

Jump Rope for Heart



Students, staff and families at Taylor Elementary School raised more than \$8,400 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart program. On March 11, students at all grade levels engaged in healthy exercises, games and activities to cap off the effort.

BUDGET UPDATE

The impact of equalization rates on all four towns

Equalization rates will affect taxes in 2022

What are equalization rates?

- A town's assessor assigns a value for each property. This is called the "assessed" value and is based on a formula established by NYS Office of Real Property Services (NYSORPS).
- Assessors update these values periodically to reflect the most current market value.
- New York State compares market data to assessed values by reviewing property sales in each municipality. Based on market trends, NYS then assigns a "corrective figure" an equalization rate, to better reflect actual market values.
- The purpose of this process is to ensure that all properties in the state are taxed in an equitable manner, within such numerous taxing jurisdictions.

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Superintendent message



The Spencerport Central School District joins our country and global community in concern for the people of Ukraine.

Please know that our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people as they continue to navigate the fear and uncertainty of this war, and I especially want our Ukrainian students, staff and families to know you have our unwavering support.

We strongly encourage families to check in with their students and each other, and reach out to your school's counselor if concerns arise. In addition, the Family Support Center is an invaluable resource for our families, and there is a wealth of information, links, social emotional and mental health supports provided on the FSC web page.

Our thoughts are never far from the Ukraine, and yet, we know we must attend to the immediate needs of our students and the operations of the district during a particularly busy time of year. This edition of Cornerstone contains updates on the 2022 budget development and the latest COVID-19 guidance. We also celebrate a glimpse of normalcy, with our students re-engaged in opportunities not offered since the pandemic began. Our students have participated in musicals, concerts, and athletics, as well as events such as the Model UN, Odyssey of the Mind, music festivals and a global citizenship conference. I hope you enjoy this news from around our schools on pages 4 and 5.

Please be sure to check our website for the latest budget developments and news from our schools. Thank you for the many ways you support the education of our students, and your ongoing collaboration and partnership.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swann
Superintendent of Schools

Federal Stimulus UPDATE

In 2020 and 2021, Congress passed three stimulus bills that provided funding to address the operational and instructional impact of COVID-19 on schools. Districts must allocate these funds for specific services and programs over a three-to-four-year span.

Federal stimulus is restricted and separate from revenues that support the general expenditure plan. Both federal and state government entities caution school districts to be mindful in their planning for and prioritizing these stimulus-related expenses, as this funding will end in three-to-four years. After 2024, districts will be responsible for sustaining the costs for any programs, projects or initiatives.

The following table contains updated information on the three stimulus packages, the amount Spencerport will receive, and the funding end date.

On March 8, updates were presented to the Board of Education detailing the three federal stimulus plans. Specifically an update was provided on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act allocations, which is separated into the **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER-90%) funds**. A breakdown of how these funds were allocated may be found below:

- 4 Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA)
- 1 K-8 Special Education TOSA
- 9 Content Focus Coaches (CFC)
- K-5 School Counselor
- Summer help for facilities and technology
- CFC Mentors
- Contract with Rochester Regional Health for mental health services
- Professional Development
- Pre-K and K-12 classroom furniture, including instructional technology

For districts that received the additional state reserve allocation (from the ARP Act), those funds must be used to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, evidence-based comprehensive after-school programs and summer programs.

We look forward to putting these plans into action. For more information or details on federal stimulus updates, please visit our website, District > Federal Emergency Relief.

Package	Fund Availability - Start Date	Fund Availability - End Date	Amount	Approved Date
CARES Act	3/13/2020	9/30/2022	\$611,390	03/02/2021
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)			\$88,603	
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)			\$522,786	
CRRSA Act	3/13/2020	9/30/2023	\$3,372,021	07/21/2021
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)			\$245,280	
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)			\$3,126,740	
ARP Act	3/13/2020	9/30/2024	\$4,936,114	
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER-90%)			\$4,036,874	02/22/2022
State Reserve Allocation			\$904,809	01/24/2022

(continued from cover)

BUDGET UPDATE

Equalization rates in Spencerport

A property's assessment should be at 100% of its market value (the price for which you could sell your property). The state calculates the equalization rate for a given municipality, and the towns of Ogden, Greece, Parma and Gates have reported the following equalization rates for 2022:

- Ogden: 82%
- Gates: 91%
- Greece: 86%
- Parma: 81%

Example for Ogden:

An equalization rate of 0.82 means that a property is assessed at 82% of its full market value.

Full value = assessed value/equalization rate

Full Value = \$82,000/0.82

Full Value = \$100,000

School districts do NOT control assessments or equalization rates. School districts only control the tax levy, or the amount that taxpayers within its boundaries must contribute to the district's budget.

Because of this, the tax rate for the towns fluctuate. Below are examples of tax bills for homeowners based on the budget development estimates in March, and the percentage changes due to the equalization rates.

An estimated school tax bill based on an average home valued at **\$200,000**:

Avg. Home Value: \$200,000	2021-22 Tax Rate/\$1,000	2021-22 School Tax Bill	2022-23 Estimated Tax Rate/\$1,000	2022-23 Estimated School Tax Bill	Difference	Monthly difference
Ogden	\$24.36	\$4,872	\$24.69	\$4,938	\$66 or 1.35%	\$6
Gates	\$22.69	\$4,538	\$22.25	\$4,450	-\$88 or 1.94%	-\$7
Greece	\$22.70	\$4,540	\$23.54	\$4,708	\$168 3.7%	\$14
Parma	\$24.95	\$4,990	\$24.99	\$4,998	\$8 0.16%	\$0.67

We will provide the projected tax rates and school tax bills for each town in the budget edition of Cornerstone prior to the vote on Tuesday, May 17.

The Board of Education sets the actual tax rate is established in the summer.

Deadline to run for school board is Apr. 18

Candidates interested in running for the Spencerport Board of Education are asked to contact Marcy Clapper, the Spencerport Board Clerk, to obtain a packet of information, which includes all the petition requirements, deadlines, and profile material for Cornerstone.

She may be reached by calling 349-5101 or emailing mclapper@spencerportschools.org.

Board of Education candidates must submit their petitions, signed by at least 31 qualified school voters of the district, by Mon., April 18 at 4 p.m. This number is calculated based on education law which states that petitions shall be signed by at

least (25) qualified school voters of the district or 2 percent of the number of voters who voted in the previous election (1,572), whichever is greater. Therefore, 31 signatures are required.

The Board of Education will have two seats up for election this year. The three-year terms, currently held by Greg Kincaid and Gary Bracken, will begin on July 1, 2022, and end on June 30, 2025.

The primary duties of the board are to develop the broader, long-range goals and policies which determine the basic framework for the educational programs, services and facilities to be offered to the youth of the community.

News from around our schools

Model UN simulation on Ukraine

Students from Spencerport High School joined more than 30 schools from across New York State to engage in the Model United Nations competition on Mar. 11-12 at St. John Fisher College. The event was the first, in-person Model UN since 2020, and the following students represented our district: Xavier LePage, Emma Krywy, Joy Allen, Batool Ghazle, Cruz Vargas, Trevor Pettit, Maverick Yarger, Lillian Fleck, Carter Schum, and Seth Edwards.

Congratulations to freshman Lillain Fleck, who received a Best New Delegate Award for work in the UNICEF Committee.

Model UN is a simulation of the real United Nations General Assembly held in New York City. Students model delegates representing member states and participate in debates, speeches, and negotiations based on realistic global conflicts.



Odyssey of the Mind

Three Spencerport teams competed in the Odyssey of the Mind regionals on March 5. Congratulations to the Taylor Elementary School team, which won the Life is a Circus! Div IB competition. Taylor will move on to compete at states on March 26!

Global Citizenship Conference

Five Spencerport High School students participated in the 11th annual Global Citizenship Conference at Nazareth College on March 16. The topic of the event was resilience and patience, and focused on sessions to build leadership skills on advocacy, facing adversity, and guidelines for interacting respectfully in a pluralistic society. Sessions also included building awareness and understanding on diverse cultures and traditions.



News from around our schools

One School, One Book at Munn

Students, staff and families at Munn Elementary School celebrated One School, One Book during the month of February. The book, *Pie* by Sarah Weeks, engaged families with shared readings, trivia, recipes and a culminating “pie to the face” celebration.



Monroe County Schools Music Association

The following seventh and eighth graders from Cosgrove Middle School have been selected to perform in the Monroe County Schools Music Association (MCSMA) Junior High All-County festival chorus in Rush Henrietta on March 12 and 13: Declan Berardi, Journey Bush, Garrett dos Ramos, Liah Flynn, Grace Gringer, Annabelle Karas, Tyler Lovenguth, Leah Silsbee, Kayla Smith, Aiden Tyson, and Emily Zigrossi.

The MCSMA Elementary All-County festival has been held in the Greece School District on March 18-19, with three of our sixth grade students singing in the chorus and one fifth grade student from Taylor performing in the band. The sixth graders are: Grace Bailey, Elise Karas, and Jabin Southard. The fifth grader is Juliet Marcello playing the flute.



Retired AD inducted into NYSAAA Hall of Fame



Pictured l-r, Jennifer Placito, SCSD athletic director; Ty Zinkiewich, assistant superintendent for instruction; inductee John Pelin; and Rick Wood, assistant superintendent for business at the Hall of Fame ceremony and luncheon.

Congratulations to retired SCSD athletic director, John Pelin, who was inducted into the New York State Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame on March 16. Pelin retired from Spencerport in 2019, after 30 years as the director of physical education, health and athletics.



COVID-19 updates

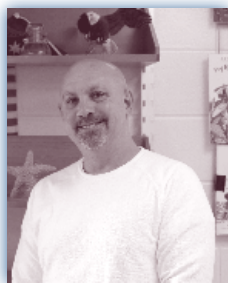
Over the last month, our students and staff have made the individual decisions to mask or unmask, and we are pleased to report the success of our transition to a mask optional environment and the respect shown across all of our schools.

As far as our mitigation strategies, we want to be deliberate and methodical in our planning and ensure we are well prepared for success for the second half of this school year. We are working on a phased-in approach related to any reduction in physical distancing for lunches, etc., and will share updates with our families once plans are confirmed.

The New York State Department of Health released updated guidance for schools last month, and we have summarized those changes on a one-page flyer found on page 7. Please feel free to cut out this flyer and refer to this guidance for what to do if symptomatic or when to isolate or quarantine.

Finally, the district continues to post new information on the COVID-19 section of our website so please keep checking back for updates. Videos outlining the recent COVID changes may also be found on our website.

Munn Elementary Teacher named New York State Master Teacher



Munn Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Matt Fink has been selected as a New York State Master Teacher and will join the Finger Lakes cohort based at SUNY Geneseo. Master Teachers

are dedicated K-12 professionals in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields. This year's Master Teachers include 55 elementary school teachers. The selection process includes

an extensive application, tests, and interviews. Governor Kathy Hochul announced the 230 new statewide Master Teachers on February 4.

As a Master Teacher, Fink will have access to specific STEM-related professional development opportunities sponsored by New York State. "My responsibility is to learn new, cool STEM activities, concepts, and philosophies to bring back to the classroom and school," said Fink. "The things that I will be learning should permeate through all the content areas so instead of teaching separate subjects, we will be able to

integrate science, technology, and math within other areas of study."

"Thank you to New York State for providing this opportunity," said Fink. "To be able to get this training and bring it back to the school district is going to be valuable to the students and other teachers."

Fink joins previously selected Master Teachers from Spencerport, including Matt Amoroso, Nancy Mancuso, Steve Schultz, and Bryan Swanson.

SPENCERPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Illness and COVID-19 Exposure

New York State Department of Health Guidance

ON ISOLATION, QUARANTINE OR IF SYMPTOMATIC

Those who are exposed or test positive are encouraged to immediately follow these recommendations. No one from the Monroe County Department of Health or district Human Resources Department will personally connect with you.

Quarantine

Exposed and NO quarantine

- Anyone up to date on COVID vaccinations
- 12 and older who have received all vaccinations, including booster
- 5-11 who have completed primary series of vaccinations
- Anyone who has confirmed COVID within the last 90 days (tested positive using antigen or PCR test)

Exposed and unvaccinated

Change for schools (K-12): students and staff previously required to quarantine if unvaccinated may now attend school or school-based activities if they undergo recommended testing.

NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications of COVID cases will be reported in the same format as our previous weekly update; however a school-specific list will now be included in each principal's family messages.

It is important to note that we can and will conduct individualized contact tracing when we are aware of exposures to immunocompromised individuals, but the general notification will come in the form of weekly cases by school building.

Isolation

Tested positive

- Notify your school nurse or supervisor.
- Register a positive home test with Monroe County [here](#).
- Any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 must stay home and isolate for 5 days.
- They may return to school on days 6-10 with the use of a well-fitted mask. If a student or staff member is unable to tolerate a mask on days 6-10, they must remain home for the full 10 days of isolation.
- NYSDOH recommends that anyone exposed to COVID-19 should test immediately after known exposure and again on day 5.
- School nurses can help facilitate this testing if necessary or an at-home rapid antigen test can be used.
- Masking, regardless of vaccination status, is strongly recommended for 10 days after a known exposure.

OPTIONAL MASKING

Masks remain optional. You are welcome with or without a mask, and please respect that others have the same choice.

Symptomatic

If a student or staff member starts to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms:

- please stay home, and administer an at-home rapid COVID test.

We are now able to accept results from at-home rapid antigen tests for symptomatic individuals.

Tested Positive

If the result is positive, please refer to the action steps under the isolation column.

Tested Negative

If the result is negative, the person is fever free for 24 hours, and their symptoms are improving, then they may return to work or school.

Symptoms at school

Any students who exhibit symptoms during the school day should visit the school nurse.

- All students who enter the health office will be offered a mask.
- The school nurse will assess symptomatic students and may offer a rapid COVID-19 test with parental consent.

Parental consent will consist of a written affirmation via email to the school nurse.

GUIDANCE UPDATED March, 2022 and may be found in its entirety on our website.

Board of Education:

- Mr. Kevin Hutton, *President*
- Mr. Greg Kincaid, *Vice President*
- Mr. Gary Bracken
- Ms. Leah Brown
- Ms. Kate Czarnecki
- Mr. David Gibbardo
- Ms. Lori Stone

School Board members are elected to three-year terms and serve without pay.

Superintendent of Schools

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SPRING CONCERTS

Don't miss our concerts this spring!

March

31 Secondary choral concert, 7 p.m., HS PAC

May

- 5 Munn beginner band, 7 p.m.
- 5 Cosgrove jazz, 7 p.m.
- 11 Bernabi spring concert, 7 p.m.
- 12 Canal View spring concert, 7 p.m.
- 12 Munn spring concert, 7 p.m.
- 12 Taylor spring concert, 7 p.m.
- 18 Taylor Troubadours, 7 p.m.
- 19 HS senior recital, 7 p.m.
- 25 Cosgrove spring band concert, 7 p.m.

June

- 1 HS instrumental concert, 7 p.m.
- 9 HS spring concert, 7 p.m.
- 13 Cosgrove choral concert, 7 p.m.

WE ARE
Hiring!

JOIN OUR RANGER TEAM!

The district has a number of substitute and contract job opportunities available, including:

- Substitute teachers
- Bus drivers*
- Cleaners
- Food services
- Nurses
- Teacher aides
- Teaching assistants

**Receive paid training to obtain commercial license to transport students (CDL-B)*

We have full benefit offerings, including paid leave time and more! Scan the QR code to apply or review our list of openings or call 585-349-5124 with questions.

