



**Apr. 28, 2023**

Dear Spencerport Families,

I hope everyone had a good week and a chance to enjoy some of the sunshine. It appears as if we are going to see a lot of rain next week, but as we all know, May is sure to bring us warmer beautiful days. I even noticed this morning that some of my lilac bushes are getting ready to bloom. As you know, May also brings an important vote to our community. By law, each and every year, school districts across New York State must have the budgets for the next school year approved by the voters in their community. The state dictates the date on which the school budget vote and board elections will be held. This year, the date is Tuesday, May 16.



Over the past year, we worked very hard to solicit feedback and input from our community to best understand what's important to you. We believe our budget reflects the values identified by our community as we are investing in our academic programs, increasing mental health supports, improving upon our safety and security measures, and working to address building and grounds repairs. While we feel we have been responsive to the priorities established by our community, we recognize that we also have a commitment to be fiscally responsible. As has been the case for the past 12 years, the 2023-2024 school district budget is tax cap compliant.

### **A few budget highlights**

The 2023-2024 budget funds a program for 3,535 students, although we expect to have more students register throughout the spring and summer. As in years past, the majority of our budget supports our current academic and athletic programs, clubs and extracurricular activities as well as the salaries and benefits of our valued teachers and staff. In addition to continuing our programs, this budget helps to maintain smaller class sizes and supports increased mental



health services by adding two counselors at the elementary level and one social worker at the middle school level. The budget adds safety and security personnel at the elementary, middle and high school while supporting afterschool and community events. Lastly, the budget funds an increase in special education and academic intervention staffing to address students' individual learning needs. There are some staffing reductions due to retirements that help to offset these additions.

## Capital reserve for buses

This year, in addition to the budget, there is a second proposition on the ballot to re-establish capital reserves for buses and motor vehicle equipment. We are preparing for our shift to zero-emission and clean school buses. Our replacement plan is being adjusted to begin purchasing these buses in the 2026-27 school year, with the goal of a complete fleet in place by the tentative deadline of 2035. In conjunction, the district is also looking at the infrastructure necessary to accommodate these new, more expensive buses. This would be part of future master-planning work.



## Frequently asked questions

I invite you to learn more about the 2023-2024 school district budget. As a reminder, you can access information about our budget, including past recorded Budget Focus Group presentations online. In addition, we have created a helpful Q & A section to address some of the most frequent questions we receive [regarding the budget at this link](#).

## Budget communications

Our community has consistently shared that they rely on our *Cornerstone* Budget Newsletter to learn about our budget. That will be arriving in your mailboxes soon, along with a separate budget notice postcard. We hope our transparent communication is helpful to you. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for the Budget Hearing and Meet the Candidates Night on May 2 – or watch online as we will post these presentations to our website. I look forward to seeing you vote on Tuesday, May 16, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in at our District Office building.



## Absentee ballots

If you, a spouse, or a family member will be out of town during the voting hours please know you can vote via absentee ballot; applications for ballots are [available here](#) by contacting our clerk, Marcy Clapper at 585-349-5101 or [mclapper@spencerportschools.org](mailto:mclapper@spencerportschools.org).

## Budgetary programs in action at the high school

A student resource that is new to the high school this year is our Academic Workshop. This is an academic support for students that provides opportunities for one-on-one assistance with teachers. The workshop is staffed by 4 teachers, and to date we have had over 700 students utilize this extra support. It runs Monday-Thursday from 2:50 to 3:50 p.m. with transportation provided. Students have shared they appreciate the small group atmosphere and the one-on-one attention.



To support the increased social and emotional needs of our students due to the long term impact of COVID an additional social worker was allocated to the high school this year. This has allowed the high school to provide increased opportunities for targeted interventions and supports for students and families to ensure success both inside and outside of high school. Some examples of these supports have been the creation of individualized support plans for students focused on both academic and social emotional needs, increased individual and group counseling sessions, and the opportunity for our social workers to work more closely with classroom teachers and administrators to support students.

COVID relief funds have been used to create Content Focused Coaches for each of our four core content area departments (Social Studies, Math, Science, and English). These coaches, who are also current teachers at the high school, have been provided the time and resources needed to support their peers in their classrooms with tools and strategies to identify and address learning gaps students may be experiencing. These coaches have done a wonderful job of supporting collaboration amongst department members (and the entire school) with a focus on individualized targeted academic interventions to support students.

## Updates



### Student Summit connects us with East High School

The Student Summit is a student organization that is focused on creating and maintaining equitable practices in our middle and high school. This year we have had a focus on welcoming and affirming practices to strengthen the positive experience for all students at Spencerport. We have partnered with East High School as co-collaborators in this work. Our students toured their

school in January, when East students shared many of the practices that they have incorporated to celebrate and highlight the diversity of their school.

On April 21, East High School students traveled to Spencerport High School, to continue this work and explore welcoming and affirming practices that Spencerport has incorporated. Student groups participated in team-building activities, touring our facilities, joining some of our classes, and engaging in collaborative discussions around strengths and areas of opportunity for both schools. Overall, the Student Summit is dedicated to looking through the lens of all students to ensure a positive experience for all!

## **Bright Spots**



## **HS ensembles earn numerous awards**

Congratulations to our Spencerport High School music program for an outstanding competition at the 2023 Heritage Festival in Philadelphia.

Spencerport music earned the following honors:

- five gold awards
- one silver
- maestro award given to Colin Magin for his alto sax solo in Jazz Ensemble
- adjudicator award given to Vocal Jazz for having an average of all their scores total 95 or higher
- instrumental sweepstakes award, and the
- overall Festival Sweepstakes for the school with an average of all scores closest to 300!

Thank you to Junior Sammie Osborne for the great photos, and congratulations again to our students and our outstanding music educators.



## **Ranger Robotics reach semi-finals at worlds**

Our Ranger Robotics Team 3015 has had an outstanding season, reaching the semi-finals at the world championships last weekend.

As we've previously shared, our Robotics team won all three regionals they competed in: Finger Lakes, Long Island and New York Tech Valley, and this earned them a spot to compete at the worlds.

We are incredibly proud of our students and appreciative to the advisors, mentors, and volunteers for the countless hours dedicated to this amazing program.



### **Chris Mears is Citizen of the Year**

The Spencerport Rotary honored Chris Mears, retired Ogden Police Chief and current Spencerport CSD director of security, with its inaugural Citizen of the Year award. The Rotary held a ceremony on April 26 in honor of Mr. Mears and co-recipient, Monroe County Sheriff Todd Baxter.

The Rotary also presented a donation chosen by each honoree, and Mr. Mears selected the Spencerport Education Foundation.

# NATIONAL Administrative Professionals Day



On April 26, we celebrated National Administrative Professionals Day. Our district runs smoothly due to the dedication and hard work of our clerical staff, and they deserve our recognition and deepest appreciation.

## Upcoming events

- May 1: National School Principal Day
- May 2: Budget Hearing and Meet the Candidates Night, 6 p.m.

May is here, and if you have an opportunity, please consider cheering on our many sports teams in action. Here's a link to the athletic page with our Rangers schedule.

<https://spencerporths.rschooltteams.com/>

I hope you have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swann  
Superintendent of Schools



Spencerport Central School District

