

NEW HARTFORD



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget News

S P R I N G / 2 0 2 4 - 2 5



- ▶ Approximately 30 Hughes Elementary School students participate in the school's Art Club. Students are able to creatively express their own interests and styles by trying different art processes and using a variety of materials such as clay, aluminum, mixed collage and paint. The club meets two to three times per month and is open to students in grade 6.

2024-2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

> Proposed budget:

> \$64,443,792

> Tax Levy change:

> 2.24%

Budget Vote:

- ✓ Tuesday, May 21
- ✓ 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. New Hartford Senior High School Gymnasium, 33 Oxford Road, New Hartford

New Hartford Central School District residents to vote on 2024-25 budget on May 21

On Tuesday, May 21, New Hartford Central School District residents will vote on a \$64,443,792 proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year. The proposal carries a 2.24% percent tax levy increase and represents a spending increase of \$1,625,429.

Voters will also elect two candidates who will each serve five-year terms on the board of education and decide on a \$671,016 school bus purchasing proposition (see page 5).

The proposed budget maintains all current student programs, learning opportunities for both students and staff, support for students' social, emotional and mental health, and the district's educational technology.

Each year, district officials work to provide a spending plan that supports the district's vision and provides for the needs of all students while maintaining the fiscal responsibility owed to the community at large. The proposal aligns with the district's four priority areas outlined in the district's 2023-28 strategic plan: academics, communication and collaboration, facilities, and school environment and connections.

District facing smaller state aid increase

The district's primary revenue sources are state aid, the tax levy and payments in lieu of taxes, which account for approximately 97% of the budget revenues.

Although the district is expected to receive approximately \$317,000 more in state aid, including BOCES, transportation, building and special education aid for next year, this increase is significantly lower than the \$4.3 million budgeted increase for 2023-24.

"Careful and thoughtful financial planning has afforded us the opportunity to continue providing exceptional educational programs, despite a smaller state aid increase," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cosimo Tangorra Jr. "During a time when many districts are dealing with their own budgetary crisis, cutting programming and staff, we are pleased to preserve our robust programming and services, which directly benefits students."

Academics remain a top priority in the proposed budget

The proposed budget will sustain traditional class sizes to promote quality instruction and will continue to support athletic and extracurricular activities, as well as participation with regional summer school for grades 7-12.

To assist in meeting the individual needs of students with targeted interventions, the budget proposal maintains literacy and mathematics assessments for grades K-8. Basic early literacy skills programs will also continue to be implemented in grades K-3.

BOCES programming, including School and Business Alliance, Regional Program for Excellence, Career and Technical Education, Modules of Integrated Technologies, and Pathways in Technology Early College High School will continue to be supported as the district focuses on individualized student success and offering multiple pathways to graduation.

Participation in additional BOCES services to support students with special needs, safety, and student support and bullying prevention programs will be maintained.

In addition, the spending plan includes resources to support and enhance curriculum to ensure classroom instruction meets the needs of all students, remains innovative and relevant, and aligns with best practices.

Integrated technology instructional support will also be maintained under the proposed spending plan.

Budget plan supports positive school environment and connections

The budget proposal maintains the district's partnership with Connected Community Schools at the elementary level, which provides students with resources, services and programming to ensure their basic needs are met. This allows students to focus on and enjoy learning in order to succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**BUDGET
VOTE:
Tuesday,
May 21**

Budget Vote 24-25

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The district's character education programs, along with social, emotional and mental health services for students, will also be maintained.

In an effort to ensure the safety and security of students, staff and visitors, the budget proposal will maintain the district's school safety officer contract with the Town of New Hartford.

Spending proposal continues commitment to communication and collaboration

The district contracts with Capital Region BOCES and OHM BOCES for communications service, which provides communications support to the district for its

internal and external messaging. The budget proposal will sustain this service to facilitate transparency and good-will between the district and its stakeholders.

The budget proposal will also continue to fund the district's primary communication platform, ParentSquare. ParentSquare allows families, staff and community members to receive district communication via email, text or app notification. Community members are invited to join by visiting www.newhartfordschools.org/our-district/parentsquare-community-group/.

Proposed budget maintains focus on facilities and technology

The budget includes funding to provide and maintain the distribution of a Chromebook to

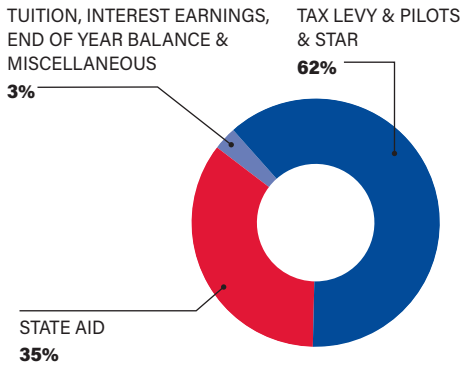
every K-12 student to promote a future-focused learning environment.

The investment supports the district's long-range plan to implement advancements in technology.

The district will continue to participate in regional contracts for the purchase of energy supplies, which have provided a savings of several hundred thousand dollars to the district over the past several years.

A \$100,000 capital outlay project, for sidewalk and miscellaneous door replacement, is planned to begin at the high school during the 2024-25 school year.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTED REVENUES



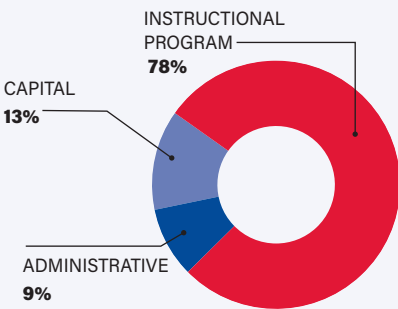
REVENUE 2024-2025

Tax Levy & Pilots & STAR	62%
State Aid	35%
Tuition, Interest Earnings, End of Year Balance & Miscellaneous	3%

REVENUE

	2023-24 BUDGET	2024-25 BUDGET
Tax Levy	\$38,860,349	\$39,732,539
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$365,409	\$305,900
Tuition	\$40,000	\$80,000
Admissions	\$10,000	\$15,000
Interest	\$10,000	\$350,000
BOCES Rent	\$5,000	\$15,000
Sale of Surplus Materials	\$5,000	\$5,000
Refunds (Insurance, BOCES)	\$200,000	\$300,000
State Aid	\$12,898,627	\$14,600,000
BOCES, Transportation, Building & Special Education Aid	\$9,031,978	\$7,648,353
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$150,000	\$150,000
Textbook Aid	\$145,000	\$145,000
Software & Hardware Aid	\$80,000	\$80,000
Library Aid	\$17,000	\$17,000
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$100,000	\$100,000
End of Year Balance	\$900,000	\$900,000
Total	\$62,818,363	\$64,443,792

SUMMARY OF PROJECTED EXPENSES



% OF 2024-2025 BUDGET

Instructional Program	78%
Capital	13%
Administrative	9%

EXPENSES

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Board of Education/Annual Meeting	\$45,200	\$44,400
Central Office	\$294,500	\$302,300
Finance, Purchasing, Accounting, Tax Collection	\$441,250	\$470,100
Personnel, Communications, Legal	\$485,000	\$512,834
Plant Operation, Technology, BOCES Printing & Mailing	\$3,797,000	\$3,746,000
Insurance, Tax Refunds, Equipment Repair, BOCES Admin	\$1,191,900	\$1,182,662
Instructional Supervision	\$1,340,558	\$1,495,954
Instructional Program & Teaching	\$19,721,877	\$20,491,910
Education for Students with Special Needs	\$7,291,482	\$7,810,573

EXPENSES

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Career & Technical Education Programs	\$1,385,000	\$1,579,829
Summer School BOCES & Community Education	\$99,750	\$101,000
Instructional Media	\$684,344	\$686,518
Health, Guidance, Psychologists, Social Work, Athletics	\$2,691,580	\$3,025,872
Summer Education Services	\$45,000	\$45,000
Transportation	\$2,106,380	\$2,134,500
Employee Benefits	\$15,812,542	\$16,679,340
Debt Service/Capital Improvements	\$5,385,000	\$4,135,000
Total	\$62,818,363	\$64,443,792

Voter Information

Access for People with Disabilities

Enter Daly Place from Oxford Road and note signs for handicapped parking. For more information, please call 315-624-1233.

Voter Qualifications

You must be registered to vote in school elections. Voters registered to vote with the Oneida County or Herkimer County Board of Elections who are residents of the district will be allowed to vote in the New Hartford school elections without registering. To qualify to vote you must be:

- ✓ 18 years of age or older
- ✓ A United States citizen
- ✓ Registered to vote
- ✓ A resident of New Hartford Central School District for 30 days or more

Voter Registration Dates

For those needing to register, the registration dates are:

- Saturday, May 11, 2024
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Bradley Elementary Lobby
- Tuesday, May 14, 2024
3 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Senior High School Lobby

Proof of residency is required. A driver's license is acceptable. For more information, please call the District Clerk's Office at 315-624-1218.

Absentee Ballots

It is possible to vote by absentee ballot. Forms to request absentee ballots should be requested by mail from the District Clerk, Kim Schweitzer, c/o District Office, 33 Oxford Road, New Hartford, New York 13413. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote.

Early Mail Voting

The new Early Mail Voter Act, effective Jan. 1, 2024, allows for early voting via mail without being required to have a reason. Individuals who wish to vote early by mail must submit an application. Requests for an application should be mailed to the District Clerk, Kim Schweitzer, c/o District Office, 33 Oxford Road, New Hartford, New York 13413. Completed applications for early mail voting must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote.

PORTRAIT OF A SPARTAN



District defines student skill set to ensure 21st century success

The New Hartford Central School District is defining what it means to be a New Hartford student and a lifelong learner. The district developed its Portrait of a Spartan, a collective vision that articulates the district's and community's aspirations for every student in the district. It provides strategic direction for the overall educational experience of students and includes a defined set of skills and competencies that students should possess upon graduation in order to achieve success.

Portrait of a Spartan is comprised of six competencies:

- **Adaptability** - Creative, curious, entrepreneurial thinkers who exhibit flexibility and a growth mindset
- **Empathy** - Show kindness while understanding and respecting the feelings and perspectives of others
- **Communication** - Articulate thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills for authentic purposes
- **Critical thinking** - Challenge themselves to think differently and identify, evaluate, and prioritize solutions to complex situations
- **Integrity** - Take responsibility, honor their commitments, and are accountable for their actions
- **Global citizenship** - Value and embrace diverse cultures and personally engage in civic, social, and global action

"Now more than ever, our learning experiences must continue to not only provide for the acquisition of rigorous academic

content, but must also be intentional about fostering the 21st century skills our students need to thrive," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cosimo Tangorra Jr. "Our Portrait of a Spartan is locally developed, but globally positioned so students in kindergarten through grade 12 can be successful in a world that is changing faster than ever."

The development process began in October 2023. A Portrait Design Team, consisting of school and district leaders, board members, educators, students, families and community members, attended four collaborative work sessions to identify and define each competency, and discuss implementation.

As next steps, district administrators will create an actionable plan to put Portrait of a Spartan into practice. This will include providing professional learning opportunities for district educators to ensure each competency is attainable for every student through authentic learning experiences.

The administration will evaluate and revise the district's Portrait of a Spartan implementation plan several times annually to maintain relevancy and alignment with the district's vision, mission, goals and strategic plan.



School Tax Relief (STAR) Eligibility

Under state law, all residential property owners, regardless of age, may receive a \$30,000 property tax exemption from the full value of their property, provided they filed for the exemption with their town assessor or at www.tax.ny.gov/star.

Basic STAR Exemption: A reduction on your school tax bill

- If you have been receiving the STAR exemption since 2015, you can continue to receive it for the same primary residence. As long as you remain eligible, you'll see a reduction on your school tax bill for the amount of your STAR exemption. **NOTE: The STAR exemption is no longer available to new homebuyers.**
- Available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the resident owners' and their spouses' incomes are less than \$250,000.
- Based on the first \$30,000 of the full value of a property, provided that they filed for the exemption with their town assessor or with New York State at www.tax.ny.gov/star.

Basic STAR Credit Check:

- If you are registered for the STAR credit, the Tax Department will send you a STAR check in the mail each year. You can use the check to pay your school taxes. You can receive the STAR credit if you own your home and it's your primary residence and the combined income of the owner **and** the owner's spouse is \$500,000 or less.
- Based on the first \$30,000 of the full value of a property, provided they filed for the exemption with New York State at www.tax.ny.gov/star.

Filing for Basic STAR

- If you have filed for the Basic STAR (no age criteria), it is not necessary to reapply each year.
- If you have not previously applied, you must apply at the appropriate town assessor's office or with New York State.

District earns state-wide school safety recognition award

For the 12th consecutive year, the New Hartford Central School District has earned Utica National Insurance Group's top safety award for its efforts to keep students, staff and visitors safe. The district received the Utica National Insurance Group's "School Safety Excellence Award" for 2024 at the Titanium with Honors level.

The award program has three levels — titanium, platinum and gold — in which schools can earn a meritorious distinction by meeting specific criteria to enhance overall safety. Categories covered include bullying prevention programs, playground safety and other areas, measured using specific quantifiable surveys. At Utica National's 42nd school safety seminar, district administration accepted a certificate to commemorate the district's safety efforts and a \$500 award, which will be used for school safety initiatives.

"Over the last decade, the district has implemented several safety and security measures to ensure the wellbeing of everyone who utilizes our facilities," said Director of Athletics, Health and Safe Schools Mr. John Banek. "It's encouraging to know that our efforts are being recognized at a state-wide level and we look forward to further enhancing our policies, procedures and infrastructure in support of a safe school environment."

New Hartford Central School District is one of at least 160 school districts and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in New York State to receive the award.

"It's encouraging to know that our efforts are being recognized at a state-wide level and we look forward to further enhancing our policies, procedures and infrastructure in support of a safe school environment."

- John Banek, Director of Athletics, Health and Safe Schools

Filing for Enhanced STAR Exemption

- All Enhanced STAR recipients are required to participate in the Enhanced STAR Income Verification Program (IVP). In the first year that you apply for the Enhanced STAR exemption, your assessor will verify your eligibility based on the income information you provide. In the following years, NYS will verify your income eligibility. You will not need to reapply for the exemption or provide copies of your tax returns to your local assessor.
- Provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes (\$98,700 or less for the 2024-25 school year.)
- Based on the first \$84,000 of the full value of a home for the 2024-25 school year.

Senior Citizen Exemption

- Seniors may also qualify for additional non-STAR Senior Citizen exemption. This

exemption may entitle a homeowner to an exemption beyond the Enhanced STAR exemption.

Living Quarters for Senior Parent or Grandparent Exemption

- The Board grants an exemption from taxation to the extent of an increase in assessed value of residential property resulting from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purposes of providing living quarters, as a primary residence, for a parent or grandparent, who is 62 years of age or older. This exemption is subject to certain limitations detailed in Section 469 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Filing for Senior Citizen Exemption and Living Quarters Exemption

- Tax exemption applications are processed through the appropriate town assessor's office and Senior Citizens exemptions are tied to age and income.

Board of Education Candidates

Five candidates seeking two open seats on the board of education

On May 21, New Hartford voters will elect two district residents to serve on the New Hartford Board of Education. The individuals elected will each serve a five-year term beginning July 1, 2024.

The board is comprised of seven school district residents, elected by voters, and is the official policy-making body of the school district. Board members are not financially compensated. Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.

Andrew K. Ward

Andrew K. Ward is seeking his second term on the board of education. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children: one who attends Perry Junior High School and two who are graduates of New Hartford Senior High School. Mr. Ward has been a district resident for 27 years.



A Remsen Senior High School graduate, Mr. Ward received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Union College and a Juris Doctor degree from University of Dayton School of Law. Mr. Ward is an attorney and owner of Ward Arcuri Foley & Dwyer Law Firm, where he specializes in estate planning legal work.

Mr. Ward is involved in the Perry Jr. High PTA and Upstate Caring Partners, previously serving as its Board of Directors President for five years. He is also a member of the Utica Zoo Board of Trustees and the ARC Guardianship Committee. Mr. Ward would like to build on his past experience as a board of education member and president to assure continued growth in the district's mission to serve its students, while strengthening the communication between the district and its residents.

Robert J. Roberts III

Robert J. Roberts III is seeking his first term on the board of education. He has lived in the district for four years and he and his wife, Michele, have two



children: one who attends Hughes Elementary School and one who attends Perry Junior High School.

A graduate of Thomas R. Proctor High School, Mr. Roberts earned a Bachelor of Science degree

Voters to decide on bus replacement proposition



On Tuesday, May 21, voters will decide on a school bus purchasing proposition at a total cost not to exceed \$671,016. The proposal includes the purchase of two 66-passenger buses, one 37-passenger bus and one 30-passenger bus.

The proposed new bus purchases would replace a total of four buses; two 66-passenger buses, one 30-passenger bus, and one 28-passenger bus, each of which have an average of 11 years of service and 100,000 miles.

The state will reimburse the school up to 76 percent of the cost of the new vehicles. The district plans to sell/trade in four buses with an expected total trade-in value of \$15,000. The local share for the remainder of the cost would be approximately \$157,000.

The ideal replacement cycle for district buses is 10 years, when it is no longer cost effective to

make the repairs needed to

meet state inspection standards. Maintaining an aging school bus presents potential safety, maintenance and financial issues for the school district. After 10 to 12 years of service, bus maintenance costs increase by 10 to 20 percent and trade-in values decrease exponentially.

The district is required by the state to have enough buses to transport every student in the district in the event of an emergency, regardless of the number of students who walk or receive parent/guardian transportation to school. New Hartford buses transport approximately 2,500 students daily to 12 public, private and parochial schools, and travel 450,000 miles annually.

The state will reimburse the school up to 76 percent of the cost of the new vehicles.

from Empire State University. He is currently the chief of facility operations at Helio Health. Mr. Roberts wants to ensure that students, teachers and staff have the facilities and resources needed to succeed. He envisions a collaborative effort, led by a positive, progressive, and future-focused board of education, to maintain the district's top performance, excellence in education and continued success.

Louis Shkane

Louis Shkane is seeking his first term on the board of education. He has been a district resident for 22 years and he and his wife, Julie, have two children who are both New Hartford Senior High School graduates.



A graduate of New Hartford Senior High School himself, Mr. Shkane received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and computer science and a Master of Science degree in liberal studies from Utica College (currently Utica University). Mr. Shkane is an administrator to a practicing physician. He is a parishioner and catechist of St. John the Evangelist Church in New Hartford.

Mr. Shkane prioritizes transparency and fiscal responsibility. He hopes to assist the district in identifying areas for improvement and oversee and enact policy that focuses on continuing New Hartford's tradition of academic excellence.

Jeffrey P. Kolb

Jeffrey P. Kolb is seeking his first term on the board of education. He has lived in the district for 36 years and he and his wife, Melissa, have three children: one who attends Myles Elementary School, one who attends Perry Junior High School, and one who attends Utica University.



Mr. Kolb is a branch service manager at Diebold Nixdorf. A New Hartford Senior High School graduate, Mr. Kolb earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering technology from Rochester Institute of Technology, and a Master of Business Administration degree from SUNY Polytechnic Institute.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Before- and after-school program offers students enrichment opportunities

The New Hartford Central School District partners with Right at School to provide students in grades K-6 with before- and after-school programming.

Right at School offers families onsite childcare and student enrichment activities at each of the district's three elementary schools. The program includes more than 180 hands-on learning activities, homework support, games and sports, activities designed to support social-emotional learning, student-led community service projects, music and art.

On school days, the before-school program runs from 7 to 8:50 a.m. and the after-school program runs from 3 to 6 p.m.

Families can elect to participate in the morning and/or afternoon program for one, two, three, four or five days a week; pricing varies. A 10-day punch card is also available for purchase, providing families the option to have their student attend as needed. Families may qualify for discounts, including a sibling discount, and financial assistance.

Right at School has been the district's before- and after-school program provider since the 2022-23 school year.

Students who will attend Bradley, Hughes or Myles elementary schools during the 2024-25 school year can now register for fall 2024 enrollment in the Right at School program.

Scan the QR code above for more information and to register.



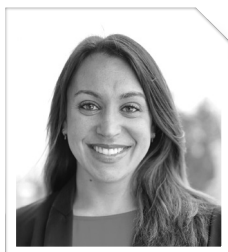
Board of Education Candidates

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He currently serves as a volunteer fireman for the New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Kolb aspires to give back to the New Hartford community, specifically to New Hartford Central School District students. He hopes to improve district communication and foster transparency with the community.

Kim Strong

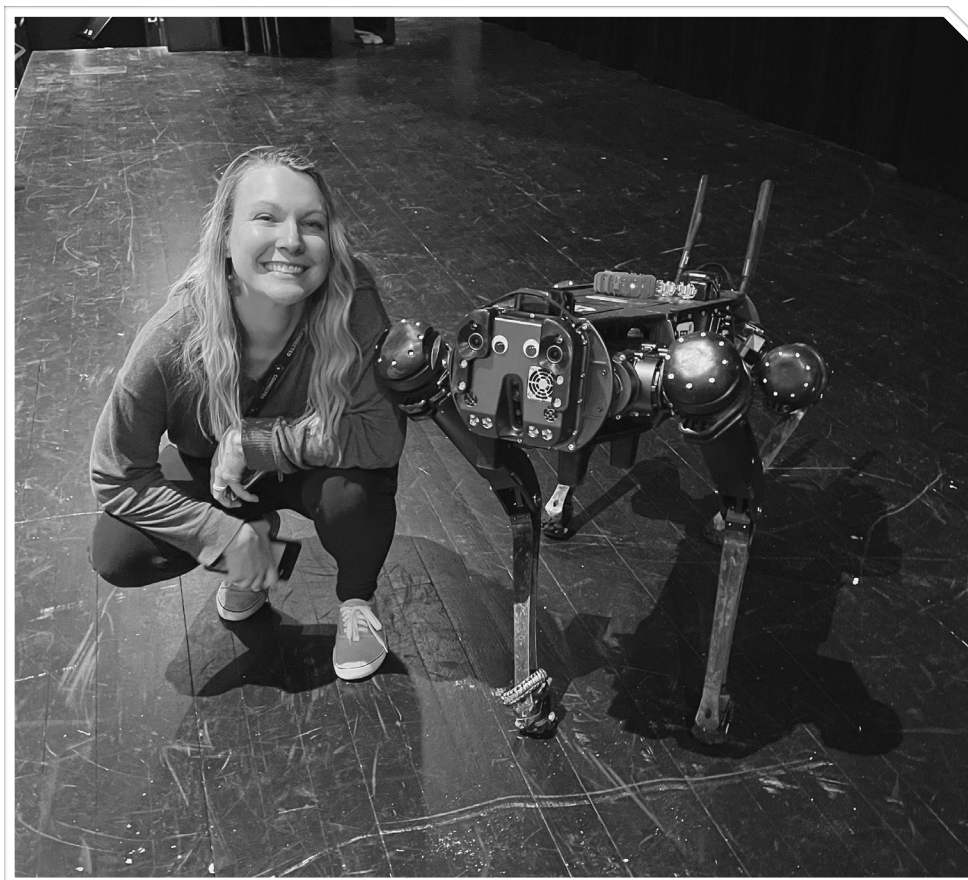
Kim Strong is seeking her first term on the board of education. She and her husband, Mike, have one child who attends Hughes Elementary School. Mrs. Strong has been a district resident for 15 years.



A New York Mills Senior High School graduate, Mrs. Strong received a bachelor's degree in health studies and a doctorate degree in physical therapy from Utica College (currently Utica University). Mrs. Strong is a physical therapist and owns and operates Strong Physical Therapy, PLLC in New Hartford.

She is currently a member of the Hughes PTA and has volunteered at a local animal shelter, as well as assisted with spring garbage cleanup in her neighborhood. Mrs. Strong's top priorities are transparency, accountability and collaboration, and is committed to listening to the voices of parents, students, educators and taxpayers. She wants all students to succeed and teachers to be supported so they're able to provide a positive learning environment for every student.

Bradley students learn the importance of STEM



- ▶ Chelsi Thibodeaux, Connected Community Schools Site Coordinator at Bradley Elementary School, poses with a robotic dog named Fluffy from the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) in Rome, NY. Bradley students in grades 4-6 attended an AFRL presentation about the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers and the role of technology in today's world, including assisting and protecting military personnel.

Spartan Strong

- ▶ Several Perry Junior High School students were recognized as part of the school's new character program, Spartan Strong. The program commends students, who have been nominated by teachers, for displaying positive traits, such as teamwork, kindness, and perseverance. Spartan Strong is supported by the New Hartford Foundation.



Celebrating Chinese New Year

- ▶ The Mandarin Chinese class and Multicultural Club at the Senior High School hosted a Chinese New Year Celebration. Students were invited to attend the event, which included Chinese lantern making, dragon paper cutting, 3-D new year decoration making, a Chinese calligraphy workshop and cultural cuisine.





NEW HARTFORD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
33 Oxford Road, New Hartford, NY 13413

Budget News 2024 - 25

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8 | NEW HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget News SPRING / 2024 - 25

2024-2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

> **Proposed budget:**
> **\$64,443,792**

> **Tax Levy change:**
> **2.24%**

Budget Vote:

- ✓ **Tuesday, May 21**
- ✓ **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**
**New Hartford
Senior High School
Gymnasium,
33 Oxford Road,
New Hartford**

What's on the ballot:

- ✓ **Bus Proposition:**
\$671,016
- ✓ **2 Open BOE
Seats**

Voter Eligibility:

- ✓ **18 years of age
or older**
- ✓ **A United States
citizen**
- ✓ **Registered to vote**
- ✓ **A resident of New
Hartford Central
School District for
30 days or more**

Bus Proposition:

- ✓ **To authorize the purchase of school buses at a cost not to exceed \$671,016.**
- ✓ **The state will reimburse the school up to 76 percent of the cost of these vehicles.**

▶ Myles Elementary School students in grades 4-6 attended an interactive presentation by Scott Flansburg, famously known as "The Human Calculator." Flansburg captivated students with his world-renowned ability to mentally perform complex calculations at lightning speed. Through interactive demonstrations and engaging activities, students were encouraged to embrace math with confidence and enthusiasm.



Search for the New Hartford Central School District on Facebook and X.

