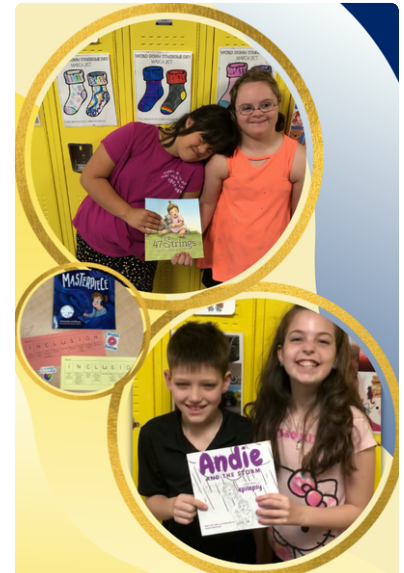




Apr. 14, 2023

Dear Spencerport Families,

Each day, our staff and faculty work hard to create inclusive learning environments that benefit all students. We strive to promote a sense of belonging so students feel valued and accepted for who they are. Your children may have shared some of the ways in which we celebrate our differences and learn more about one another - most recently we recognized Down Syndrome Awareness Day and promoted awareness and understanding for those with epilepsy. To the right are pictures of some of our Bernabi students:



- Ava and Lily, with the book *47 Strings*, which was used in support of Down Syndrome Awareness
- Anthony and Olivia, with the book *Andie and the Storm*, which was used in support of increasing awareness of epilepsy and seizure disorders, and
- The book *Masterpiece*, which was used in support of autism awareness

Since April is Autism Awareness Month, it's the perfect time to increase awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The effects of autism vary from person to person and no two people with autism have the same symptoms. Symptoms generally appear in the early stage of childhood before the age of three. If you do find yourself noticing some developmental differences in your child, we are happy to help you get the proper resources and assistance you may need on this journey. We have an abundance of information and encourage you to contact our Special Education Department with [questions and support at this link](#). Lastly, Ms. Kelly Crosby, our autism and student support specialist, asked families and students what they wanted our school community to know about Autism. Since their words are so much more powerful than mine ever could be, I share their thoughts and hopes.

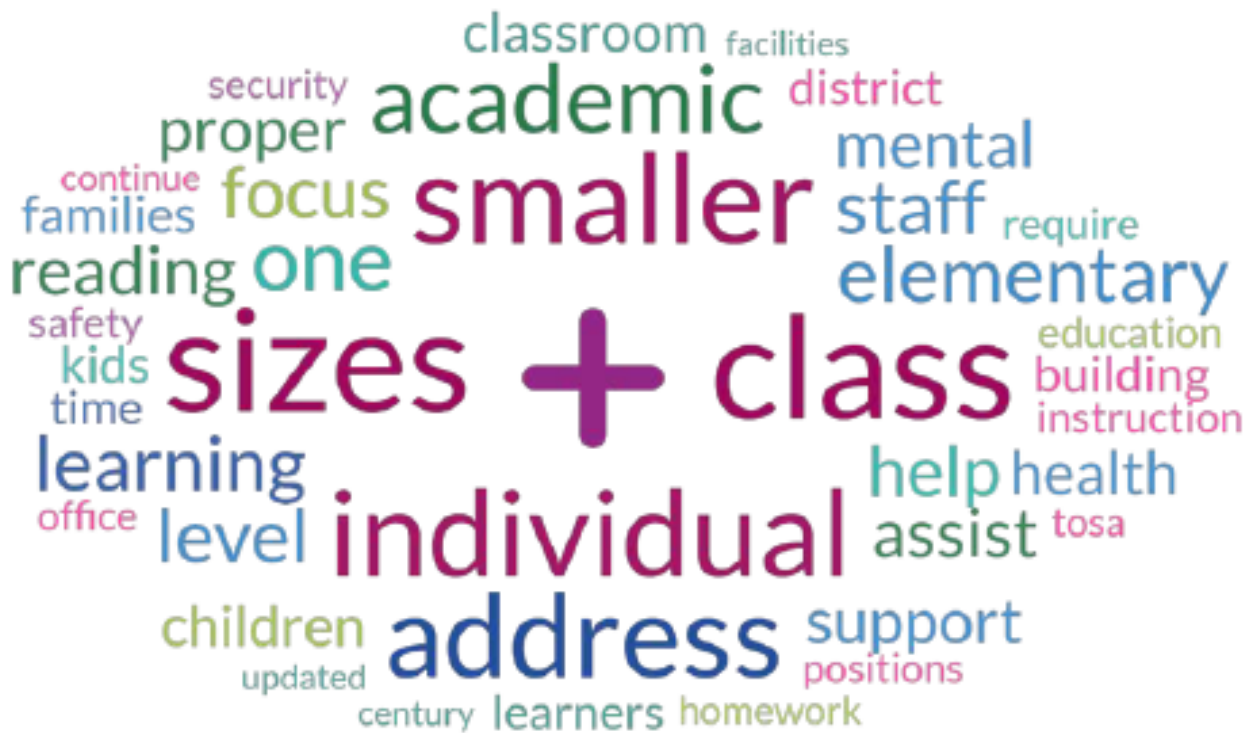
Spencerport families say Autistics NEED:

- "kind people to meet them in the middle"
- "to not be blown off or laughed at"
- "our differences not to be seen as behaviors or disrespect"
- "people to acknowledge the amount of physical and mental energy or control that is necessary to remain regulated"
- "a little extra patience and effort"
- "you to read the full IEP not just the classification"
- "people to please don't make fun of me or call me names"
- "you to please say hi"
- "everyone to please be patient I don't always understand"

Spencerport families say their Autistic child:

- "is compassionate"
- "can succeed"
- "is still a kid"
- "is trying very hard and doing the best they can"
- "is brilliant"
- "is smart, compassionate and unique"
- "is very detail oriented"
- "understands a lot of what's going on even if he cannot verbally participate in conversations"
- "is friendly"
- "is compelled to do seemingly strange things"
- "is easily overwhelmed"
- "is kind, caring and empathetic"
- "is very smart but struggles socially"

Updates



Community input is part of budget proposal for 2023-24

On May 16, communities across New York state will vote on proposed school budgets as well as on board of education elections. Here in Spencerport, we have been working hard to put together a spending plan that is both responsive to students' needs and respectful to our community members as we consider the tax burden it places on residents.

The Board of Education officially adopted the 2023-24 budget proposal on April 11, which means the expenditure plan must now be considered by our community of voters. The budget totals \$92,744,041 and addresses the priorities that have been identified by our community: increase safety and security measures, maintain smaller class-sizes, increase mental health and social emotional supports, provide additional special education and academic interventions for students. The proposed budget reflects a 2.6% tax levy increase, which is \$1.9 million below the maximum allowable levy limit and requires a simple majority vote for approval. To reduce the impact on local taxpayers, the proposed spending plan strategically incorporates federal stimulus funding.

We are continuing to post details of the proposed budget expenditures, revenues, and estimated tax levy/rate on [our website so please check regularly as information is being added](#). The more

complete revenue picture will coincide with the adoption of a state budget and solidifying state aid; in the meantime, in working with each town's assessors, we will forecast estimated school tax rates. It is important to reiterate that the tax rates are estimates only. The levy and rate is set in the summer once each town's property assessments are finalized.

National School Librarian Month

National School Librarian Month is recognized in April, and the day itself took place on April 4. This day provides an opportunity to recognize the outstanding work of our dedicated school librarians and library aides who always ensure that our libraries are welcoming environments which motivate students to learn.

Thank you for all you do!



Celebrating National School Library Month

Thank you to our SCSD librarians and aides!

Adam Ashworth
Gwendolyn Curtis
Michael Foki
Linda Paul
Michelle Shippers
Pamela Valenti
Jessica Wiedenhofer
Elizabeth Yu

Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments

I wanted to pass along a quick reminder that Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Math assessments will be coming up in a few weeks.

- Elementary ELA: week of April 17
- Middle school ELA: week of April 24
- Grades 3-8 math: week of May 1

Our students will be taking computer-based tests. The required exams are ways for our students to demonstrate what they know and can do, and in the process, we gain a better understanding of what our students may need as we strive to ensure that Spencerport CSD continues to be among the best around.

Bright Spots

Taylor Invention Fair a success

Twenty-three students participated in the Taylor STEM Club Invention Fair on Wednesday. The inventors showcased their ideas from identifying a need to producing a solution. The students' presentations were impressive.



Upcoming events

- Apr. 21: HS/MS 3rd quarter report cards in Infinite Campus
- Apr. 25: Board of Education meeting, 6 p.m., D.O.

Please be sure to review the messages from your school principals with important calendar dates for end-of-year events, moving up ceremonies, and celebrations.

Enjoy your weekend.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swann
Superintendent of Schools



Spencerport Central School District

