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
TOTAL	\$ 11,301,822	\$ 4,951,822
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 186,135,210	\$ 183,015,606

**2017-18****PROPOSED EXPENDITURES**

	Proposed 2017-18	% of Total	2016-17	% of Total
General Support	\$20,506,306	11.02	\$ 19,936,512	10.88
Instruction	\$107,844,701	57.94	105,894,277	57.86
Transportation	\$8,950,233	4.81	8,772,196	4.80
Other Community Services	\$19,005	0.01	19,005	0.01
Employee Benefits	\$37,513,143	20.16	43,441,794	23.74
Debts & Obligations	\$11,301,822	6.06	4,951,822	2.71
TOTAL	\$186,135,210	100%	\$183,015,606	100%

CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES**2017-18****ESTIMATED REVENUES**

	Proposed 2017-18	% of Total	2016-17	% of Total
Property Tax Levy*	\$120,353,000	64.66	\$117,227,512	64.04
STAR Reimbursement	Included in above		Included in above	
State Aid	\$40,582,210	21.80	40,757,094	22.27
Sales Tax	\$10,875,000	5.84	10,750,000	5.88
Miscellaneous	\$5,051,000	2.72	5,007,000	2.74
Appropriated Fund Balance	5,424,000	2.91	5,424,000	2.96
Appropriated Reserve Funds:				
♦ Employee Benefits	\$400,000	0.21	400,000	0.22
♦ Workers' Compensation	\$600,000	0.32	600,000	0.33
♦ Repair Reserve	\$330,000	0.18	330,000	0.18
♦ Unemployment Reserve	\$70,000	0.04	70,000	0.04
♦ Retirement Reserve	\$2,450,000	1.32	2,450,000	1.34
TOTAL	\$186,135,210	100%	\$183,015,606	100%

CURRENT YEAR REVENUES

2017-18

COMPONENT BUDGET

Program: \$ 140,364,340

The Program Component includes all program expenditures, including the salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrators or supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties. Also, all transportation operating expenses including diesel fuel.

Capital: \$ 29,131,264

The Capital Component includes all transportation capital, debt service, and lease expenditures; costs resulting from court judgments, administrative orders or settled or compromised claims; and all facilities costs including lease expenditures, annual debt service and total debt for all District facilities financed by bonds and notes. Also, all expenditures associated with custodial/maintenance salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities and maintenance repair of school facilities.

Administrative \$ 16,639,606

The Administrative Component includes Board of Education and central administrative expenses; salaries and benefits of the Superintendent and all certified school administrators and supervisors who spend the majority of their time performing administrative or supervisory duties; all expenditures associated with the Annual District Budget Vote; any consulting costs not directly related to student services and program planning; and all other administrative activities.

Total: \$ 186,135,210

Estimated 2017 School Tax Bill

School tax bill samples with Basic STAR subsidy applied

Property's Assessed Value	Actual 2016-17	Estimated 2017-18	Difference
\$100,000	\$1,336.26	\$1,355.28	\$19.02
\$150,000	\$2,297.39	\$2,330.09	\$32.70
\$200,000	\$3,258.52	\$3,304.90	\$46.38

Tax bills are estimated based on 2016 assessment information. Property assessment changes will impact a homeowner's actual tax bill.

Amherst Property Reassessment Program

The Williamsville Central School District is not involved in the Town of Amherst's property reassessment process. The district issues a tax levy amount that is certified by the New York State Education Department and reported to the Office of the New York State Comptroller. The proposed 2017-2018 levy is voted on by the community and it does not change in July when town assessors issue final assessment numbers. The district does not receive an increase in tax revenue due to changes in total assessments. However, an increase in total assessments will reduce the tax rate.

Contingent Budget

The Board of Education is required by State law to implement a contingent budget if the proposed budget fails to receive community approval after two budget votes. A contingent budget does not allow the tax levy to be greater than the levy issued in the prior school year. The contingent budget amount for 2017-18 is \$183,015,606.

Services to Non-public schools

Public school districts administer and distribute federal and state funds for services to resident students who attend non-public and parochial schools. In accordance with the law, the following services are offered to students who live in the Williamsville CSD and attend non-public schools:

- Transportation
- Health Examinations
- Hearing & Vision Screenings
- Occupational, Physical, & Speech Therapy; Vision and Hearing Services*
- Child Find Evaluations
- Social Work Consult (upon request)
- Library materials
- Remedial Reading & Math, Grs. 1-8
- Career & Technical Education
- Computer Software
- Textbooks

**As recommended by the Committee on Special Education*



Per New York State law, in order to vote in the District Budget Vote and School Board Election, you must be:

- 18 years of age
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote

You do not need to be a registered voter. However, ID and proof of residency are required.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

OVERALL 2017-18 BUDGET PROPOSAL

New York State requires the following presentation of 2017-18 Budget Information:

	Budget Adopted for 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2017-18 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$183,015,606	\$186,135,210	\$183,015,606
Increase/Decrease for 2017-18		\$3,119,604	\$0
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		1.70%	\$0
Change in consumer price index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to support the total budget amount	\$117,227,512	\$120,353,000	
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)	\$ 117,227,512	\$120,353,000	\$117,227,512
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>excluding</u> levy for permissible exclusions	\$117,332,512	\$ 120,353,851	
H. Total proposed school year tax levy, excluding levy to support library debt and/or permissible exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval- Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 105,000	\$ 851	
Administrative Component	\$17,001,319	\$ 16,639,606	\$ 16,485,406
Program Component	\$143,333,897	\$ 140,364,340	\$ 137,561,936
Capital Component	\$22,680,390	\$ 29,131,264	\$ 28,968,264

***The contingent budget includes the removal of equipment dollars as required by New York State law. Contingent budgets may not include a tax levy that is higher than the tax levy issued by the school district in the prior budget. The result is that the contingent budget reflects a tax levy reduction of \$3,125,488.

**List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount (tax levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements).

Description	Amount
There are no separate propositions.	n/a

	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR exemption savings	\$ 594

¹ 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 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Williamsville Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at Williamsville North High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Williamsville North High School gym, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

PTSA Council Service to Youth Awards 2017

The Williamsville PTSA Council will honor four individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service to the children of the Williamsville Central School District at the 60th Annual Service to Youth Awards Celebration on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 6 p.m., East High School, 151 Paradise Rd.



PROFESSIONAL AWARD-Cheryl Goldstone has been a School Counselor at Williamsville South High School for 22 years. While her main focus is serving as counselor for approximately 250 students, Mrs. Goldstone fulfills many roles for her school community and beyond. She is team leader for the Counseling Department, co-advisor for the National Honor Society, advisor for the Superintendent's Inter-High Advisory Council, co-chair of the school's Wellness Team, and she serves as the school's Advanced Placement Coordinator. She chairs a scholarship committee and oversees the annual Student Awards Ceremony, and helps manage the Food Pantry, which helps support local families in need. Mrs. Goldstone is a highly respected, active leader in the school counseling and college admissions communities. She is a past president of the Western New York Counselors Association and the WNY School Counselor Consortium, newsletter editor for the New York Counseling Association, and evaluations co-chair of the NYS Association of College Admissions Counseling. She has twice been named Counselor of The Year, received the New York State Robert Patterson Award recognizing her work as a counselor, and received a first place award as editor of a statewide counseling newsletter. She currently serves as a co-chair for the National College Fair in Buffalo where she is also a speaker on scholarships. This annual event attracts over 200 colleges and is attended by high school students from across Western New York. "Cheryl has been a driving force in making sure that life outside the classroom here at South remains a vibrant part of our school culture and identity," said Keith Boardman, South High Principal. "She is, almost literally, one of the foundational pieces that holds this place together."



PROFESSIONAL AWARD-Eliza Damstedt has been working as an Academic Support Teacher at Maple West Elementary and as a substitute teacher in the district since 2014. However, her connection with Williamsville schools began long before her employment when the first of her four children entered kindergarten at Maple West in 2008. She has been an active parent volunteer, chairing many school events, serving on the Maple West Shared Decision Making Team, and holding every leadership position in the MW-PTA. Currently, she serves as treasurer of the Mill Middle PTSA and is chair of this year's Mill Fun Run. As an academic support teacher, Mrs. Damstedt works with children from all grade levels, kindergarten through fourth grade, and provides instructional intervention in all subject areas to address specific student needs. "Mrs. Damstedt is an inspiration to all of our faculty, staff and students," said Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Maple West Principal. "Our school would not be the same without her." In the community, Mrs. Damstedt is a Girl Scout Leader, a past president of the MOMS Club, and a children's leader at the Williamsville LDS Church where her family attends. She credits her husband, Bradley, for helping out at home so that she is able to pursue her many volunteer interests. Their two older children, Jane and Bruce, attend Mill Middle and their two youngest children, Kate and James, are at Maple West.



SUPPORT STAFF AWARD-Mary Beth Gerard is an educational aide at Dodge Elementary where she has worked since 2005. She is assigned to two kindergarten classes supporting all aspects of learning including small and whole group instruction, one-on-one support, and student work preparation. Considered an integral member of the kindergarten team by teachers and peers alike, she regularly works with the entire kindergarten population to assist with phonemic awareness instruction, which helps children become aware of how the sounds in words work. For the past two years, she also has worked as a classroom aide for a combined first and second grade 15:1 class. Mrs. Gerard readily takes on extra tasks to supplement classroom activities and routinely volunteers for many school and PTA functions such as the Dodge Country Fair and Ice Cream Socials. "In today's rigorous school agenda, our children need someone like Mary Beth to help them feel accepted, encouraged and loved," said Stephanie Beaudoin, a Dodge parent, who supported Mrs. Gerard's nomination. The mother of two girls, Mrs. Gerard was active in Girl Scouts for 15 years serving as a troop leader every year. In appreciation of all her efforts, Mrs. Gerard has won the Girl Scouts' Outstanding Volunteer, Outstanding Leader, and the Green Angel Award. Even though her troop has ended since her oldest daughter is now at college, Mrs. Gerard remains active in her local Service Unit, supporting the annual Scouting for Food event that benefits the Food Bank of Western New York, and other unit activities.



VOLUNTEER AWARD-Laura Brann has been an active volunteer and PTA leader in the school district for nine years, beginning as a room parent when her oldest son, Christian, began school at Maple West Elementary. She increasingly took on leadership roles and served as PTA Co-President from 2013-15. She also assumed leadership roles on several key committees, including Kids Day, the Bowl-a-Thon, Comedy Night, the Ice Cream Social, and the Student Directory. She served as the Recording Secretary for the PTSA Executive Board from 2011-13 and, as co-chair of the fundraising campaign, Mrs. Brann was instrumental in the completion of the Maple West playground project. "Mrs. Brann helps others extend past the status quo by asking herself and others a very simple and concise question: 'what if?'" said Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Maple West Principal. Recently, as her older children have moved on from Maple West, Mrs. Brann is more involved with the Heim Middle School PTSA, serving as chair of the school's largest fundraiser, Comedy Night, this past fall. Mrs. Brann is Manager of Annual Giving and Sponsorship for the Hospice Foundation of Western New York. In addition to her volunteer work with the MW-PTA and HM-PTSA, this busy mother of three is active in the community as a current or past volunteer for Camp Good Days, the Taste of Buffalo Finance Committee, the March of Dimes March for Babies, the Komen Race for the Cure, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk and Gala, and the Cystic Fibrosis Eye Challenge.

News Briefs

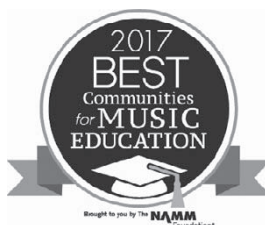


Girl Code: North Students Earn Computing Awards

Six Williamsville North High students have been recognized for their involvement and interest in technology by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT). **Sophia Wang**, a junior, was awarded the 2017 National Award from the NCWIT in recognition of her computer-related aspirations, demonstrated passion, proven leadership ability, strong academic performance, and outstanding achievements in computer technology. Sophia received \$500, an engraved award, and was one of 50 national winners honored at the Bank of America Technology Stars of the Future Showcase and Awards Ceremony in Charlotte, NC last month.

In addition to Sophia, (left to right) juniors **Sarah Swihart**, **Emma Steadman**, **Ariya Roberts**, and **Elise Kulka**, as well as sophomore, **Helen Harke**, received the 2017 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award for the upstate New York Region. The NCWIT honors high school women who are active and interested in computing and technology, acknowledges them for their technical skills and potential, and encourages them to pursue their passion.

Susan Recoona, Mathematics and Computer Science teacher at North (pictured center), was awarded the 2017 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Educator Award. The Educator Award is conferred upon educators who have demonstrated a commitment to encouraging young women's aspirations in computers.



WCSD's Music Education Program Receives National Recognition

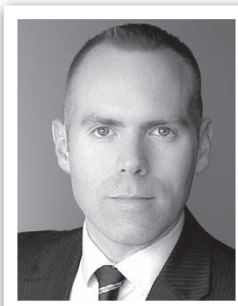
Williamsville Central School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The

NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Williamsville is among four percent of districts nationwide receiving the 2017 award. It is the tenth time the district has earned this national recognition. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

Recent Faculty Honors

Pim Liebmann, Mill Middle School Band Director, will receive the 2017 Erie County Music Educators Association/ Buffalo Philharmonic Award for Excellence in Music Education. This prestigious award is given to music educators who provide exceptional service to their students and their profession. Mr. Liebmann will receive the award May 13 during an evening of celebration at Kleinhans Music Hall.

In March, Williamsville South Band Director **Marni Conte** received the 2017 Richard H. Snook Outstanding Band Director Award for New York State.



Math Specialist receives SAANYS Leadership & Support Award

Dr. Christopher McGinley, Williamsville's instructional specialist for K-12 mathematics, has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the Leadership and Support Award by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS).

"Dr. McGinley is one of those rare educational leaders who truly understands the holistic nature of the K-12 educational system and how to support fellow administrators – both within and among school districts," said Dodge Elementary Principal Charles Smilnich. Dr. McGinley will be honored at an awards ceremony on May 5 at the Century House in Latham, NY.

Casey Principal Earns Regional Award

Casey Middle School Principal, Francis McGreevy, has been named the SAANYS Region 12 Principal of the Year. Mr. McGreevy, who is retiring August 1, 2017 after 18 years with the district, will be honored at the regional awards dinner May 17 at the Creekside Banquet facility in Cheektowaga.





Moving Earth

South, East high schools break ground on new athletic fields

Work is progressing on the athletic fields at Williamsville South and East high schools with completion expected by September 2017. Thanks to favorable winter weather, work began in January at South (*shown at right*) with the removal of existing bleachers, lighting, and stadium fixtures. Extensive excavation and trenching of escarpment rock was required to allow for the larger playing surface, which will include soccer and an eight lane track. In April and May, installation of the field drainage system will begin. The project work at Williamsville East (*pictured below*) began in March, with electrical and drainage trenching occurring through April. Installation of the new field drainage system is underway and construction of a new storage building will occur in May.

District voters approved the high school athletic field improvement and enhancement project in May 2015. The Williamsville North High School field project was completed in September 2016.





Home Turf! Mud-free spring home games are a welcome reality for Williamsville North Athletics including the Varsity Girls Softball Team shown scrimmaging Depew High School March 27 on the Spartan's new multi-use turf field.

The North High School
Drama Club's annual

Chicken BBQ

May 16, 2017

VOTE DAY

from 3pm until sold
out! Lower Cafeteria

Meals are
\$10



Includes 1/2 chicken, coleslaw,
potato salad, roll & butter



District Expands Social Media Presence

The Williamsville CSD is on social media! The district now has Twitter and Facebook accounts, as well as a YouTube channel where you can watch past school board meetings, old Williamsville High School video footage, and daily announcements from some of the schools.

Many of our schools as well as Athletics, Fine Arts, the District Planetarium, Community Education, and Superintendent Scott Martzloff, have their own presence on Twitter where information is shared regularly. In addition to announcing upcoming events and relaying timely news about snow days or bus delays, these social media feeds provide great insight into the classroom and what students are learning. Follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook, and find us on YouTube!

On Twitter:

@WCSD_K12
@CountryPkwyWCSD
@Dodge_WCSD
@Forest_WCSD
@HeimEl_WCSD
@HeimMiddle_WCSD
@MapleEast_WCSD
@SuperWCSD
@WCSD_Arts
@WCSD_ComEd
@WCSDPlanetarium
@Will_Athletics
@WillEastHigh
@WillNorthHigh
@WillSouthHS

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Absentee ballots available

Qualified voters who are unable to vote in person on May 16, 2017 for the Annual District Vote and School Board Election due to illness, travel or other reason specified by law may use an absentee ballot to cast their vote.

Applications for absentee ballots are available at the District Office, 105 Casey Road, E. Amherst, New York, during regular business hours, Monday-Friday. Completed applications must be returned to the District Clerk's Office no later than 4 p.m. on May 9, 2017 for an absentee ballot to be mailed to the voter, or one day before the annual election if the ballot is to be personally delivered.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available in the District Clerk's office. The list will also be posted at the polling place on the date of the Annual District Vote. If you have any questions about absentee ballots, please call Mrs. Mitzie Serafin, District Clerk, at 626-8092.



Driver Education

Williamsville's Driver Education program will hold two summer sessions at Williamsville East High School, 151 Paradise Rd. The first session runs from Monday, June 26 to Thursday, July 20. There are no classes on July 3-4. The second session will be held from Monday, July 24 to Tuesday, August 15. Unlike regular summer school, Driver Ed classes are held daily, including Fridays.

The course combines the benefits of practical driving along with defensive driving techniques for safe and responsible operation of a motor vehicle. Students must be 16 years of age and hold a valid NYS learner's permit or driver's license. Students must attend all sessions; any missed classes must be made up. The fee is \$450.

More information is available online at www.williamsvillek12.org or by calling 626-8294.

Summer School '17

Summer School 2017 will offer remedial programming for elementary and middle school students plus review and new course offerings for high school students who reside in the District. The high school program will be held at Williamsville East High School, 151 Paradise Rd., from July 5 through August 15. Classes will not be held on Fridays except for July 7. Regents Exams will be administered August 16-17.

The elementary and middle school programs are referral-only and will be housed together at Dodge Elementary School, 1900 Dodge Rd. Classes will run July 5-August 15 with no Friday classes except for July 7. The elementary program is held from 8:00 to 11:45 a.m. while middle and high school classes run from 7:30 a.m. to 1:04 p.m.

Williamsville's summer school program is open to all District residents, whether a child attends public, private or parochial school. A detailed newsletter with course offerings will be mailed to households in mid-May.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VOTE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MAY 16, 2017

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

North High Gym

1595 Hopkins Rd., Williamsville

WOW!

The Williamsville Community Education program offers full-day programming options for children entering grades 1 through 6. This popular enrichment program called Weeks of Wonder (WOW) will run from July 5 through August 11 at Country Parkway Elementary School. For more information about WOW, please call the Community Education office at 626-8080.

