

Sheveron Communicator

Spring 2022

2022-2023 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION

May 17, 2022
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) 829-2520 x7101 if you have any questions.

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



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www.vvsschools.org



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



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

Superintendent's Message

Greetings VVS Community,

What a difference a year makes! We are thrilled to share with you the many happenings in our schools that show the breadth and depth of opportunities for our students and our community. The mission of the VVS School District is to nurture and support students for success in life, preparing them to embrace challenges, learning opportunities, diversity and civic responsibility. Noted educational philosopher John Dewey believed powerful partnerships between schools and neighborhoods are foundational for participatory democracy. The pages of this issue of the Sheveron Communicator illustrate the partnerships across the school buildings and between the district and community. A particular point of pride is found in the many ways our students serve others and connect with the community.

Successful schools, like any successful organization, engage in thoughtful reflection and planning in order to continue to learn and grow. The VVS School District has engaged in focused planning for many years. The planning process known as Comprehensive District Education Planning has helped the District prioritize and focus its resources to achieve our vision to be valued as a district of distinction by our community.

This year, VVS is engaged in a more robust strategic planning process. The VVS Strategic Planning Guiding Coalition is composed of representatives from across the district and the region. Students, parents, community members, higher education officials and business representatives, as well as district staff, administrators, and board of education members, have examined student needs, emerging trends in education, the economy, and the region, and the impact of the pandemic on children and families. The proposed budget outlined in the center of this issue allows VVS to continue the programs and services for our students and families, considers the present economy, and makes responsible use of the community's resources, now and for the future.

In closing, the support this community has shown for all its members is a hallmark of VVS. Words cannot express my deep gratitude and appreciation for all that each and every one of you continue to do each and every day to make VVS a great place to learn, to work, and to live.

With gratitude,

Martha K. Group, Superintendent of Schools

We Need Our Community's Input!

Our Strategic Planning Coalition has taken a deep dive into education, our strengths, opportunities, and areas for growth. We will soon send a second invitation to all VVS community members to participate in our strategic planning by completing a ThoughtExchange. Please lend your voice to how we approach learning over the next several years. Be on the lookout for the ThoughtExchange link on Facebook and our website in the coming weeks!



VVS High School

Mr. Peavey Awarded Honorary Empire Degree from NYS FFA

Mr. Peavey has been a cornerstone of the VVS FFA program for decades. To honor his tireless commitment to VVS students over the years, the VVS FFA and Superintendent Martha Group nominated him for an Honorary Empire Degree. An Empire Degree is the highest honor an FFA student can earn at the state level.

In his award letter, the NYS FFA stated, “We recognize your commitment to FFA in how you personally embody the FFA motto with your work ethic, willingness to serve, and by leading with humility and grace. You lead by supporting students in their endeavors, encouraging leadership in others, and modeling an exemplary attitude of service.” Congratulations, Mr. Peavey!

VVS High School

Sixteen Years of Authors in the Classroom

VVS High School students have gotten the chance to learn from authors and industry professionals for over a decade. These important author virtual visits allow students to ask questions, dive deeper into their writing and thinking process, and gain a broader life perspective.

This year, students were treated to visits from two nationally renowned authors: Erin Gruwell, author of *The Freedom Writers Diary*, which was turned into a major motion picture, and Pam Bachorz, author of the young adult novel *Candor*.

Special thanks to Utica National, who sponsored the visit from Erin Gruwell and gave VVS students the amazing opportunity to learn from an incredible writer and educator.

VVS High School

Playing Live at the Stanley Theatre!

VVS High School freshman Owen Paz had the incredible opportunity to play live at the Stanley Theatre this past winter. Owen and his band, *Filled to the Brim*, performed their own concert to an excited audience on February 25, 2022.

The band is comprised of regional student musicians, who met at Jim O’Mahony’s Rock Camp in 2018. Since then, they have recorded an 11-track album and gathered a great following!

The VVS music program is known for helping students find their voice and pursue their musical talents. Congratulations to Owen and his band mates for following their passions and working hard to make their musical dreams come true!



Middle School “Shark Tank” Food Truck Competition

Students on the middle school Red Team competed in a food truck competition, specializing in grilled cheese sandwiches. The goal of the competition was to gain the best deal from investors to aid in the creation of their food truck business. Students also competed for best grilled cheese sandwich and best food truck design.

Teams of students in five classes were broken down into four groups each, totaling 20 teams. A select group of students currently enrolled in French were able to compete for spots as judges for their peers. We had two community food truck owners, Mrs. Hodkinson, and Mr. Myatt as judges in a “Shark Tank” style presentation room.

Food truck themes were selected by their members. Their special menu item was a generic grilled cheese sandwich, and students were allowed to choose up to three ingredients to add in to make their sandwich unique. An additional challenge was to stay under a budget of \$9.00 for the special ingredients. Team members took a field trip to Grand Union in Sherrill to learn more about grocery shopping, select their items, and check out.

All teams had a morning prep period to make their grilled cheese sandwiches using a griddle. They also built a small model food truck and created a verbal presentation pitch to impress the judges to invest in their business idea. Each team came to the judges with a percent ownership/money investment deal and talked about the project. They had a one-minute time slot to impress the judges, and boy, did they impress them!

Congratulations to our winners and participants!

Best Truck Design winners: Huan’s Cheese

Ceaira Coonrod (chef), Jeremy Spicknall-Grace, and Emma Burning

Best Grilled Cheese Sandwich winners: Cheezy Hearts

Nico Levesa-Cesana (chef), Kody Foster, Leah Maguire, and Neeva Enigk

Overall winner, with the best deal and presentation: The Baconator

Mallory Dodge (chef), Sidnee Krupski, and Brody Barlow



Overall Winning Team: The Baconators



VVS Red and White Supporting Ukraine Blue and Yellow!

During the month of March, VVS Middle School Student Council coordinated a district-wide item drive to help support those in need in Ukraine. Students collected numerous items, including baby supplies, medical supplies, blankets and socks. VVS Middle School Social Work intern, Flora Canavan, coordinated delivery of the items to several locations in the Albany area.

The first round of items were supplied to DNIPRO, a European Deli in Latham, NY, which organized their efforts with Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Troy, NY. The remaining items were distributed to Ukraine and Ukrainians Abroad in Brighton Beach, NY.

As a culminating activity, students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to experience Ukrainian culture and delicious Ukrainian cuisine. The menu was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

E.A. McAllister Elementary

Reading Buddies Work Together

Our E.A. McAllister Reading Buddies program started over 20 years ago. First led by Mrs. Cavanaugh, it is now led by Ms. Cashman, Mrs. Geroux, and Mrs. Walker, who do an excellent job of working with students to create successful partnerships. Students in 5th and 6th grades mentor and work with students in 1st and 2nd grades on literacy skills, meeting each Thursday. The program offers a fun way for students to learn and work together! Reading mentor Reagan said, "I was a buddy when I was younger, and now I'm a buddy to younger students and I really like it."



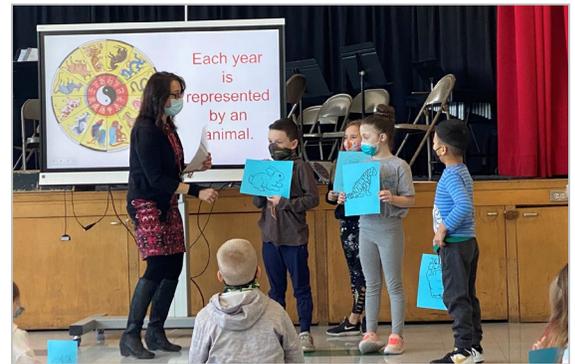
E.A. McAllister Elementary

Fun With Multicultural Learning!

Multicultural learning is an important part of developing well-rounded learners. Thanks to the E.A. McAllister PTSO and volunteer parents, McAllister students had the opportunity to learn about this first-hand. Each grade level learned about a different tradition of the Chinese New Year, and then two parents joined us to talk about how their family celebrates and teach us how to say a few words in Chinese. Then students enjoyed a traditional Chinese treat provided by our PTSO.

This learning experience gave students the opportunity to learn about other cultures and recognize that we may all be different, but we share a lot in common!

From author Cynthia Rylant in her book *All In a Day*, "Places are all different, colors of our skin, shapes of our houses and clothes we wear are also different. But the expressions on our faces and the sounds of laughter and tears are very much the same. In our great universe, there is only one sun and one planet earth. Let's make our earth a better place for everyone to be happy and friendly."



E.A. McAllister Elementary

Student Scientists Investigate Volcanoes

Students in Mrs. Jeffery's class became the scientists during a recent Earth unit. As a part of their "Earth's Surface" topic, they learned all about fast changes to the earth's surface and how they can affect the landscape. Once students learned about the different fast changes to the Earth's surface, such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides, they focused on volcanoes and investigated further. Their task was to create a model of an active volcano.

In order to build an effective model, the student scientists had to first study the parts of a volcano. They then began the process of building their volcanoes and creating eruptions to mimic how quickly the surface can change. The students loved watching the "explosions" and evaluating how their models performed!



Increasing Ownership and Independence in Learning

During the summer of 2021, several Wettel Elementary teachers came together to bring greater intentionality and clarity to learning goals being pursued through classroom experiences. Clarity occurs when students are explicitly aware of learning intentions and goals. Clarity also occurs when students are aware of the success criteria used to measure if the desired learning has been achieved. One tool used to bring this clarity to students is a learning scale.

A learning scale typically includes an important learning standard that is broken down into four levels. Each level has its own success criteria that varies in complexity and reveals student prowess with the respective standard. The specific success criteria for each level includes a written description of what the student should and can do at each level, with the goal of attaining a level three or higher. Unlike a common rubric, a learning scale is used throughout a unit by the student and teacher to identify progress made and further chart steps required to solidify and further proficiency in a learning standard. When asked where they fall on a specific learning scale, students often are very authentic and seek, more than anything, growth in their learning.

In essence, the use of learning scales gives students the opportunity to think, reflect on, and improve their learning more consistently. As they do this, students will increase their ownership and independence in learning. Learning scales are another tool that we know will help unleash the potential of all our students!



VVS District

VVS Senior Creates Wall of Honor

As her senior project, Hannah Patch, a member of the VVS Class of 2022, is creating an online and in-school display honoring VVS staff and students who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



Staff and graduates from the Vernon, Verona, or Sherrill high schools (pre-1954) can also be recognized for the display. To submit information for yourself, a family member or a friend, please visit our district webpage at www.vvsschools.org. The link to submit information can be found under For You > For Community > Wall of Honor.



VVS District

Students Learn & Grow at Sherrill-Kenwood Library

Students from Mrs. Buckingham's third grade class visited the Sherrill-Kenwood Library in April to share their Earth Day Awareness posters and learn more about the globally-celebrated day, including how to take care of their community and their environment.

Students then cozied up in library nooks to read their favorite books. Thank you to the library for being a wonderful place where students can go to learn and foster a lifelong love of reading!



J.D. George Elementary

We Love Our Sports Buddies!

During the last two years, VVS High School athletes have teamed up with elementary students at J.D. George Elementary. Jennifer Rossi, a teacher at JDG, had the idea to bring together young elementary students with older students from the high school to serve as mentors and spend some time with each other. She set a plan in motion to gather some student athletes (wearing their game day jerseys) to visit a group of students at JDG.

They connect once a week over a six-week period to participate in activities together. The younger students get so excited when the high school role models show up in the halls of JDG donning their bright red sports jerseys. They play games, take walks and they talk. It's a win-win situation for all students! Not only do our elementary students gain positive role models, but high school parents have also commented on the positive impact it has had on their high school children.

VVS District

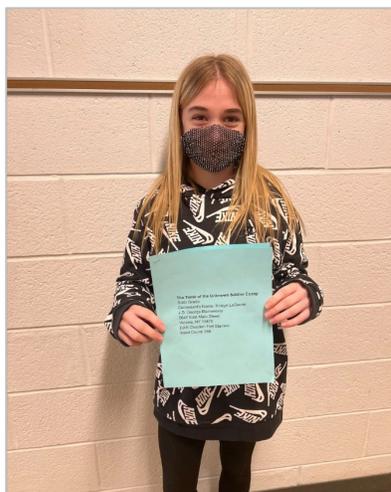
ParentSquare Is Coming!

The VVS Central School District strives to provide families with clear, timely, and convenient communications. To that end, the district will be transitioning from SchoolMessenger to Parent Square on July 1, 2022.

ParentSquare will provide families with the same district- and building-level communications as SchoolMessenger, including phone calls, emails, and text messages. In addition, ParentSquare offers:

- Customized posts
- An app to view all communications
- One-click absence reporting
- Instant two-way translation services
- Customized calendar views
- One-click parent conference sign-ups
- Secure online payment features
- Secure digital documents and permission forms
- Direct messaging opportunities with teachers, aides, coaches, and club advisors

Families do not have to take any action to enroll in this program. We will send out more information in June, along with dates for optional information and training sessions. We look forward to expanding our communications offerings and making home-school partnerships easier and more effective than ever!

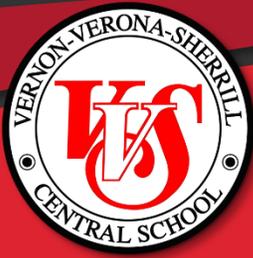


J.D. George Elementary

JDG Student Wins Local Essay Contest

Sixth grade students at J.D. George competed in the annual Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest this winter. Out of all of the local students who participated, our very own Krislyn LaGasse took first place in the contest. Krislyn worked very hard on her essay about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and in total, wrote almost 1,000 words on the subject!

Local prize winners in the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest receive a 1st place medal and \$100, and move on to the state level to compete against other local winners. We wish Krislyn the best as she represents J.D. George with her outstanding essay.



BUDGET NEWSLETTER

VVS Board of Education President’s Message

Dear VVS Community,

This has been another eventful year for the students and staff at the VVS School District. Everyone has been happy to see and work with students in school buildings, ready to learn and grow. I have seen so much hard work and student growth for so many students in this community. We are so glad to see students signing up in record numbers for the wide variety of extra-curricular athletic, arts, and culture programs after school. Senior projects are also well underway, helping students learn the importance of giving back to the VVS community. Spring is a time for maple syrup, pancake breakfasts, thoughts of graduation, and moving up to the next challenge, all with a sense of community.

Teachers and staff have, once again, stepped up and achieved what was not thought possible just years ago. We all hear stories about how the staff goes above and beyond to provide students with whatever support is necessary to assist with their learning. Administration and staff work cooperatively and strive for continuous improvement, and together they have implemented numerous innovative ways to help with student learning acceleration while addressing students' social and emotional needs. Our student-focused faculty has increased the number of project-based learning opportunities for students, expanding and reinforcing multiple rigorous pathways for graduation. Every program has reported to the board ways that they have improved curriculum delivery while addressing the needs of the whole child.

The last building project ended with a new sports stadium, new middle school flexible learning spaces, and other improvements at all school buildings. The new middle school learning spaces have won accolades from professional design-for-learning organizations and are currently being used by staff to improve the learning environment for students. Our Community Facilities Review Committee has already begun their work in preparation for our next project, which will be here before you know it. We have put our federal stimulus monies to good use, adding three academic intervention service (AIS) teachers, two social workers, a nurse, professional development for faculty and staff, and additional support to expand our after-school and summer enrichment programs to address the academic and social-emotional impact of the pandemic on our students.

The VVS School District has a long history of being fiscally responsible, and I assure you that our administration is committed to continuing to provide outstanding value for each VVS student. None of this would have been possible without the strong support of the community. On behalf of the VVS School District Board of Education, I would like to thank the community for their support in the past and hope that this continues in the future.

Thank you, Thomas Moats

Budget Highlights

Average Estimated Net Full Value Tax Rate Impact of 2.08%
District Stays At or Below Tax Levy Limit for 11th Straight Year



Maintains All Academic & Extra-curricular Programs

This includes advanced course offerings, Special Patrol Officers (SPOs), and after-school and summer enrichment programs.



Reduction in Administrative Positions

Two administrative positions were combined into one with responsibilities redistributed.



Class Sizes Maintained

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



Technology Integration for Extended Learning

1-to-1 Chromebooks provided for all students PreK-12. Free WiFi devices provided for any family in need. WiFi provided on buses.

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.



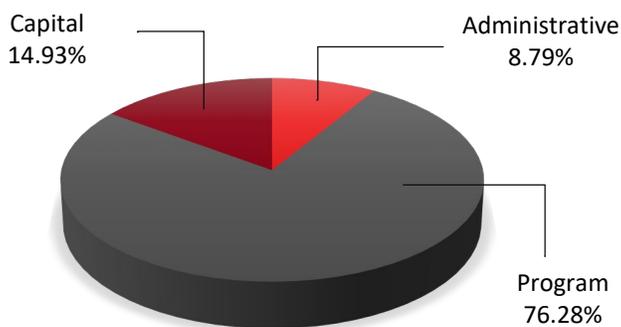
The **Capital Component** of the budget includes all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the physical plant and equipment. Examples of these costs include: maintenance and operations salaries, materials and supplies, bus purchases, debt service for capital projects, etc. A complete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

Budget Summary Tri-Part Budget for VVS Central School 2022-2023

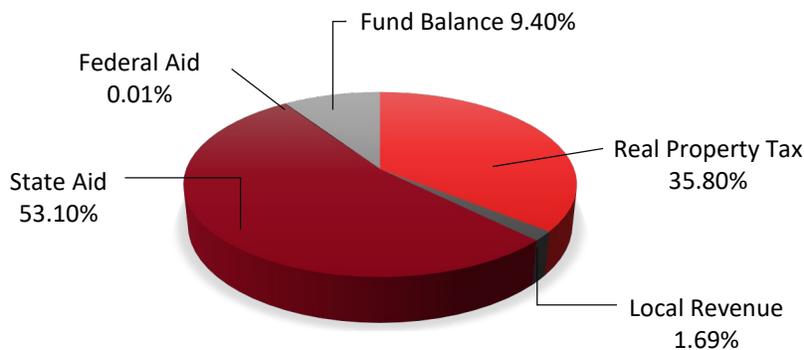
DESCRIPTION	ADMINISTRATIVE	PROGRAM	CAPITAL	TOTAL
Board of Education	\$ 60,514			\$ 60,514
Central Administration	\$ 254,984			\$ 254,984
Finance	\$ 409,300			\$ 409,300
Legal Services	\$ 8,000			\$ 8,000
Personnel	\$ 91,799			\$ 91,799
Records Management	\$ 7,334			\$ 7,334
Public Information	\$ 64,475			\$ 64,475
Total Central Services	\$ 216,196			\$ 216,196
BOCES Rent, Admin. & Capital	\$ 435,006			\$ 435,006
Curriculum Dev. & Supervision	\$ 280,130			\$ 280,130
Supervision - Regular School	\$ 1,090,533			\$ 1,090,533
Research & Planning	\$ 253,524			\$ 253,524
Employee Benefits	\$ 626,177			\$ 626,177
Finance			\$ 3,018	\$ 3,018
Operation of Plant			\$ 1,882,109	\$ 1,882,109
Maintenance of Plant			\$ 434,560	\$ 434,560
BOCES Rent, Admin. & Capital			\$ 500	\$ 500
Total Transportation			\$ 189,018	\$ 189,018
Employee Benefits			\$ 931,279	\$ 931,279
Debt Service			\$ 2,914,002	\$ 2,914,002
Transfer to Capital Fund			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Finance		\$ 7,161		\$ 7,161
Legal Services		\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
Total In-Service Training		\$ 217,250		\$ 217,250
Regular Instruction		\$ 20,059,382		\$ 20,059,382
Total Transportation		\$ 1,954,244		\$ 1,954,244
Employee Benefits		\$ 10,700,446		\$ 10,700,446
Transfer To Special Aid Fund		\$ 26,000		\$ 26,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 3,797,972	\$ 32,966,483	\$ 6,454,486	\$ 43,218,941
DOLLAR AMOUNT CHANGE FROM 2021-22	\$ 173,697	\$ 1,442,972	(\$ 153,226)	\$ 1,463,443
PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2021-22	4.79%	4.58%	-2.32%	3.50%
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET	8.79%	76.28%	14.93%	100.00%
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET				\$ 43,218,941

Proposed Budget for 2022-2023

Budget Appropriations for 2022-2023



Estimated Revenues for 2022-2023



SOURCE	\$ AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
REAL PROPERTY TAX	\$ 15,446,694	35.80%
LOCAL REVENUE	\$ 721,449	1.69%
STATE AID	\$ 22,959,719	53.10%
FEDERAL AID	\$ 40,000	0.01%
FUND BALANCE	\$ 4,051,079	9.40%
TOTAL	\$ 43,218,941	100%

Average Per Pupil Expenditures

VVS spends **LESS PER PUPIL** than **90%** of the school districts in **New York State**. The most recent data available from the New York State Education Department is for fiscal year 2021-2022, which shows per pupil expenditures at VVS to be \$7,663 lower than the state average and \$2,354 less than regional districts. The second graph shows what it costs each regional school district in taxes to educate its students. **The VVS community is taxed LESS PER STUDENT than 80% of surrounding school districts.**

\$21,718

VVS

\$24,072

Regional District Average

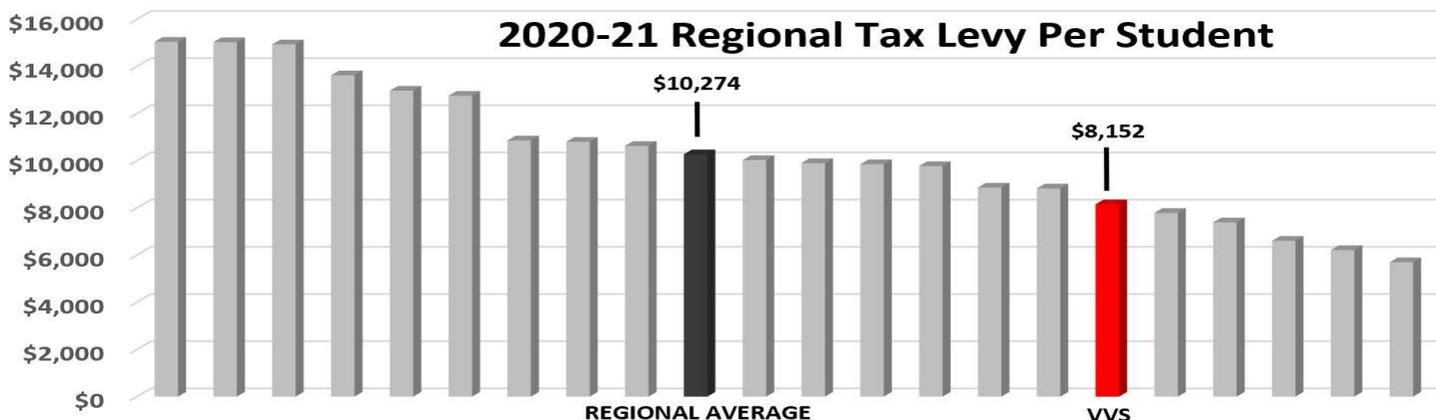
\$29,381

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 expenditures.

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. The graph at the bottom shows the Tax Levy Per Pupil expenditure calculated by dividing the total levy (amount raised in taxes) by the total student enrollment



Gray bars represent the most recent data available for the Tax Levy Per Student of 20 surrounding school districts

2022-2023 School District Budget Notice

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2021-2022	PROPOSED BUDGET 2022-2023
Total Budgeted Amount, not including separate propositions	\$ 41,755,498	\$ 43,218,941
Increase/Decrease over prior year	\$ 794,641	\$ 1,463,443
% Increase/Decrease in each proposed budget	1.94%	3.50%
Change in Consumer Price Index (CPI)	1.23%	4.70%
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$ 14,852,590	\$ 15,446,694
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	\$ 15,446,694
F. Permissible Exclusions to the school tax levy limit	\$ 394,892	\$ 419,737
G. School Tax Levy Limit, excluding levy for permissible exclusions	\$ 14,457,698	\$ 15,028,442
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)	\$ 14,457,698	\$ 15,026,957
I. Difference: (G-H); A negative value requires 60% voter approval	\$ 0	\$ 1,485
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$ 3,624,275	\$ 3,797,972
PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$ 31,523,511	\$ 32,966,483
CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$ 6,607,712	\$ 6,454,486

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.

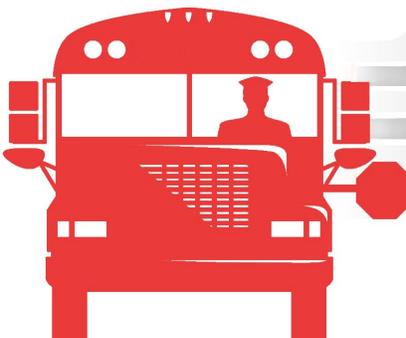
Contingent Budget Information

If a school district's proposed budget is defeated, the district has the option of putting the same or a 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 2022-2023 purchase plan proposes the purchase of one 65-passenger gasoline-powered vehicle and one 20-passenger gasoline-powered vehicle. 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 \$12,902 after trade-ins. Any increase to the tax rate will be offset significantly by lowered maintenance costs.

THE NUMBERS:	
Total for two buses	\$189,018
Less Transportation Aid @ an estimated 90%	(\$170,116)
TOTAL	\$18,902
Less Trade-ins	(\$6,000)
Net District Cost After Aid	\$12,902



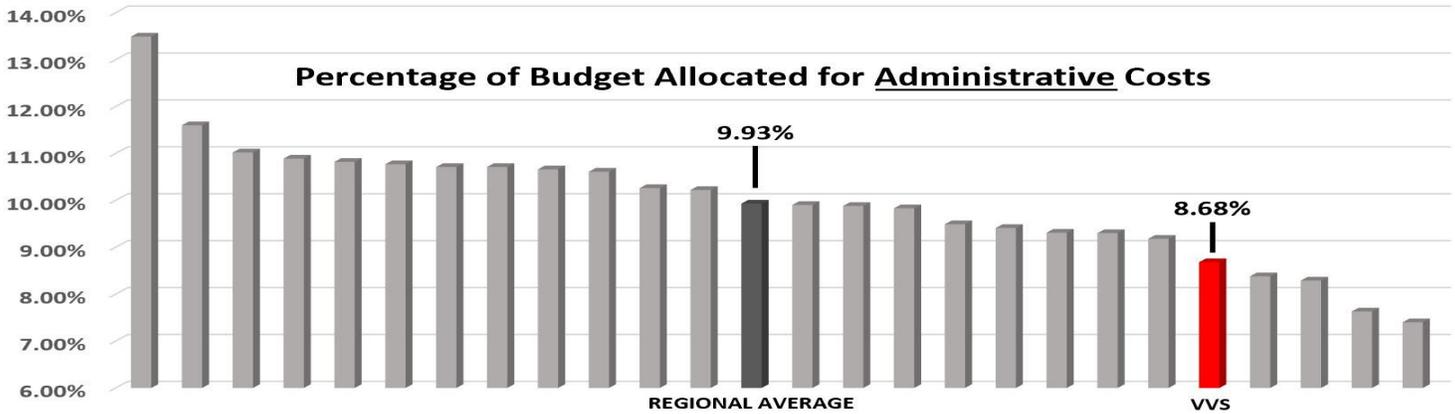
PROPOSED TRADE-INS

Bus #006
7 Passenger
 Year: 2009
 Mileage: 135,511

Bus #184
32 Passenger
 Year: 2014
 Mileage: 140,000

How Do VVS' Administrative Costs Compare?

As a percentage of the budget, VVS' Administrative Costs are the fifth LOWEST among 24 surrounding school districts with 80% of surrounding districts spending a larger portion of their budgets on administration.

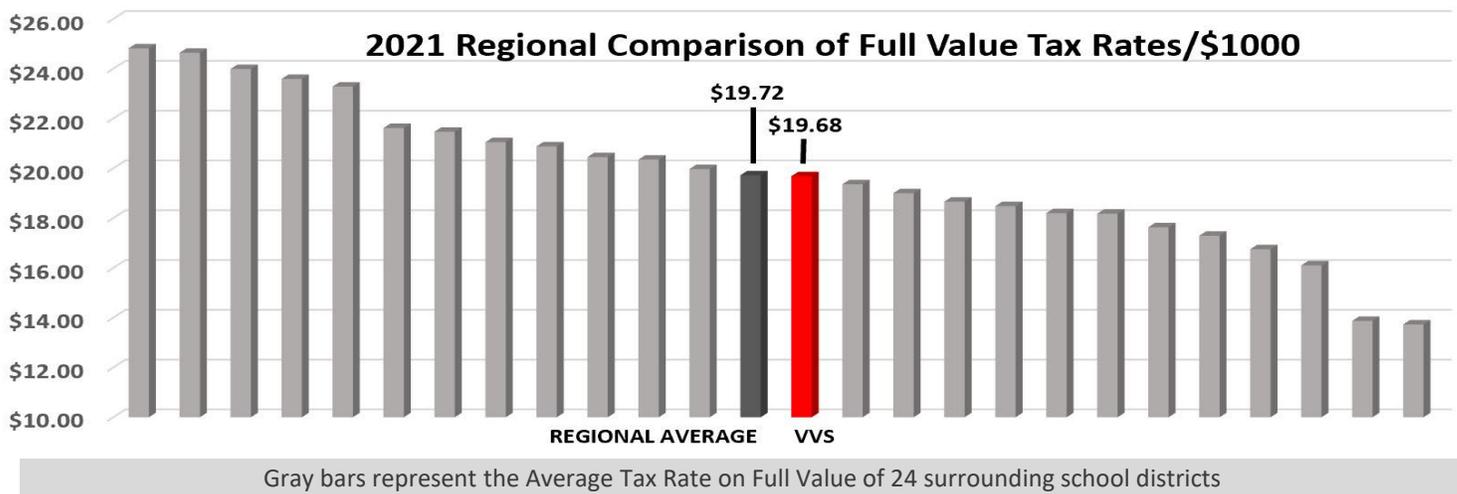


VVS Reduces Positions in Response to Decline in Enrollment

In response to declining enrollment, and in an effort to address financial challenges, VVS has eliminated the previous Athletic Director and High School Assistant Principal positions. These two positions will be replaced with one combined position of Director of Physical Education and Athletics/Dean of Students, reducing the number of administrative positions in the district by one. In addition, a teacher retirement at the elementary level will not be replaced, as well as a data support position. The district will still be able to maintain existing average class sizes at the elementary schools and the data support responsibilities will be absorbed by other positions.

How Does VVS' Tax Rate Compare?

VVS' Average Tax Rate on Full Value is consistently LOWER than the regional average.



Additional Taxable Assessed Value Reduces Levy Impact

For the last several years, the Vernon Downs Casino, Hotel, and Raceway has been on a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement through the Oneida County Industrial Development Agency. That PILOT payment has now expired, and beginning with the 2022-23 school year, the properties will be placed on the tax rolls. The additional taxable assessed value of the properties will reduce the impact of the 4.0% proposed levy increase to an average estimated net tax impact on full value of 2.08% for the VVS community, pending any changes in equalization rates.



\$43,218,941

Proposed 2022-2023 VVS School District Budget

Lowest 10%

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

VVS Budget: By the Numbers

2.08%

Average Estimated Net **Tax Rate** impact on full value, resulting from a 4.00% Proposed 2022-2023 Levy increase

3.50%

Proposed 2022-2023 budget increase is **lower** than the **4.70% CPI** (Consumer Price Index)

3

There are three Board of Education seat vacancies. See page 14 for more information on the candidates.

1,807

VVS student enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year



Vernon Verona Sherrill

POINTS *of* PRIDE

167

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



1.46%

Average annual tax levy impact over the previous 10 years (12-13 through 21-22)



95%

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



NYSPPRA



2

Number of times VVS has been recognized by the NY School Public Relations Association for excellence in school communications



1,000+

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



6th Lowest

Tax Levy amount Per Pupil among 21 regional school districts



5th Lowest

Per Pupil Expenditure among 25 regional school districts

100% of VVS Families Online

and able to join us for extended learning

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



7

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



Redesignation I

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

Three Candidates - Three Vacancies

Steven Adams

Hello, my name is Steven Adams and I am seeking a position on the VVS School Board of Education. I am a lifelong resident of Vernon and a graduate of VVS. I currently reside there with my wife, Jackie, and my three children: Gabrielle, Molly, and Zachary. I am a current member of the Volunteer Fire Department of Vernon and have been for the past 32 plus years. I served for three years as the Oneida County Farm Bureau President, as well as holding a board seat on The Oneida County Soil and Water District. I have spent my entire life devoted to the agriculture industry and hope to help represent the agriculture community while serving on the BOE, as well as working to support and better all programs at VVS including music, arts, and technology. In addition, I plan to continue to assist in keeping VVS a viable education institution and plan to work for the members of our community to continue the education of our youth in all aspects of life, whether it may be career orientated, or in their private pursuits. Please consider me a top candidate when you go to vote on May 17, 2022 for the school board elections. Thank you.



Jenna Boice

My name is Jenna Boice, and I am a candidate for the VVS Board of Education. I am a lifelong resident of the VVS Community. I graduated from VVS in 2011 and met my husband in 2010. We married in 2015 and have five beautiful children. I was a nurse for 3 years, and following the birth of my oldest children I chose to become a stay-at-home mom.

I am currently active in the community through the 840 AYSO Soccer Region. I have been the Coach Administrator for the last two years as well as a coach. I'm also an active member of the PTO at J.D. George, where I will have three children attending in the fall of 2022. I serve as Board Secretary for our Camper's Association, where we enjoy spending our summers. I take pleasure in being a part of the community and what better area to do that than at the heart of our education system?



I feel I will be a good candidate for the Board of Education because I come with a clear unbiased mind, and I am willing to hear out both sides. As a current member and graduate of the VVS Community, it is important to me to maintain the education, values, and opportunities that are available to district children. With your support, I look forward to being a voice for our community and our children, now and into the future.

Matthew Cole

Hello, my name is Matthew Cole. I attended Utica College where I graduated with bachelors degrees in History and Education. In 2009, I began working for the House of the Good Shepherd, where I observed the challenges faced by families and children throughout Oneida County. In 2012, I began working for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Here, I began to study the legal system as it pertained to the families and children that I served. I then began to work as an administrator for the school at the facility. Here, I learned a great deal about the policies and regulations of the State Department of Education. I served in this position for the past five years until April, when I began working for the New York State Office of Mental Health.



I have five children in the VVS district and feel that it is my civic duty to give back to the school district that has given so much to my family. We value the sense of community that has been evident in our daily lives. My wife and I remain active in the community to teach our children the value of community service and assisting our neighbors. Having five children that have attended four schools in the district, I have seen the needs of the vast majority of the district and think that I could help bring a voice to a number of people that do not feel heard.

Capital Outlay Project

Flooring Replacement

Included in the 2022-2023 proposed budget is an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of a capital outlay project to complete the flooring replacement project at W.A. Wettel Elementary School.

Repair & Reconstruction Cost	\$100,000
State Aid at 89.6%	\$89,600
Net Local Cost After Aid	\$10,400

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 2022-2023 school year)
- Based on the first \$66,800 of the full value of the home (for the 2022-2023 school year)

The STAR benefit applies only to school district taxes.

* Maximum 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 STAR SAVINGS FOR JURISDICTIONS WITHIN THE VVS SCHOOL DISTRICT		
TAXING JURISDICTION	BASIC STAR	ENHANCED STAR
CITY OF ONEIDA	\$588	\$1,304
CITY OF ROME	\$592	\$1,311
TOWN OF KIRKLAND	\$588	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERNON	\$588	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERONA	\$588	\$1,304
TOWN OF VIENNA	\$588	\$1,304
TOWN OF WESTMORELAND	\$588	\$1,305
ESTIMATED BASIC STAR EXEMPTION SAVINGS	PROJECTED STAR SAVINGS 2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	* \$588.00	

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

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 2022-2023 in the total amount of \$43,218,941 and to levy the necessary tax?"

School Board Proposition #2: School Board Members Election

Assessors



KIRKLAND
Nina Wallace
PO Box 235
Clinton, NY 13323



ONEIDA COUNTY
Department of Finance
800 Park Avenue
Utica, NY 13501



VERNON & SHERRILL
Duane Munger
PO Box 643
Vernon, NY 13476



MADISON COUNTY
Rebecca Marsala
Real Property Tax Services
PO Box 665, Wampsville, NY 13163



ROME
Joe Surace, Jr., Rome City Hall
198 N. Washington St.
Rome, NY 13440



VIENNA
Susan Strain
PO Box 250,
North Bay, NY 13123



ONEIDA
Holly Osterhoudt, City of Oneida
109 N. Main St.
Oneida, NY 13421



VERONA
Susan Strain, Town Office Bldg.
6600 Germany Rd.
Durhamville, NY 13054



WESTMORELAND
Holly Osterhoudt
PO Box 310
Westmoreland, NY 13490

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) 829-2520 x7116



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

Thomas Moats

President

Steve Adamkowski

Vice President

Christopher Brewer

Frank Frey

Melissa Palmer

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 17, 2022
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) 829-2520