

# Sheveron Communicator

Spring 2021

## 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION

**May 18, 2021**  
**Noon - 9:00 pm**

**Vote at the**  
**Vernon Town Hall**  
**Verona Fire House**  
**Sherrill Court Building**

Please contact Ms. Tamara Whooten, Board Clerk, at (315) 829-7425 if you have any questions.

Please visit our website for more information on the school budget and election.



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Verona, New York 13478



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[www.vvsschools.org](http://www.vvsschools.org)



[Facebook.com/VVSDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/VVSDistrict)



[@WeAreVVS](https://twitter.com/WeAreVVS)

## Superintendent's Message

### VVS – Celebrating a Year of Growth

A viable system of continuous growth adapts to the ever present forces of change. This past year has been filled with many changes, resulting in tremendous growth for us all. The pages of this issue of the Sheveron Communicator and the Budget Newsletter provide examples of our ability to adapt.

Times of crisis test our character, our values, our beliefs, and, most importantly, our ability to remain true to our mission and purpose. The Mission of the Vernon Verona Sherrill School District is to nurture and support students for success in life, preparing them to embrace challenges, learning opportunities, diversity, and civic responsibility. We can all point to the numerous ways in which this community has nurtured and supported our students for success throughout this pandemic.

While there have been many moments of pain, grief, loss, and fatigue, there have been many more moments of joy, gratitude, peace, and satisfaction. We have risen to the challenge and persevered throughout the pandemic to find new, and often better, ways to live out our beliefs. The beliefs that:

- All students should be challenged with academic rigor, provided individualized support through home-school collaboration, and empowered to explore opportunities that prepare them for success in college, career, and life.
- Student-school-community connections provide opportunities for students to experience diversity, develop tolerance, foster a sense of belonging, and create the foundation for civic responsibility.
- Students are best prepared for success in college, career, and life when their educational experiences cultivate teamwork, perseverance, adaptability, resourcefulness, and a positive attitude.
- Optimal learning occurs in a safe and supportive environment that values and nurtures character, integrity, responsibility, and respect for self and others.

We certainly would not have wished for a pandemic as a catalyst for change. Nonetheless, our ability to grow together characterizes VVS as a community of distinction. In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Now is the time for the VVS community to honor our past and celebrate our collective growth as we look forward to our future success.

With gratitude,

Martha K. Group  
Superintendent of Schools



VVS High School

## PROPEL Program Takes Flight

In April, tenth grade high school students met with Mr. Tim Thomas, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Mohawk Valley Community College. Mr. Thomas presented on the PROPEL program, a partnership between MVCC, BOCES and regional high schools. PROPEL allows students to take college classes in their junior and senior year and earn micro-credentials and an Associate's degree with just one year of post-high school instruction.

Students can choose between four PROPEL pathways:

- Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (Drones)
- Business Administration
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Cybersecurity and Computer Science

The pathways represent academic programs that have a strong link to regional job opportunities and have high levels of student interest. Thank you to Mr. Thomas for visiting the high school to present this opportunity to our students.

VVS High School

## FFA Pancake Breakfast: New Format, Same Delicious Pancakes!

The VVS FFA held a modified version of their annual maple weekend on March 27th and 28th. This year's event was held in a drive-thru format, which consisted of multiple stations where students interacted with and helped direct members of the public. In addition to breakfast, the FFA had maple fluff, candy, and their signature syrup available to buy.

This event was a great success despite the unique circumstances. The FFA was able to sell over 600 breakfasts and lots of their delicious maple syrup and syrup products. Thank you to all the community members who supported the FFA during Maple Weekend and throughout the year!

VVS District

## Song of the Day Challenge

Throughout the month of March, elementary students from across the district participated in a "Song of the Day Challenge." Every morning, the elementary music department would release a 20-second clip from a well-known song. Each class in every building would then have until the end of the day to guess the following three things: 1) The title of the song, 2) The artist or composer, and 3) The year the song was released. The only rule was that the students could not use technology and had to work together to answer the questions. At the end of the month, the class with the most points won a pizza party. "I love the song of the day," said Zoey Newman (a 6th grade student), "I always end up singing along with my friends after we listen to the song!"

Although this activity originated as a way to promote the national celebration of Music In Our Schools Month, it has turned into a fun way to connect students and teachers across buildings, bringing a sense of normalcy to the school day. J.D. George teacher Mrs. Blodgett stated, "This activity has really brought my students together and is a great way to start the morning." Congratulations to our winners:

W.A. Wettel:

Mrs. Bronk's 2nd grade class

J.D. George:

Mrs. Kaido's 6th grade class

E.A. McAllister:

Mrs. Durante's 6th grade class

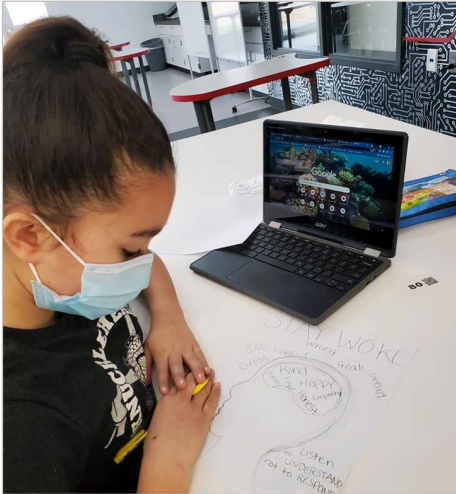




## Middle School Celebrates Health & Wellness Week



During the week of March 29th, VVS Middle School hosted its annual Health and Wellness event. This event enlists the support of numerous community members to present on a variety of topics involving mental health and wellness. Prior to Health and Wellness Week, students participated in a survey to select their top three sessions based on personal interests. We were extremely fortunate to be able to offer a wide array of presenters that generously donated their time and effort to educate our students. Presenters included ACR Health, Upstate New York Poison Center, Dr. Mark Montgomery, Cornell Cooperative Extension, VVS Social Worker Interns Megan O'Hara and Lisanny Manzueta, and VVS faculty member Kristin Sullivan. Students thoroughly enjoyed all of the presentations. Jacob Badgley, a 7th grader, shared, "I enjoyed the stress relief items that we received during the presentations, especially the squishes!" 8th grade student Sarah Moyer said, "My favorite presenter was Mr. Montgomery. I learned that a simple 'hello' can positively change someone's life."



For the week's culminating activity, students were divided into groups to create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in a podcast or video format on one of the topics that piqued their interest. Students were given a brief PSA tutorial session from Holly Lynch, Launch CNY Talent Coach & Photographer, and Kaylin Broadwell, co-host of Morning Radio Show on Lite 98.7. The PSAs provided students with a great opportunity to reflect on what they learned, while having fun at the same time!

## The Awesome Captains and Crew

This year, the middle school established a "captains and crew" system to help all learners, whether in-person or remote, feel connected. Mrs. Widomski and Mrs. Sullivan aimed to make their morning Advisory period a good start to the day for their students, establishing activities and routines to connect with their "crew." This consistency helped ease transitions and provide structure for changes from in-person to remote learning throughout the year.

Advisory time creates a classroom of community and respect, offers emotional support, and fosters positive social interactions. Their Advisory consistently holds events, such as bulletin board collaborations, picture days, lunch parties, and a variety of games that their students participate in week-to-week. On Wednesdays, students participate in an extended Advisory period with games, activities, and organizational tasks to complete. In the beginning of the school year, students were offered individual support for structuring their asynchronous and remote day schedules for home. The ultimate goal has been to have Advisory time be a positive experience that nurtures the social and emotional learning and interaction that all students need. Crew member Sofia Sherwood enjoys the Advisory periods each day. "My favorite part of Advisory is on Wednesdays when we play games to get to know each other better," she said.



E.A. McAllister Elementary

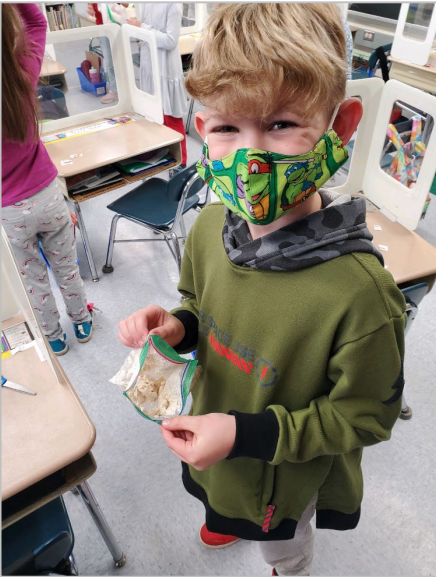
## The Pre-K Jolly Trolley

Happy teachers can change the world! Students in the McAllister Pre-K program are spreading joy to the adults in our building through our McAllister Jolly Trolley. With the help of their teacher, students take orders and hand out snacks, sanitizer, and smiles, all while working on listening and speaking skills. We believe in taking care of our big people and little people one joyous step at a time!



E.A. McAllister Elementary

## Tales of the Dairy Godmother



In celebration of Agriculture Literacy Week, E.A. McAllister received a donation of the book *Tales of the Dairy Godmother*, by Viola Butler, from the VVS FFA in conjunction with New York Agriculture in the Classroom. Mrs. Elliott's Kindergarten class and Mrs. Jeffery's first grade class celebrated by making their own ice cream with the help of Mrs. Adams!

The story follows Chuck, a little boy who wishes for all of the ice cream he could ever eat. His Dairy Godmother appears and chronicles all of the hard work that goes into caring for the cows and processing the milk to get the delicious end product: ice cream! Given the additional safety protocols in place this year, students conducted their own science experiment. They were given the materials to make an individual portion of ice cream in their designated space. Besides tasting their final creation, the students had the most fun shaking the bags for three minutes to find out if the ingredients (half and half, sugar, and vanilla) would turn into ice cream. They were delighted when it did!

The students were very excited to learn about dairy farms and all of the hard work that farmers do to produce the dairy products that we enjoy on a daily basis. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the success of this event, especially our New York State Dairy Farmers.

E.A. McAllister Elementary

## Using STEAM Smarts to Catch a Leprechaun!

After reading the book *How to Catch a Leprechaun*, Mrs. Jeffery created a STEAM project revolving around St. Patrick's Day. Her class was challenged with the task of trying to design a contraption to attract and capture a Leprechaun! "While my students had a blast creating and building, they learned more about collaborating with a partner, thinking critically about how their trap would work, being creative in how they would attract the Leprechaun, and finally, communicating their plan in a recorded video," Mrs. Jeffery said. After taking pictures and videos of the projects, which were compiled in a digital photo album, she shared them with families as one of the many ways of trying to help them feel connected to the classroom and their child's learning.





## Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Competition

We recently held our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Competition featuring twelve amazing students from grades 3-6. Like a lot of our work since March 2020, we had to make adaptations to this experience, most notably streaming the speeches instead of assembling as a student body in the gym. However, we know our students richly deserve experiences like this, even given the changes required to make it happen.

Though the excellence of all student contestants was on display, two sixth grade students earned the top awards. Earning the gold medal with the highest score was Alyssa M. Lessels. Coming in a close second and earning the silver medal was Nathan M. Meacham. Both recited different parts of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. We extend our congratulations to them and the other ten contestants who were also amazing.

Finally, a special thanks to Mr. Protheroe, student council advisor, who organized this experience and inspired these students, our guest judges, Mrs. Whipple and Mrs. Whalen, and Mrs. Krawiec, who made streaming this event possible. Though different than previous years, we made this event work through the perseverance of our students and adults who continue to reveal who we are as a school and district.



W.A. Wettel Elementary

## You Inspire Us!

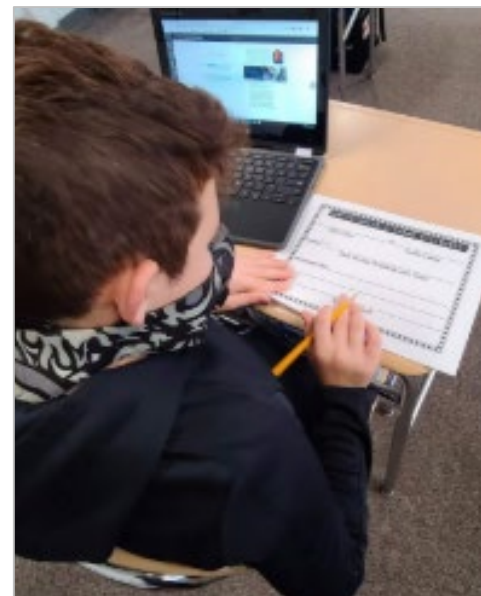
After more than a year of adjusting to the COVID pandemic, we wanted to thank our families and students for their resilience in the face of this significant challenge. As a result, we decided to share several video testaments on our Facebook page, prepared and expressed by our amazing teachers. More than anything, these videos highlight the gratitude we have for our students and families who have made, and continue to make, sacrifices in their lives by adapting to the unique environment we've experienced this year. Your partnership with our school and teachers has allowed us to thrive as a community, and for that we cannot thank you enough. We look forward to a spectacular 2021-2022 school year with the many blessings we carry forward.

W.A. Wettel Elementary

## Personalized Learning at Wettel

Over the last several years, and most notably, the last year, Wettel teachers have continued to evolve by having students uncover learning through greater ownership and independence. Blended learning helped to expedite this change even more with its emphasis on personalizing learning. Students are increasingly setting their own pace, using different pathways, and collaborating with peers to realize their learning. Investments in technology, namely our 1-to-1 Chromebook initiative, have made this even more possible.

When observing students learning in our classrooms, you will see teachers coaching and assisting some students individually or in small groups, while other students are accessing resources on their own and at their own pace. Though the last year has been challenging, we are grateful to have grown in our endeavor to make learning a more personalized experience for every child.





## J.D. George Elementary Ziggurats and Pyramids

6th grade students in Mrs. Todora's class took on an exciting STEAM challenge: to make their own Mesopotamian ziggurats and Egyptian pyramids! Students were given toothpicks and gummy bears, which they used to create their own free-standing ziggurats (rectangular stepped/terraced structures) and pyramids.

This "toothpick engineering" allowed students to experiment with three-dimensional shapes to determine which were the strongest to support the layers built above. Students then used their knowledge of the design process, geometry, and history to build scale models of the impressive original ancient structures.

J.D. George Elementary

## The Yearbook Lives On!

JDG Yearbook Club members continue to work on the 2020-2021 yearbook. The theme of the book, which was voted on by the entire 6th grade class, is "A Year of Smiles." The club is supervised by Mrs. Surprenant, a teacher aide at JDG, and this is the 8th year in a row of creating the memory book. Club members photograph events in the school, work on the design, and collaborate to make decisions about items to highlight in this year's yearbook.

Club president Halo Dingman takes a very proactive role in contacting teachers and submitting photos for the yearbook. Her work is helping to make the 2020-2021 yearbook an outstanding edition!

Some of the club members have been in hybrid learning this year and some have been learning remotely, however, they have all worked together to contribute to the success of the yearbook as a team.



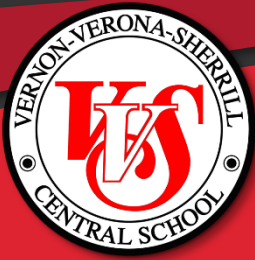
J.D. George Elementary

## Sharing a Love of Reading with Classmates

J.D. George fifth grader Ian Yousey came to Mr. Feola during the winter with an idea. He enjoys reading the "choose your own adventure" books and thought it would be a great way to share his love for this type of reading with his classmates! "He approached me with the idea, and I thought: what's better than a read-aloud that is read by another student?" said Mr. Feola. "It also provides student choice, and I have seen more than half the class regularly participate in the discussion."

Mr. Feola and Ian created a system where Mr. Feola sets up a topic in Flipgrid, and then Ian goes in and records a video of himself reading a section of the book. At the end of his video, he gives the choices that students can vote on. Students then create a response to Ian's video, telling which path they would like him to take. After giving the class a few days to watch and respond, they tally the votes, and Ian creates his next video. J.D. George is proud to have students sharing their love of reading and inspiring others to read along!





# BUDGET NEWSLETTER

## VVS Board of Education President’s Message

Dear VVS Community,

Traditionally, on opening day each year, the faculty and staff gather in the auditorium for a brief meeting before breaking off into their respective groups to prepare for the return of their students. This year, that meeting was held virtually, with everyone socially distanced in various buildings, wearing masks, and watching the presentations on a screen. This was a reminder of how the previous school year ended and how uncertain this school year would be. At that meeting, I shared a quote from an unknown author which says, *“Be thankful for the bad things in life, for they open your eyes to the good things you weren’t paying attention to before.”*

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the world and the VVS community. Although each of us has faced significant challenges during this time, I hope you will take a moment to notice all of the good things happening in our community as we work towards recovering and getting back to normal.

The Board of Education and VVS administration have been very thoughtful in providing a proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year that will aid in the road to recovery, both this year and over the next few years, while taking into consideration the needs of the community during this time. Some of the highlights include:

- 0% increase on the tax levy
- Over \$1.6M in Coronavirus Relief and Recovery Federal Aid
- 1.94% increase to appropriations
- Over \$4M in American Rescue Plan Federal Stimulus

The Budget Vote and Board of Education Election will take place on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please reach out to the VVS District Office or plan to attend one of the upcoming public hearings.

In closing, I would like to thank the community for their continued support of the VVS School District, and thank our administration, faculty, and staff for their hard work and dedication as they continue to make VVS a great place to learn, to work, and to live.

Thank you, Melissa Palmer

## Budget Highlights

### No Increase to the Tax Levy

### District Stays At or Below Tax Levy Limit for 10<sup>th</sup> Straight Year



#### Maintains All Academic & Extra-curricular Programs

This includes advanced course offerings, Special Patrol Officers, and 1:1 Chromebooks.



#### Administrative Budget Decreases

Decrease in the percentage of the budget for administrative functions, salaries, and expenses.



#### Class Sizes Maintained

Staffing continues to align with student enrollment. Class sizes will be maintained across the district.



#### Chromebook Program Expansion

1:1 Chromebooks provided for all students grades Pre-K through 12. Free WiFi devices provided for any family in need.



# Budget Organization

The budget is organized into three basic parts, which include Administrative, Program, and Capital.



The **Administrative Component** of the budget includes all costs associated with district-wide supervision and administration. Examples of these costs include: school and business administration, district clerk, auditing, treasurer, tax collection, purchasing, legal services, personnel services, regular school supervision, etc. A complete listing of administrative functions and their associated costs can be found below.



The **Program Component** of the budget includes all costs associated with the delivery of instruction. Examples of these costs include: teachers' salaries, programs for students with special needs, career and technical education, school library, guidance counseling, health services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic sports, etc. A complete listing of program functions and their associated costs can be found below.



The **Capital Component** of the budget includes all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the physical plant and equipment. Examples of these costs include: maintenance and operations salaries, materials and supplies, bus purchases, debt service for capital projects, etc. A complete listing of capital functions and their associated costs can be found below.

# Budget Summary

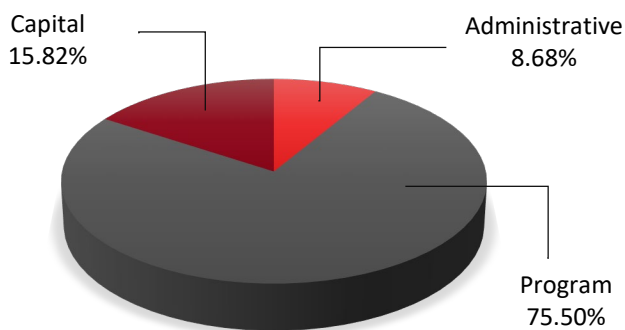
Tri-Part Budget for VVS Central School 2021-2022

DESCRIPTION	ADMINISTRATIVE	PROGRAM	CAPITAL	TOTAL
Board of Education	\$ 51,027			\$ 51,027
Central Administration	\$ 241,998			\$ 241,998
Finance	\$ 393,373			\$ 393,373
Legal Services	\$ 8,000			\$ 8,000
Personnel	\$ 86,462			\$ 86,462
Records Management	\$ 7,120			\$ 7,120
Public Information	\$ 62,597			\$ 62,597
Total Central Services	\$ 204,444			\$ 204,444
BOCES Rent, Admin. & Capital	\$ 410,719			\$ 410,719
Curriculum Dev. & Supervision	\$ 194,990			\$ 194,990
Supervision - Regular School	\$ 1,167,050			\$ 1,167,050
Research & Planning	\$ 182,545			\$ 182,545
Employee Benefits	\$ 613,950			\$ 613,950
Finance			\$ 836	\$ 836
Operation of Plant			\$ 1,864,327	\$ 1,864,327
Maintenance of Plant			\$ 425,401	\$ 425,401
BOCES Rent, Admin. & Capital			\$ 500	\$ 500
Total Transportation			\$ 225,434	\$ 225,434
Employee Benefits			\$ 941,713	\$ 941,713
Debt Service			\$ 3,049,501	\$ 3,049,501
Transfer to Capital Fund			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Finance		\$ 2,432		\$ 2,432
Legal Services		\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
Total In-Service Training		\$ 205,632		\$ 205,632
Regular Instruction		\$ 19,154,949		\$ 19,154,949
Total Transportation		\$ 1,852,506		\$ 1,852,506
Employee Benefits		\$ 10,279,992		\$ 10,279,992
Transfer To Special Aid Fund		\$ 26,000		\$ 26,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,624,275</b>	<b>\$ 31,523,511</b>	<b>\$ 6,607,712</b>	<b>\$ 41,755,498</b>
DOLLAR AMOUNT CHANGE FROM 2020-21	\$ 59,134	\$ 899,148	(\$ 163,641)	\$ 794,641
PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2020-21	1.66%	2.94%	-2.42%	1.94%
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>8.68%</b>	<b>75.50%</b>	<b>15.82%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET</b>				<b>\$ 41,755,498</b>

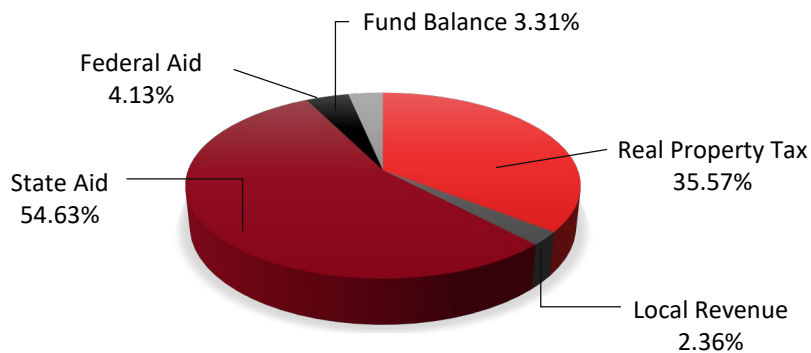


# Proposed Budget for 2021-2022

## Budget Appropriations for 2021-2022



## Estimated Revenues for 2021-2022



## Average Per Pupil Expenditures

The most recent data available from the New York State Education Department is for fiscal year 2020-2021, which shows per pupil expenditures in VVS to be \$7,663 lower than the state average and \$2,354 less than regional districts.

\$21,718

VVS

\$24,072

Regional District Average

\$29,381

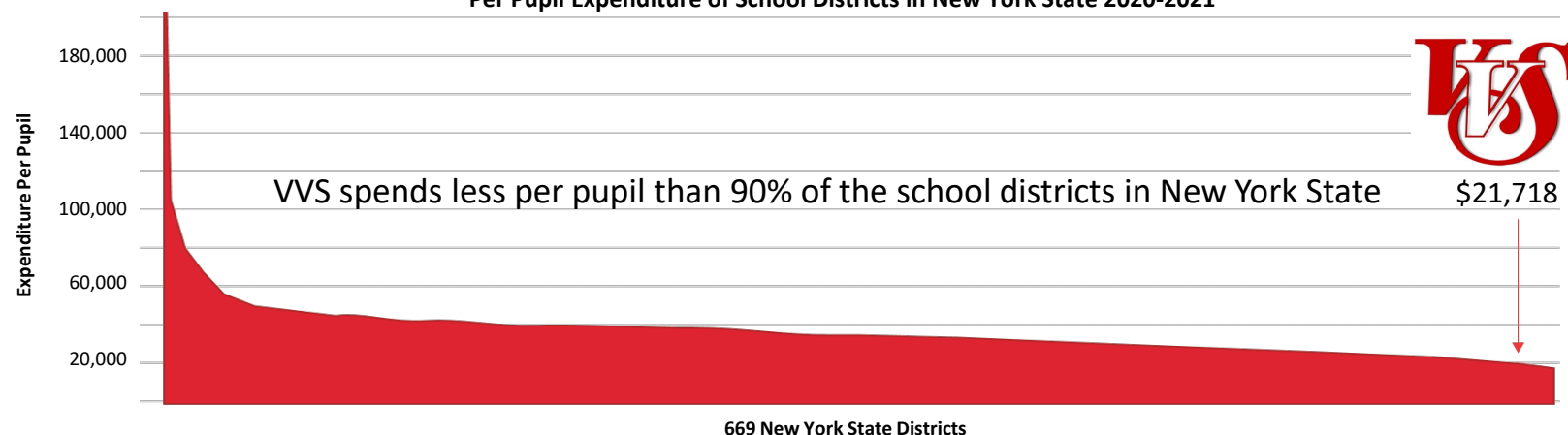
New York State Average

### What is Value?

Value is a measure of what you get compared to what you pay for it. Value can be expressed in many ways. One way in which to express value is through a district's per pupil expenditure.

Per pupil expenditure is calculated by dividing the total budget by the total student enrollment. It represents the average cost to provide education and services to students. As demonstrated by the information to the left, VVS' per pupil expenditure is far below the New York State average, and lower than the regional average of 25 surrounding school districts.

Per Pupil Expenditure of School Districts in New York State 2020-2021



# 2021-2022 School District Budget Notice

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2020-2021	PROPOSED BUDGET 2021-2022
Total Budgeted Amount, not including separate propositions	\$ 40,960,857	\$ 41,755,498
Increase/Decrease over prior year	\$ 1,459,665	\$ 794,641
% Increase/Decrease in each proposed budget	3.70%	1.94%
Change in Consumer Price Index (CPI)	1.81%	1.23%
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$ 14,852,590	\$ 14,852,590
B. Levy to support library debt, if applicable	\$ -	\$ -
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)	\$ 14,852,590	\$ 14,852,590
F. Permissible Exclusions to the school tax levy limit	\$ 593,042	\$ 394,892
G. School Tax Levy Limit, excluding levy for permissible exclusions	\$ 14,261,113	\$ 14,457,698
H. Total proposed tax levy for school purposes, excluding permissible exclusions and levy for library debt, plus prior year tax cap reserve (E-B-F+D)	\$ 14,259,548	\$ 14,457,698
I. Difference: (G-H); A negative value requires 60% voter approval	\$ 1,565	\$ 0
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$ 3,565,141	\$ 3,624,275
PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$ 30,624,363	\$ 31,523,511
CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$ 6,771,353	\$ 6,607,712

*Statement of Assumptions: The proposed budget includes all contingency and necessary expenses to operate the school district. Should the proposed budget be defeated, the proposed levy amount can be no greater than the prior school year tax levy and all non-contingent expenses must be removed from the proposed budget. Items which are considered non-contingent expenses are student supplies, certain equipment purchases, such as buses, and community use of school buildings and grounds.*

## Contingent Budget Information

If a school district's proposed budget is defeated, the district has the option of putting the same or revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a school district must adopt a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget, the tax levy can be no greater than the current school year tax levy. Additionally, a district must remove any equipment and non-contingent expenses from the budget and must charge for community use of the school district facilities. Under a contingent budget, VVS would not be able to purchase the replacement vehicles included in the proposed budget.

## School Vehicle Purchase Information Included in Budget

The school district is committed to a long-term vehicle replacement cycle, which allows for continual maintenance of a current fleet of school vehicles. The 2021-2022 purchase plan proposes the purchase of two 65-passenger gasoline-powered vehicles. The total estimated cost for the two replacement buses is illustrated below. Based on the current transportation aid rate, New York State will reimburse the District an estimated 90% for the cost of these vehicles, leaving a local share of \$15,543 after trade-ins. Any increase to the tax rate will be offset significantly by lowered maintenance costs.

THE NUMBERS:	
Two (2) 65-Passenger Gasoline Buses, 2 @ \$112,717	\$225,434
Less Transportation Aid @ an estimated 90%	(\$202,891)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,543</b>
Less Trade-ins	(\$7,000)
<b>Net District Cost After Aid</b>	<b>\$15,543</b>



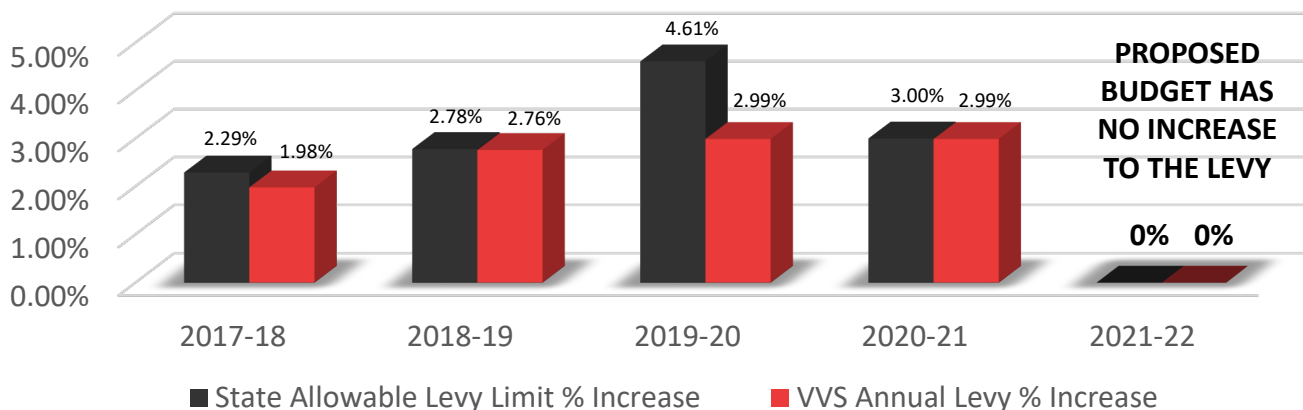
### PROPOSED TRADE-INS

**Bus #171**  
**65 Passenger**  
 Year: 2008  
 Mileage: 200,546

**Bus #185**  
**20 Passenger**  
 Year: 2014  
 Mileage: 113,289

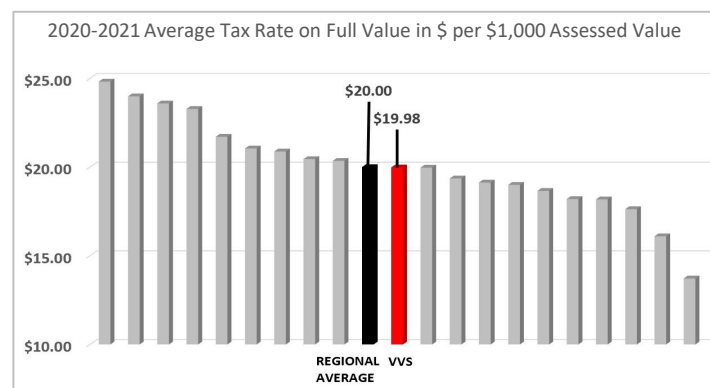
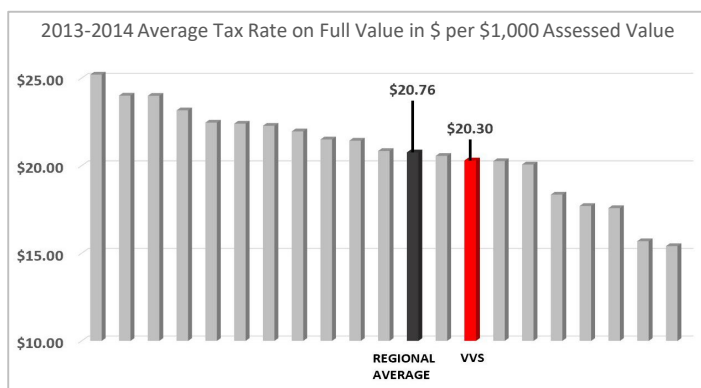


# Allowable Levy Limit vs. VVS Adopted Levy



## How Does VVS' Tax Rate Compare?

VVS' Average Tax Rate on Full Value is consistently lower than the regional average, and is LOWER THAN IN WAS IN 2013-2014.



Gray bars represent the Average Tax Rate on Full Value of 19 surrounding school districts

## Federal Stimulus Grants

VVS is eligible to apply for additional federal grant funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The purpose of these federal grants in aid is primarily to provide funds for supplemental programs and services to address: social, emotional, and academic learning loss; extended day, afterschool, and summer programs; reducing the risk of virus transmission and health hazards; improving pandemic and emergency preparedness; educational and assistive technology; and maintaining the operation and continuity of programs and services. The CRRSA funds are available through, and to be used over the course of, the next two school years, and the ARPA funds are available through, and to be used over, the next three school years.

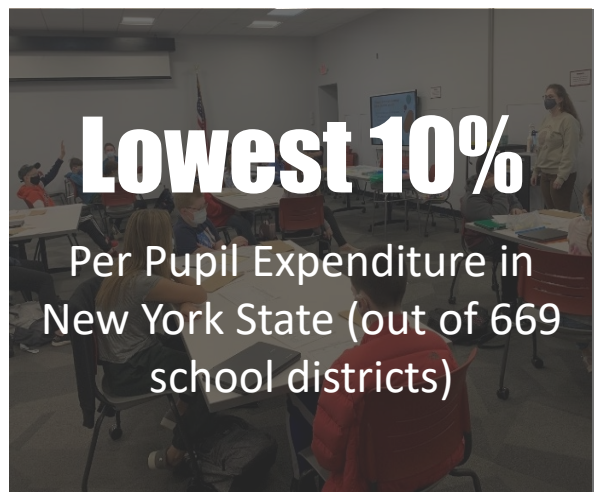
The CRRSA and ARPA federal grants in aid explicitly caution school districts against using these funds to supplant or replace monies already budgeted to be used for existing or recurring programs and services, or solely to reduce a school district's tax levy, as a funding cliff would likely occur when the funds are no longer available. Instead, the funds are to be used primarily for supplemental and non-recurring costs of eligible programs and services.

By July 1, districts will be required to post on their websites a plan, by school year, developed with public and stakeholder input, of how ARPA funds will be expensed and how the district will prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses. To the extent that planned uses would include recurring costs, districts shall identify programs and services using such funds that are expected to be recurring beyond availability and identify funds used to maintain them. Schools are required to spend no more than 62.5% and no less than 12.5% of their total allocation in any year between 2021-22 and 2024-25.



**\$41,755,498**

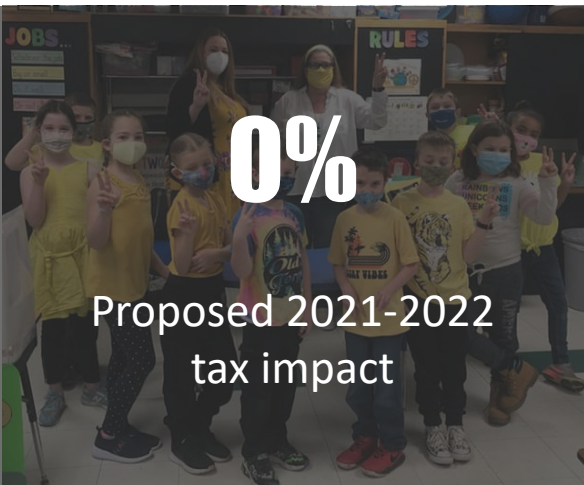
Proposed 2021-2022 VVS School District Budget



**Lowest 10%**

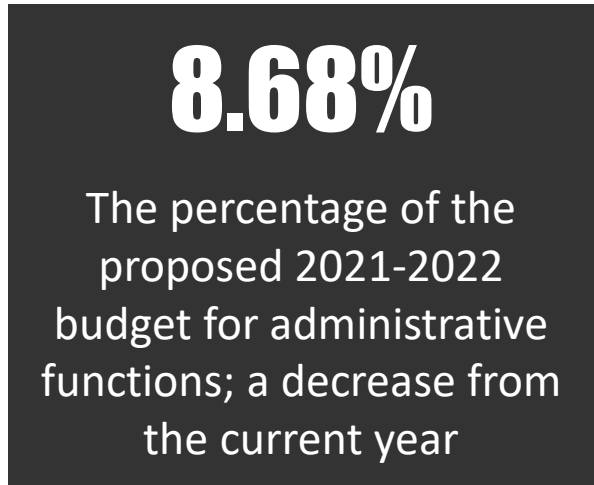
Per Pupil Expenditure in New York State (out of 669 school districts)

**VVS Budget: By the Numbers**



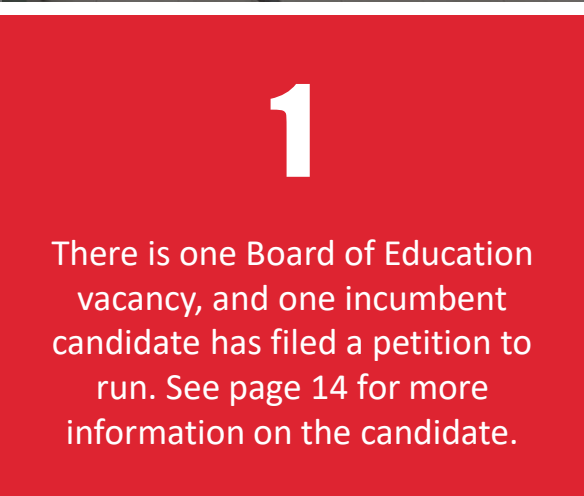
**0%**

Proposed 2021-2022 tax impact



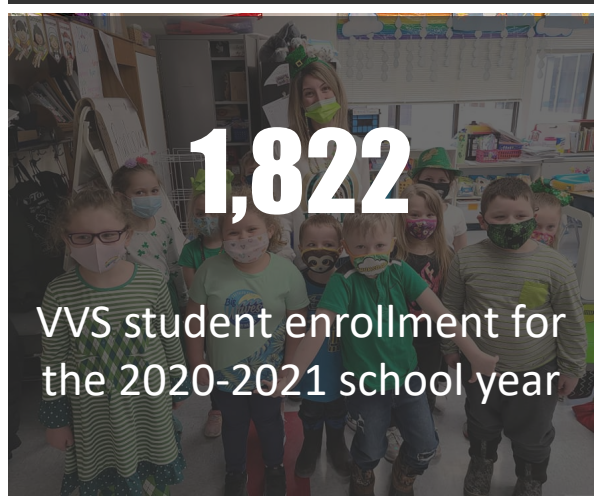
**8.68%**

The percentage of the proposed 2021-2022 budget for administrative functions; a decrease from the current year



**1**

There is one Board of Education vacancy, and one incumbent candidate has filed a petition to run. See page 14 for more information on the candidate.



**1,822**

VVS student enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year





# Vernon Verona Sherrill

# POINTS *of* PRIDE

**131**

Seniors who will be honored at our pancake breakfast, cap and gown pickup celebration, and lawn sign display



**1.62%**

Average annual tax levy impact over the previous 10 years



**95%**

Graduation rate after four years (New York State average is 83%)



**89**

COVID Vaccines administered during the VVS COVID Vaccine Clinic



**1,000+**

College credits earned by high school students in Advanced Placement and dual-credit courses



**100+**

Local businesses and organizations we've partnered with to bring opportunities to students and families



**175,000+**

Meals our school lunch staff and transportation department have prepared and delivered to VVS homes during COVID-19



**3<sup>rd</sup> Lowest**

Per Pupil Expenditure among 25 regional school districts

**100% of VVS Families Online**

and able to join us for remote learning

- 1:1 Chromebooks for all students grades PK-12
- Free Wi-Fi devices and broadband data for any family in need



**6**

Number of years VVS has been recognized as a "Best Community for Music Education"



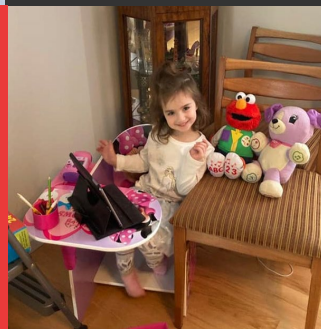
**2**

Number of times VVS Middle School has been designated a "School to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform



**Level 4**

NYS Indicator of VVS students' college, career, and civic readiness on a scale of 1 to 4 (4 being highest)



# VVS Board of Education Election

## One Candidate - One Vacancy



Dear VVS Community,

My name is Frank Frey, and I have been serving in an appointed interim role on the VVS Board of Education this spring. I've lived in the district since 2008 and am the proud parent of a fourth-grader at E.A. McAllister. I am now running to fill this seat and hope that I can count on your support.

I want to start by saying how proud I am of our community. My family moved to the area because of the strong reputation of the VVS School District, not only for the numerous awards won at the state and national level, including honors given to our athletics, agriculture and arts programs, but also from what I had heard about the families, teachers, coaches and staff of our community from my time coaching youth sports south of here. VVS had a reputation of being a strong, supportive, and collaborative community, always focused on what was best for the student experience and always punching above their weight. In my short time on the VVS Board of Education in these very challenging times, I have seen first-hand the creativity, dedication, and professionalism of the entire

staff in reaching and supporting students where they are and inspiring transformative growth in our students. I have also seen the resiliency of our families, the sacrifices they continue to make for their children, and just how challenging this past year has been. We are strong, and I know that we will emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever.

Let me briefly introduce myself. I went to high school in a small cement town in Eastern PA, and in addition to lettering all four years in soccer, I worked as an afterschool counselor for elementary students and had a garage band. I graduated from Penn State and Indiana University with degrees in biology and moved from a position at Indiana University to Colgate University in 2003. For a little over a decade now, I've been working as part of a collaborative team in Uganda, first with the Uganda Wildlife Authority understanding infectious disease in mountain gorillas, and then with Bwindi Community Hospital supportive evidence-based public health measures related to malnutrition, water quality and sanitation, maternal and child health, and currently the emergence of antibiotic resistance. I've been fortunate to hold several administrative positions where I've managed budgets and staff, built community and commonality across many shades of difference, fundraised for programs that support broadening educational opportunity, and helped to re-envision what transformational educational experiences look like and how to put them into practice. Outside of work, I play in a 90s alternative rock band, mostly on the college scene, and am dedicated to supporting the arts and youth sports.

I hope you support my candidacy. I would be honored to serve you. I look forward to your continued support of our district. The VVS Board of Education and Administration worked tirelessly on developing this budget proposal to ensure that our district can continue to provide our students with the resources, support, and opportunities they need, while digging deep to find the resources to do so. Thank you very much for reading this. Let's go Red Devils!

### School Board Proposition #1: Budget Vote

"Shall the Board of Education of the Vernon Verona Sherrill School District, Verona, New York, be authorized to expend the sum set forth in its proposed budget for 2021-2022 in the total amount of \$41,755,498 and to levy the necessary tax?"

### School Board Proposition #2: Personal Voter Registration

"Shall the following resolution be adopted by the Board of Education of the Vernon Verona Sherrill School District, Verona, New York?"

RESOLVED, That the Vernon Verona Sherrill School District Board of Education may authorize the personal registration of voters for school district elections on a continuous basis during certain specified hours of the school day at the office of the district clerk or business office of the school district by the district clerk, assistant district clerk, or a member of the board of registration, instead of or in addition to convening the board of registration.

**Presently, a qualified voter in the VVS School District wishing to vote on the school budget, in school elections, or other school district public referenda must either register with the County Board of Elections or come to the District to register with a Board of Registration, convened during a set date and time. If approved, Proposition #2 would make this process more convenient for community members and permit a qualified voter to come to the District Office year-round to register to vote on school budgets, in school elections, or on other school district referenda.**



# Capital Outlay Project

## Flooring Replacement

Included in the 2021-2022 proposed budget is an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of a capital outlay project to replace flooring at W.A. Wettel Elementary School.

<b>Repair &amp; Reconstruction Cost</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>State Aid at 86.3%</b>	<b>\$86,300</b>
<b>Net Local Cost After Aid</b>	<b>\$13,700</b>

## Star Program

There are two types of STAR benefits:

### Basic STAR

- Available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the resident owners' and their spouses' income is less than \$500,000
- Based on the first \$30,000 of the full value of the home

### Enhanced STAR

- Provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes (\$86,000 or less for the 2021-2022 school year)
- Based on the first \$66,800 of the full value of the home (for the 2021-2022 school year)

The STAR benefit applies only to school district taxes.

### \* Maximum 2021-2022 STAR Savings

The Department of Taxation and Finance has released maximum STAR savings amounts for each taxing jurisdiction within the school district. Please see those amounts in the chart to the right. Based on State law, the STAR exemption is capped at 2% of the prior year's maximum savings.

MAXIMUM 2021-2022 STAR SAVINGS FOR JURISDICTIONS WITHIN THE VVS SCHOOL DISTRICT		
TAXING JURISDICTION	BASIC STAR	ENHANCED STAR
CITY OF ONEIDA	\$599	\$1,304
CITY OF ROME	\$625	\$1,311
TOWN OF KIRKLAND	\$599	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERNON	\$599	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERONA	\$600	\$1,304
TOWN OF VIENNA	\$599	\$1,304
TOWN OF WESTMORELAND	\$599	\$1,305
ESTIMATED BASIC STAR EXEMPTION SAVINGS	PROJECTED STAR SAVINGS 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	* \$599.00	

Source: Department of Taxation and Finance, <https://www.tax.ny.gov>

## Assessors

 <p><b>KIRKLAND</b> <b>Nina Wallace</b> PO Box 235 Clinton, NY 13323</p>	 <p><b>ONEIDA COUNTY</b> <b>Department of Finance</b> 800 Park Avenue Utica, NY 13501</p>	 <p><b>VERNON &amp; SHERRILL</b> <b>Frank Laguzza</b> PO Box 643 Vernon, NY 13476</p>
 <p><b>MADISON COUNTY</b> <b>Rebecca Marsala</b> Real Property Tax Services PO Box 665, Wampsville, NY 13163</p>	 <p><b>ROME</b> <b>Joe Surace, Jr.</b>, Rome City Hall 198 N. Washington St. Rome, NY 13440</p>	 <p><b>VIENNA</b> <b>Susan Strain</b> PO Box 250, North Bay, NY 13123</p>
 <p><b>ONEIDA</b> <b>Holly Osterhoudt</b>, City of Oneida 109 N. Main St. Oneida, NY 13421</p>	 <p><b>VERONA</b> <b>Susan Strain</b>, Town Office Bldg. 6600 Germany Rd. Durhamville, NY 13054</p>	 <p><b>WESTMORELAND</b> <b>Holly Osterhoudt</b> PO Box 310 Westmoreland, NY 13490</p>

## FYI

We want to include all of our families and friends on our mailing list. If you know of someone who has not received this newsletter, or has never been included in our mailing, please call:

April Sobieraj  
(315) 829-7412



## Vernon Verona Sherrill Central School

City School District of the City of Sherrill

5275 State Route 31, PO Box 128

Verona, NY 13478

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Melissa Palmer

*President*

Thomas Moats

*Vice President*

Steve Adamkowski

Christopher Brewer

Frank Frey

Ann Pangburn

Samantha Netzband

Catherine Suttmeier

Paul Thompson

## Budget Questions and Answers

### **Q: WHO CAN VOTE ON THE SCHOOL BUDGET?**

**A:** Qualifications of voters for the annual budget vote are as follows. A person may vote who is:

1. A citizen of the United States,
2. Eighteen years of age or older, and
3. A resident within the district for a period of 30 days preceding the election.

### **Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS VOTED DOWN?**

**A:** In the event that the voters reject a proposed budget, the Board of Education is empowered to levy a tax sufficient to defray the cost of those items specifically authorized by statute and the cost of those items determined by the Board of Education to constitute "ordinary contingent expenses."

The Board of Education must make provisions for (1) salaries; (2) legal expenses; (3) expenditures specifically authorized by statute; and (4) other items necessary to maintain the educational program, preserve prosperity, and assure the health and safety of students and staff. The reason for these provisions is found in the State Constitution, which requires, as interpreted by the courts, that the schools of the State must be kept in operation at all times so that the youth of the State may have access to uninterrupted education. If a school district's proposed budget is defeated, the district has the option of putting the same or revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a school district must adopt a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget, the tax levy can be no greater than the current school year tax levy. Additionally, a district must remove any equipment and non-contingent expenses from the budget and must charge for community use of the school district facilities.

### **Q: ARE THERE ANY SCHOOL TAX CREDITS OR EXEMPTIONS?**

**A:** Senior Citizens' Tax Exemption - The VVS Board of Education authorized a partial tax exemption for property owners in the District who have reached the age of sixty-five (65) years (on property owned by a husband and wife, one must be at least sixty-five (65) years of age) and whose net income does not exceed the sum established by Board Policy 4019 - Senior Citizens' Tax Exemption.

Net Income	Exemption
\$18,500 and Under	50%
\$18,501 - \$19,499	45%
\$19,500 - \$20,499	40%
\$20,500 - \$21,499	35%
\$21,500 - \$22,399	30%
\$22,400 - \$23,299	25%
\$23,300 - \$24,199	20%
\$24,200 - \$25,099	15%
\$25,100 - \$25,999	10%
\$26,000 - \$26,899	5%

To access this exemption, senior citizens must contact their local tax assessor for information and an application form.

# DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

May 18, 2021  
Noon - 9:00 pm

Vote at the  
Vernon Town Hall  
Verona Fire House  
Sherrill Court Building

Questions should be directed to:

**Mrs. Martha Group**  
Superintendent of Schools

or

**Mr. Mark Wixson**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Finance and Operations

at (315) 829-7487

VVS - It's a great place to learn, to work, and to live!