



Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

At a glance:

2023-24
PROPOSED BUDGET
\$33,233,572

BUDGET INCREASE
FROM 2022-23
\$1,270,779 / 3.98%

2023-24
TAX LEVY INCREASE
\$11,362,133 / 2.5%

Proposed budget maintains all programs, staff, services

On Tuesday May 16, 2023, Fonda-Fultonville residents will head to the polls to vote on a proposed \$33,233,572 spending plan for the 2023-24 school year. Under the proposal, spending would increase by 3.98% from the current year. The proposed budget carries a *2.5% tax levy increase, which is below the district's assigned tax levy "cap" of 3.34%. Budget approval requires a simple majority of votes (50% plus one).

The proposed budget maintains all programs, staff, and services.

"For the 2023-24 budget, we have effectively planned and researched a pathway to facilitate growth for our students, while keeping our budget in line with our community's expectations," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Ciaccio.

This year's proposed budget will provide additional counseling support through a partnership with St. Mary's, expand the life skills program from one class to two, and add an assistant principal to support discipline 5-12, chronic absenteeism K-12, and coordinate the K-8 summer school.

*Please note: a home fully assessed at \$100,000 - approximately \$36 overall increase. This will vary based on your town/village tax rate, which will be finalized this summer.

Vote

Tuesday, May 16
Noon - 9 p.m.

AUDITORIUM LOBBY

Also on the ballot:

- See pg. 4 for a list of propositions.

"This budget focuses on creating opportunities that will engage all students. It includes an expansion of rigorous academic programming, after-school clubs and extracurricular offerings with additional resources supporting the overall social and emotional well-being of our students."

THOMAS CACCIO,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Bringing career pathways to light at FFCS High School. Students learning important skill sets for tomorrow.



Fonda-Fultonville High School students have the opportunity to get creative.

Level Up Club: Bringing fresh insight to learning and creativity

Extracurricular clubs and activities continue to play a significant role in allowing students to experience new areas of learning. According to a recent study by the U.S. Census Bureau, which analyzed data from between 1998 and 2020, children are engaging in more extracurricular activities like lessons and sports than they did more than two decades ago.

At FFCS, the high school continues to identify new ways to keep students engaged in activities that parallel their daily curriculum. The Level Up Club, which is directed by FFCS High School Art Teacher Mr. Therrien, enables students to do that while allowing them to tap into their creative side and build relationships. The Level Up Club is composed of three areas of interest: developing storytelling skills through tabletop gaming; painting, sculpting and creating art pieces of miniature figures used in games; and relationship building.

"I've seen confidence continue to build as our students become engaged in the game or whatever creative outlet they want to participate in," said Mr. Therrien. "Students are allowed to tap into their creativity and improve their ability to communicate with one another. It's a great opportunity for our students to learn, grow and become stronger in their respective interests."



Real-world topics helping to shape the decision-making process for today's students

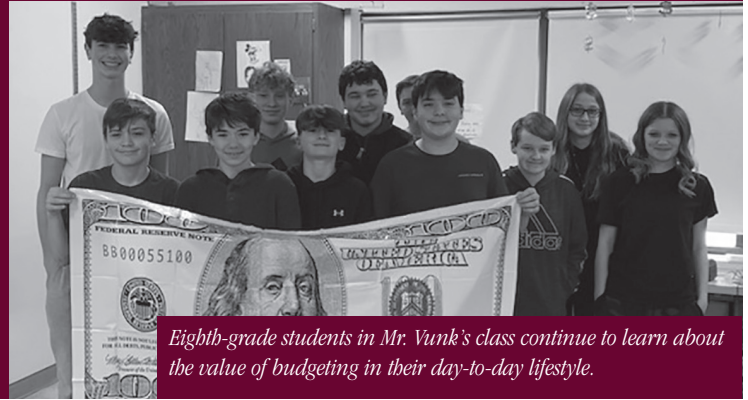
Eighth-grade students in Mr. Vunk's class are learning about the value of budgeting in their day-to-day lives. Whether it's balancing finances, saving for important purchases, planning for the future, or day-to-day living, students are learning that it's the little things that can turn into major issues when it comes to budgeting. At FFCS, middle school students are gaining invaluable experience in learning how budgeting can be critical as they grow older and how it will play a prominent role once they've graduated. That's where Mr. Vunk comes in. He's currently the Fonda-Fultonville history and economics teacher for eighth-grade students.

As part of his class curriculum, he's introducing an innovative way for students to apply their budgeting skill sets to better understand some of life's everyday responsibilities. What might be taken for granted in terms of financial responsibility is turning into a fun and interesting project that engages students to learn about financial literacy.

"Studying economics, as it relates to all countries around the world, provides students the ability to connect America's economic structure and government to other nations. In eighth grade, the study of

economics becomes even more focused as they learn about the Great Depression. For students to connect to the struggles of individuals and families in the 1930s, they complete a project in which each student in a class receives a pre-made 'life' with the setting being 2023," said Vunk.

Continued on Page 4



Eighth-grade students in Mr. Vunk's class continue to learn about the value of budgeting in their day-to-day lifestyle.

Required School District Budget Notice

2023 - 2024

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$31,962,793	\$33,233,572	\$32,932,983
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$1,270,779	\$970,190
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.98%	3.04%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,017,008	\$11,362,133	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$68,000	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$11,085,008	\$11,362,133	\$11,085,008
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$290,524	\$290,913	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,794,484	\$11,104,710	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$10,726,484	\$11,071,220	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$68,000	\$33,490	
Administrative Component	\$2,237,395	\$2,838,416	\$2,838,416
Program Component	\$24,930,979	\$26,266,709	\$25,987,229
Capital Component	\$4,794,419	\$4,128,448	\$4,107,338

* In a contingent budget, new programs and services would be reduced or eliminated, as would equipment purchases.

** 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)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$475
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, Montgomery County, New York, will be held in the auditorium lobby in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of noon and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the high school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Budget Summary

2023-2024

REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED	2023-24 CONTINGENCY
Property Taxes	\$11,085,008	\$11,362,133	\$11,085,008
State Aid	\$18,869,501	\$19,828,946	\$19,828,946
Fund Balance	\$1,270,884	\$1,140,295	\$1,116,831
Reserves	\$138,470	\$138,470	\$138,470
Other Revenue	\$598,930	\$763,728	\$763,728
TOTAL	\$31,962,793	\$33,233,572 3.98% INCREASE	\$32,932,983

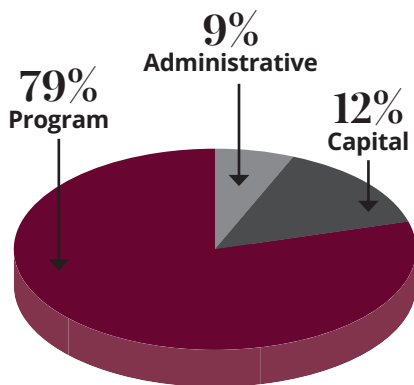
EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED	2023-24 CONTINGENCY
General Operations	\$3,602,917	\$3,732,554	\$3,746,264
Instruction	\$15,005,228	\$15,802,016	\$15,474,639
Transportation	\$2,683,694	\$2,806,342	\$2,806,342
Employee Benefits	\$8,365,954	\$8,591,608	\$8,591,608
Debt Service	\$2,300,000	\$2,296,052	\$2,309,130
Interfund Transfers	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$31,962,793	\$33,233,572 3.98% INCREASE	\$32,932,983

THREE-PART BUDGET:

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year's costs. Fonda-Fultonville's three-part budget is as follows:



Figures may not be exact due to numbers being rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED	2023-24 CONTINGENCY
Program Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, equipment, extra-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases).	\$24,930,979 78% OF BUDGET	\$26,266,709 79% OF BUDGET	\$25,987,229 79% OF BUDGET
Administrative Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.	\$2,237,395 7% OF BUDGET	\$2,838,416 9% OF BUDGET	\$2,838,416 9% OF BUDGET
Capital Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.	\$4,794,419 15% OF BUDGET	\$4,128,448 12% OF BUDGET	\$4,107,338 12% OF BUDGET
TOTAL	\$31,962,793	\$33,233,572	\$32,932,983

FFCS Jazz Fest: 20 years of making music and memories

FFCS High School musicians kicking off the 20th anniversary of the FFCS Jazz Fest concert series. The 2022-23 school year marked the 20th year of the FFCS Jazz Fest concert series. For the 20th anniversary, the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District invited 20 school district bands to participate in this special event. Throughout the day, you could hear the sweet sounds of jazz, contemporary, and big-band musical styles for all to enjoy. You might even think you were attending the New Orleans Jazz Festival with just how good and smooth the bands were playing some of the classics.

Fonda-Fultonville would like to thank the following school districts for making a significant contribution to this

year's musical odyssey: Greater Amsterdam School District, Mayfield High School, OESJ High School Jazz Ensemble, Perry Junior High Jazz Ensemble, New Hartford High School Jazz Ensemble, Oneida High School Jazz Combo, Scotia-Glenville High School Jazz Ensemble, Saratoga Springs High School Jazz Ensemble, Oneida High School Jazz Ensemble, Schenectady High School Combo I, Schenectady High School Combo II, Gloversville High School Jazz Ensemble, Herkimer High School Jazz Ensemble, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, Sidney High School Jazz Ensemble, Lasalle Institute Jazz Ensemble, and Averill Park High School.

Here's to another successful 20 years of music!!



FFCS High School musicians kick off the 20th anniversary of the FFCS Jazz Fest concert series this spring.



Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

112 Old Johnstown Road
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Rich Meddaugh, Editor*

POSTAL CUSTOMER

FF | CSD Budget Newsletter

2023 - 2024

Vote: TUESDAY, MAY 16-NOON-9PM AUDITORIUM LOBBY

On the ballot:

PROPOSITION 1

Vote on a \$33,233,572 proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year.

PROPOSITION 2

Vote on \$75,000 for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda. Under state education law, funding for libraries is collected by the school district and then forwarded to the respective libraries.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

All voters must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older, and residents of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Advance registration is NOT required. You may be asked to show proof of residency (such as a valid ID that lists your address) when voting.

BOARD ELECTION

Elect two candidates to serve three-year terms on the board of education starting July 1. Listed in ballot order, the candidates are Michael Lewis, Richard Muselbeck and John Wiltey.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available for residents who are unable to come to the polls if they are out of town or because of health concerns, including but not limited to illness, disability, or hospitalization. Absentee voters must first complete an application. If you want the ballot mailed, the application must be received no later than May 9. To receive an application, contact the district clerk Lori Maves at 518-853-4415 ext. 4230. Completed ballots must be received by the district by mail or drop-off no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16. Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m., in the auditorium lobby in the Fonda-Fultonville High School building, 112 Old Johnstown Rd., P.O. Box 1501 Fonda, New York 12068-1501.

Real World Topics - Continued from Page 2

As part of this unique project, students are asked to identify/study areas of their life, such as their profession, yearly income, family status, ages of kids, and fixed bills such as car payments, rent, student loans, etc. This project occurs every other day in the classroom so that on opposite days the connections to the Great Depression are made. In this way, there is a repeated flash back/flash forward between what is happening in current budgets to those years ago.

In addition, topics students learn and need to apply to their budget include interest rates, inflation, credit cards, the stock market, and creating a healthy monthly budget, which includes managing unexpected costs such as repairs. Students use a ledger to record all of their transactions to deposit income, withdraw money to pay bills and maintain a current balance. Students even learn about income and state tax, and they subtract that from their income.

Another portion of the project is for students to understand the cost of variable expenses such as groceries, gasoline, clothing, entertainment, etc.

"The project is research-based and students are not provided with all of the information needed to complete their budgets," said Mr. Vunk. "Participating students are asked to seek assistance from other adults and/or research online. They are provided with and steered towards finding current economic charts and graphs as well as using the numerous free 'calculators' found online for determining credit card minimum payments and interest. This year, students were able to create a budget for six simulated months ranging from January through June."

So, with a little assistance from history, economics, and financial literacy — students are learning more about fiscal responsibility and preparing for a time when balancing the budget will have an important effect on their future.