

FYI

We want to include all our families and friends on our mailing list. If you know of someone who has not received this newsletter, please call:

Chris Breckenridge
(315) 829-2520
ext. 7301



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

Stephen Adamkowski
Vice President

Steven Adams
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Matthew Cole
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Sheveron Communicator

Spring 2023 Edition

2023-2024 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION

May 16, 2023
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 ext. 7101 if you have any questions.

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



5275 State Route 31,
Verona, New York 13478



Phone: (315) 829-2520
Fax: (315) 829-4949



www.vvsschools.org



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



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

Superintendent's Message

Greetings VVS Community,

Welcome to the spring issue of the Sheveron Communicator. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about VVS through the highlights of the many wonderful experiences enjoyed by your children, along with features of just a few of their many accomplishments. This community has so much to celebrate with its children!

A New Shared Mission

"The mission of the VVS District is to nurture curiosity, support students' social-emotional well-being and academic growth, and prepare them to embrace challenges, learning opportunities, diversity, and civic responsibility for success in their future endeavors."

This mission statement above was created last year through the hard work of so many caring and dedicated representatives across the entire VVS community including parents, students, teachers, support staff, employers, board of education members, administrators, and colleges. As you read through these pages, have some fun and give yourself a challenge to see how many elements of the VVS mission you can find.

The VVS District and Community Will Collaborate...

The spring issue of the Sheveron Communicator continues the tradition of including the Budget Newsletter. Last year, the Strategic Planning Committee developed new goals to guide our work. Each of these goals begins with the statement "The VVS District and community will collaborate to;" or, "The VVS District and community will work together to..." Throughout the year, we have reached out to our community to continue to learn about our shared priorities. This helps us as a community to answer the questions:

- *What do we say we value?*
- *What do we show we value?*
- *Where and how do we invest our resources?*

This has assisted the Board and me in developing the proposed budget. The budget newsletter contains all the information required by New York State and, most importantly, the proposed budget represents the priorities shared by our community as a whole.

A quote that hangs in my office reads, "Children are our only future, treat them well." I am deeply honored and grateful to have the opportunity to serve a community that cares so deeply for its children.

With gratitude,
Martha

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

MAY 16, 2023
12-9 PM

Vernon Town Hall
Verona Fire House
Sherrill Court Building

Questions? Please contact **Mrs. Martha Group**, Superintendent or **Mr. Mark Wixson**, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations at (315) 829-2520

May

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Community Dates & Events:

- 1: Sherrill Hour w/ the Superintendent 5:30 PM, Media Center
- 2: Public Budget Hearing 6:00 PM, HS Media Center
- 3: Verona Hour w/ the Superintendent 5:00 PM, Media Center
- 9: Vernon Hour w/ the Superintendent 5:00 PM, Media Center
- 14: Mother's Day
- 16: Budget Vote & BOE Election, 12-9 PM District Art Show, 6-8 PM, Sheveron
- 17: Board of Education Meeting 7 PM, HS Media Center
- 22: Community Garden Planting Day
- 29: Memorial Day
- 30: Community Café: Exit Poll Results 6:30 PM, MS/HS Media Center

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

Save the Date for Community Day!

On August 19, 2023 (with a rain date of August 20th), VVS Community Day will return. While the time of year for the event has changed, all of the traditional pieces of Community Day will remain the same. The craft fair, community organizations, local businesses, Kids' Zone, raffle table, and great food and drinks will be available outside from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. We will also have several engaging and exciting activities going on throughout the day:



We hope all our community members and families will join us as we re-launch this great event!

VVS and Freedom Farm Awarded Genesis Grant for Collaboration on the VVS Community Garden

In March, The Genesis Group, in partnership with First Source Credit Union, TownSquare Media, and Hummel's Office Plus, awarded Freedom Farm a Small Business Assistance Program grant. The program provides grants and incentives to help support the needs of area small businesses and non-profit organizations in the Mohawk Valley region.

Freedom Farm was awarded the \$700 grant for its partnership with VVS on the VVS Community Garden. The funds will be used to purchase soil, plants, and seeds so families, classes, student groups, and community members who wish to participate in the garden will have access to seeds and plants at no charge.

Raymond J. Durso, Jr., Genesis Group President & CEO said, "I believe this is an important program that helps support area businesses and non-profit organizations. The funding and incentives being donated will support those businesses and applications that meet the program's criteria. I believe that Genesis, along with its partners, is making a positive impact in our region."

Spots are still available in the Community Garden for any family, community member, or local organization that would like to participate. Please visit the website at www.vvsschools.org for more information and to reserve your spot. We invite the entire community to join us for our Community Garden Planting Day on Monday, May 22 at 5:30 PM by the middle school gymnasium.



Star Program

There are two types of STAR benefits, which apply only to school district taxes:

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 2023-2024 school year).
- Based on the first \$66,800 of the full value of the home (for the 2023-2024 school year).

MAXIMUM 2023-2024 STAR SAVINGS FOR JURISDICTIONS WITHIN THE VVS DISTRICT		
TAXING JURISDICTION	BASIC STAR	ENHANCED STAR
CITY OF ONEIDA	\$573	\$1,304
CITY OF ROME	\$592	\$1,311
TOWN OF KIRKLAND	\$573	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERNON	\$573	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERONA	\$573	\$1,304
TOWN OF VIENNA	\$573	\$1,304
TOWN OF WESTMORELAND	\$573	\$1,305
ESTIMATED BASIC STAR EXEMPTION SAVINGS	PROJECTED STAR SAVINGS 2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	* \$573.00	

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

* Maximum 2023-2024 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.

Assessors



KIRKLAND
Nina Wallace
PO Box 235
Clinton, NY 13323



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



VERNON & SHERRILL
Frank Laguzza
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

What Happens if the Budget Doesn't Pass?

If the proposed 2023-24 budget is defeated, the school district has two options: move forward with a contingent budget or revote the budget on June 20, 2023. If the school district decides to revote the budget, it may put forth the same budget or put forth a modified budget.

If the budget is defeated a second time, or if the district moves forward with a contingent budget after the first defeat, then under Education Law, a contingent budget must be adopted. Under a contingent budget:

- The school district cannot levy any more than the current 2022-23 school year.
- A reduction in spending of \$614,051 would be necessary.
- The reduced spending would come from a reduction, suspension, or elimination of non-compulsory programs. Non-compulsory programs include:



Summer Programs
Camp Invention, Invention Project, LEAP, EPIC, band, athletic camps, etc.



Academic Intervention Services
Non-compulsory AIS reading/math, tutoring, homework clubs, etc.



Elective Programs
Agriculture, art, music, World Languages, drone technology, etc.



Extra-Curricular Activities
Clubs and groups such as FFA, Student Council, Drama, etc.



Athletic Teams & Programs
Intramurals, modified teams, and JV and varsity programs

In addition, consistent with Education Law:

- The school district would be required to charge all organizations for the use of school facilities (i.e. Pop Warner football, AYSO soccer, community dance and drama organizations).
- The school district would not be permitted to undertake the proposed Capital Outlay Safety & Security Enhancement project at J.D. George Elementary School.

2023-2024 School District Budget Notice

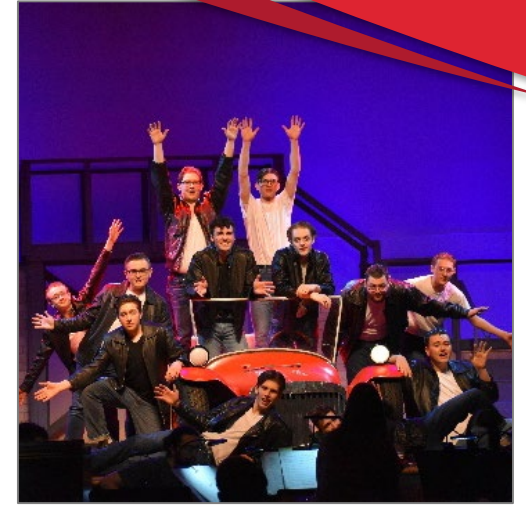
	ADOPTED BUDGET 2022-2023	PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-2024
Total Budgeted Amount, not including separate propositions	\$ 43,218,941	\$ 44,079,101
Increase/Decrease over prior year	\$ 1,463,443	\$ 860,160
% Increase/Decrease in each proposed budget	3.50%	1.99%
Change in Consumer Price Index (CPI)	4.70%	8.00%
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$ 15,446,694	\$ 16,060,745
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)	\$ 15,446,694	\$ 16,060,745
F. Permissible Exclusions to the school tax levy limit	\$ 419,737	\$ 393,789
G. School Tax Levy Limit, excluding levy for permissible exclusions	\$ 15,028,442	\$ 15,666,956
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)	\$ 15,026,957	\$ 15,666,956
I. Difference: (G-H); A negative value requires 60% voter approval	\$ 1,485	\$ 0
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$ 3,797,972	\$ 3,729,392
PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$ 32,966,483	\$ 33,816,248
CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$ 6,454,486	\$ 6,533,461

Go Greased Lightning!

On March 10th and 11th, the VVS Drama Club, in conjunction with the music department, presented the musical, *Grease*. With over 65 students involved in the production, students began working in January on the huge task ahead.

Student performers grew close over the months of preparation, and many shared that they created really good bonds and were “like a family.” One student loved participating in the musical because it was “a great way to meet new people and learn to work together.”

We would like to thank our VVS Performing Arts Boosters and our parents for all their support through the show, our staff for their hard work and dedication, and the local businesses that make donations to help support us! We hope to see you at next year’s musical!



High School Students Complete County Legislative Internships

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) partners with 4-H and local high schools to give Oneida County students an inside look at local government. From the CCE website: “An understanding of local government allows students to become engaged citizens with a better understanding of the issues and concerns that arise in their communities.”

During this program, students learn from local government officials about the inner workings of local government and the critical role it plays in society. Students hear from guest speakers, sit in legislative meetings, work on projects, and more throughout the experience. Congratulations to seniors Mandy Chen, Kiara Barney, and Brooklyn Skellham on successfully completing the internship!

VVS Awarded Over \$800,000 in Connectivity Funds

We are proud to announce that VVS applied for and received a total of \$858,481.49 across the three Emergency Connectivity Funding rounds. In partnership with the Madison-Oneida Regional Information Center (MORIC) and EratePartners, VVS was able to complete and submit applications for all funding rounds.

The funding was used to purchase 1,934 Chromebook student devices, 214 teacher laptops devices, and 37 bus Wi-Fi devices (installed) with 12 months of free data. As our 1:1 student program devices (some initially purchased in 2018) began aging out, the devices purchased through this funding allowed us to replace and sustain a reasonable age of devices. Similarly, the aging laptop devices teachers use in concert with their SMART Boards, purchased in 2017 through funding from the Smart Schools Bond Act, will be replaced this year.

These funds will enhance student learning, teacher engagement, and allow students to extend their classroom learning remotely while on their way home or to an athletic activity.

VVS MS Holds Inaugural World Expo

At VVS, we strive to attain our District Beliefs and show “how much we value and support each student and their contribution to the school community and the world by purposefully celebrating diversity, fostering a sense of belonging, and inspiring authentic engagement.”

As part of this District Belief Statement, on Thursday, March 30, 2023, the middle school hosted its inaugural Global Expo. Students attended three presentations in the morning, created a personal flag, and sampled foods from around the world at the “International Café.”

Morning sessions involved various community organizations that spoke to students on topics including perspectives, respectful cultural engagement, immigration, traditions and experiences from around the globe, and much more! In the afternoon, students heard from featured speaker, Dr. Anthony Baird. Dr. Baird is the Vice President, Division for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Student Transitions/Chief Diversity Officer for Utica University. He touched on belonging, empathy, and choosing kindness; their importance to you, your community and the world. Students had a great time learning about cultures and how to be their best selves!



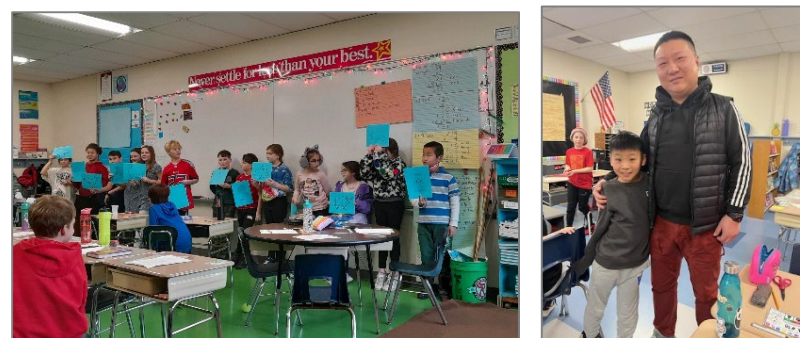
Special thanks to all of our speakers and presenters:

Anthony & Marabella Colon, Mohawk Valley Latino Association
 Alfred Valentini, Italian Heritage Club of Mohawk Valley
 Hanka Grabovica, Bosnian Community Center
 VVS Exchange Students Leni Rais & Asia Sardellitti
 Rebecca McClain, Oneida County History Center
 Courtney Jones, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Randy Philips, Oneida Indian Nation
 Matt Pelicano, Author
 Dr. Rashmi Bismark, MD, MPH
 Shana Pughe, The Center
 Emily Griff, Mercy Flight
 Mike Hoke, Irish Cultural Center

Ring in the Chinese New Year with Friends & Family!

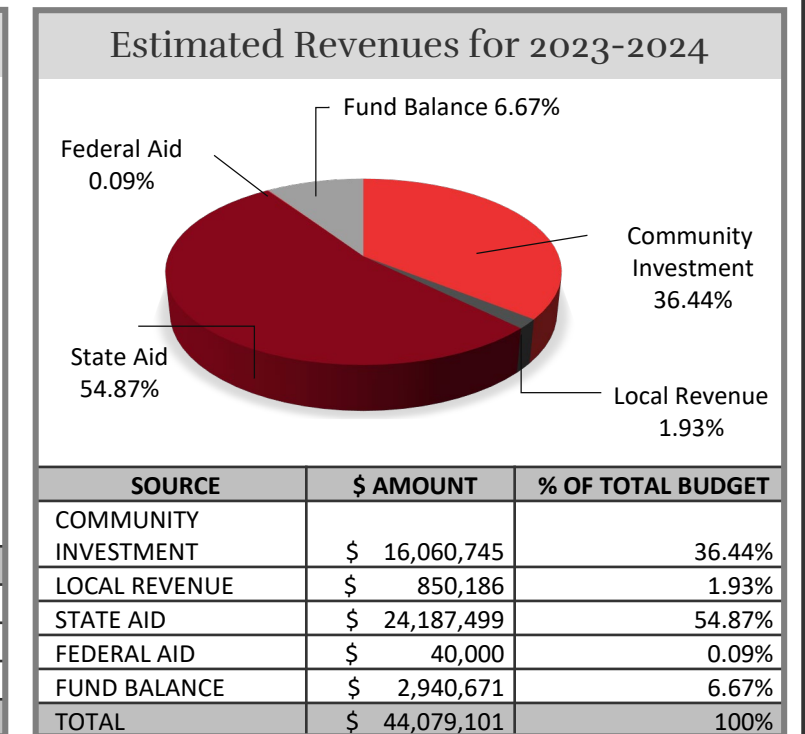
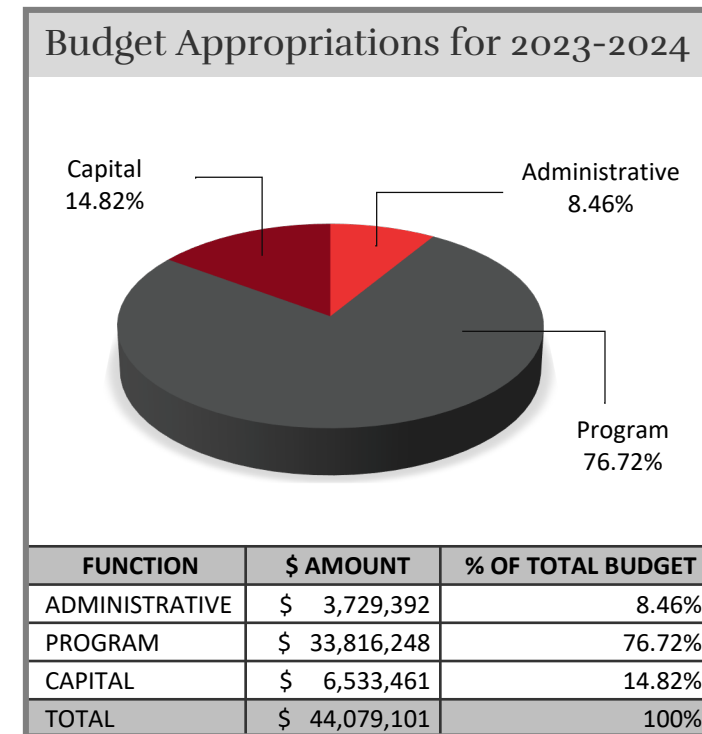
McAllister students joined English as a New Language teacher Mrs. Makarchuk to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Several families participated in the fun event by attending or donating traditional candies and treats. Students shared and discussed what culture is and why it is important to learn about other cultures. Everyone had a great day coming together to learn from each other!



(Andrew Naegele, continued) If elected, I pledge my undivided attention to the members of this community, our children, taxpayers, staff, and students. I'll work tirelessly to bring transparency to budgets, social issues, and accountability across the board. Disagreements arise, but I'll not allow them to divide us any longer.

VVS community - let's do this together! I'm bringing my passion, energy, and commitment to this role, so JOIN ME, and let's create a brighter future for our community and children together!

Proposed Budget for 2023-2024



Are There Any School Tax Credits or Exemptions Available?

VVS has a Senior Citizens' Tax Exemption. The VVS Board of Education authorized this 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. Please see the chart to the right for the income levels.

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

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%

VVS Board of Education Election Three Candidates – Two Vacancies



Mark Kinne

My name is Mark Kinne, and I am a VVS graduate of 1993. I was born and raised in Verona and have spent the last 19 years raising my family in Vernon Center. I have 5 children who currently attend school in the VVS District. I had 2 children graduate in 2022 that now attend Utica University and SUNY Cortland. I am employed by Hamilton College as a Manager for Structural Trades at Facilities Management where I oversee day to day maintenance operations for the campus.

Over the years, I have been involved in the community in many different capacities. I joined the Verona Fire Department in 1994, where I enjoyed volunteering in the community, and I am currently a life member. I have also spent over 10 years as a volunteer coach for the AYSO Youth Soccer Program. I currently co-chair the VVS Youth Basketball program and have been part of this organization for almost 16 years.

I am running for VVS School Board so that I can help be a voice for the community and our children. I believe the safety and security of our schools is a priority to ensure our children have a positive learning experience. As a community, we must promote a fun and safe learning environment for the staff and students. I welcome the opportunity to serve on this board and help keep VVS Schools striving for the best in the future.



Julie McMullen

My name is Julie McMullen, and I'm running for the VVS School Board. I moved to Sherrill in 2012 after being a resident of Canastota. I live with my significant other, Michael, and our 4 children, Jacob (class of 2022), Hailey (11th), Alana (6th), and Karrigan (3rd). My family plays an active role in the community through various activities. I'm a class of 2000 graduate from Canastota HS. In 2009, I graduated from the Madison Oneida BOCES LPN program, and in 2014 earned my associates degree from MVCC. I now work for MetLife, where I am blessed with the opportunity to work from home, making it possible for me to become more involved in our school district. I'm fortunate to have a child with special needs and have been advocating for her education since she entered elementary school. This has given me the opportunity to understand some of the struggles facing our youth and parents in the district.

I'm running for the school board because I believe that our children are our future, and it is our responsibility to give them the best opportunities possible so that they may be successful in whatever path they choose to take. Thank you for your time and consideration. With your support, together we can help make our schools and community a better place.



Andrew Naegele

I'm Andrew Naegele, local husband and father of two daughters, and I'm thrilled to serve you and our children as a School Board member.

Growing up in Verona, I learned the value of hard work and dedication from my family's business, Curtis Custom Cutting. As an elected officer (VVS FFA), I gained valuable experience working with the Board. As a lifelong member of this community, I've witnessed the challenges and opportunities our schools face. I'm eager to use my experience to make a difference.

I believe in ensuring everyone has a voice and it's heard, even when it's not a popular opinion. I'm fearlessly bold, outspoken, and confident - not one to blindly follow, accepting the status quo - whether those opinions are well-received or not. My commitment to honesty and transparency is unwavering.

I've heard and understand your concerns! I recognize the divide in our district. However, I believe we can work together to achieve progress and happiness for our children. Through commitment to continuous improvement, innovative approaches to problem-solving, and collaboration I believe we'll come together and do what's best for our kids.

Two J.D. George Students Win Utica Comets Contest

This year, JDG has two winners for the Utica Comets coloring contest! Lynelle Castle (from Mrs. Deyo's class) won 3rd place for the 1st grade category, and Mason Carnevale (from Mrs. Blodgett's class) won 2nd place for the 5th grade category.

Over 20 school districts participated in the 8th annual coloring contest. Both VVS winners were awarded a class pizza party with the Utica Comets mascot, Audie, and Mason also won tickets to a hockey game. Congratulations to both students!



VVS MS Welcomes Étienne to "Rock Our Class"

On Tuesday, March 14th, VVS Middle School welcomed teacher, singer, and songwriter Étienne. Étienne is the stage name of Canadian musician Steven Douglas Langlois, who performs around the world and has a passion for reaching students through rock and rap. VVS Middle school students enjoyed a one-hour performance of catchy tunes that help students learn French and Spanish.

Natalie Relyea, 8th grade Spanish student said, "I liked the concert because it is very unique to have such a popular person come to our small town."

Alexander Gerhardt, 8th grade Spanish student said, "It was a very interactive experience because he came out into the crowd and was signing our posters."

Thank you, Étienne, for a wonderful experience!

VVS Celebrates FFA Maple Weekend 2023

VVS FFA Maple Weekend was a huge success! Over 1,200 people came out to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast and join us for our annual Tree-Tapping Ceremony.

Although the tours of the Sap House and maple operation were a little chilly, many people still participated. Students enjoyed sharing their knowledge of the VVS FFA maple syrup process and giving community members a behind-the-scenes look at how it is all made.

On behalf of the VVS FFA, we would like to thank the volunteers, families, and VVS community for making this amazing weekend possible. We look forward to next year's event!



Wettel Students Present to NYS Superintendents

W.A. Wettel students were honored to present in front of about 1,000 attendees at the NY State Council of School Superintendents' Winter Institute. The theme of the Winter Institute was *Road to Awesome: Empower, Lead, Change the Game*. Seven of our super-talented students performed two very memorable speeches in our nation's history: Martin Luther King Jr.'s, "I Have a Dream" and Amanda Gorman's, "The Hill We Climb". Our students received a several minutes-long standing ovation from the crowd.



A special thanks to our students' families for their amazing support and taking time out of their busy weekend to travel to Albany to see their kids reveal to the world their talents. Thank you to Mr. Protheroe for working with, guiding and inspiring these students in preparation for this experience. Spectacular job Mr. Protheroe! Thank you also to Mrs. Group for giving us this amazing opportunity. Our students shined for the whole VVS District. They truly represent the promise and potential of tomorrow.

Giving the Gift of Literacy



Several of our 6th grade students, working in concert with AIS Reading Teacher, Mrs. Sinacore, love to share their love of literacy with our 3rd grade students. This student service includes having the students come together to read to one another. Not only do the students feel wonder and awe through the content of the books they read, but they continue developing fluency, a necessary bridge to comprehension. Thank you Mrs. Sinacore, and even more, a special thanks to our amazing 6th grade students who are committed to serving our younger students and bringing to them the gift of literacy.

Building Independence and Early Readers

The Science of Reading is in full force throughout our elementary buildings, increasing outcomes in reading comprehension across the board. One of the powerful predictors of future reading success is early readers being able to read real consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words like big, map, hen, and cub. However, a way to boost this skill to help build up strong decoding skills is sounding out nonsense CVC words like gom, jep, sig, and kad.

Mrs. Miller's Kindergarten class at E.A. McAllister engage in some really powerful practice activities using CVC nonsense words during Station Rotation. This is a time when students can move from activity to activity practicing skills while having fun! They are building their independence and strengthening their early literacy skills through interactive lessons and play.



Vernon Verona Sherrill

POINTS of PRIDE

120

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



2.26%

Average annual Community Investment Contribution over the previous 10 years (13-14 through 22-23)



95%

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

97

Flu Vaccines administered during the VVS-Walgreens Drive Up Flu Shot 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



6th Lowest

Community Investment Contribution Per Pupil among 21 regional school districts



4th Lowest

Per Pupil Expenditure among 21 regional school districts

100% of VVS Families Online

- 1:1 Chromebooks for all students, grades Pre-K through 12
- Free Wi-Fi devices and broadband data for any family in need
- Free Wi-Fi and broadband data on all buses



8

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



5

Number of years VVS Middle School has been designated a National Forum "School to Watch"



Level 4

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



School Board Proposition #1: Budget Vote

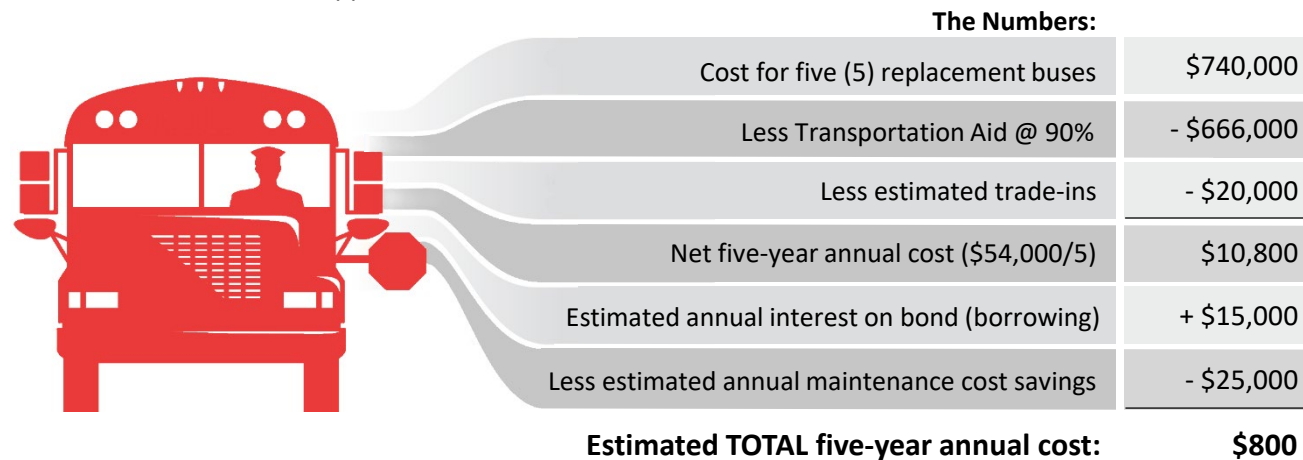
“Shall the Board of Education of the Vernon Verona Sherrill School District, Verona, New York, be authorized to expend the sum set forth in its proposed budget for 2023-2024 in the total amount of \$44,079,101 and to levy the necessary tax?”

School Board Proposition #2: Bonding for Bus Purchase

The school district proposes to borrow \$740,000 for the purchase of five large (55-65 passenger) replacement school buses.

- Each of the five buses proposed for trade-in have an average age of over 10 years old and over 200,000 miles, with warranties expiring in or before October, 2023.
- The district will receive 90% state transportation aid reimbursement, also across five years, beginning the year after the purchase.
- Because the bond payment will be deferred until the 2024-25 school year, there will be **NO TAX IMPACT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**, and it will coincide with 90% aid reimbursement for subsequent years.

“Shall the bond resolution adopted on March 27, 2023 by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Sherrill, Oneida County, New York entitled: A bond resolution of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Sherrill, Oneida County, New York (the “District”), dated March 27, 2023, authorizing the District (i) to finance the purchase of various school buses and related vehicles, at a maximum estimated cost of \$740,000, and (ii) to issue serial bonds of the District in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$740,000 to finance such purchase, and delegating the power to issue bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of such bonds to the president of the Board of Education of the District be approved?”

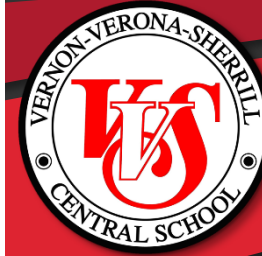


School Board Proposition #3: School Board Members Election

Who Can Vote on the Budget?

VVS community members need to meet three criteria in order to vote on the 2023-2024 budget. They must be:

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.



Vernon Verona Sherrill Central School District

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

VVS Board of Education President's Message

Dear VVS Community,

Last year members of the VVS community assisted the board and administration in completing a new strategic plan. Based on community input and as an outcome of this process, the board has modified existing goals and focuses. This budget reflects what the community told us they valued, and respects the community's desire for value, by proposing a conservative budget while continuing to provide outstanding educational opportunities for the students of this community.

This budget also supports the belief that optimal learning occurs in a safe and supportive environment. Through the assistance of federal pandemic relief funds, the district has hired additional social workers, AIS teachers, and a nurse so that every building has extra full-time staff dedicated to helping students. We have also added extra Special Patrol officers so that every instructional building has a dedicated law officer during instructional times.

Our district mission is to prepare students for success in their future endeavors, and the best way to do this is to challenge students with a rigorous academic environment that provides any necessary individualized support. VVS currently offers 20 dual credit courses in collaboration with MVCC, with SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Morrisville to provide additional college courses to students. Our music program has been nationally recognized as a “Best Community for Music Education” for 8 years in a row. Our middle school has been designated a “School to Watch” by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grade Reform. Very few schools in the nation are granted these honors.

This board and administration have worked to provide a budget that respects the community's desire to provide outstanding educational opportunities for the students of this community. If you have any questions about the budget, I hope you attend one of the many budget presentations listed on the district web page, or feel free to call the district with any questions. I also hope that you will vote on May 16, 2023, at your designated location.

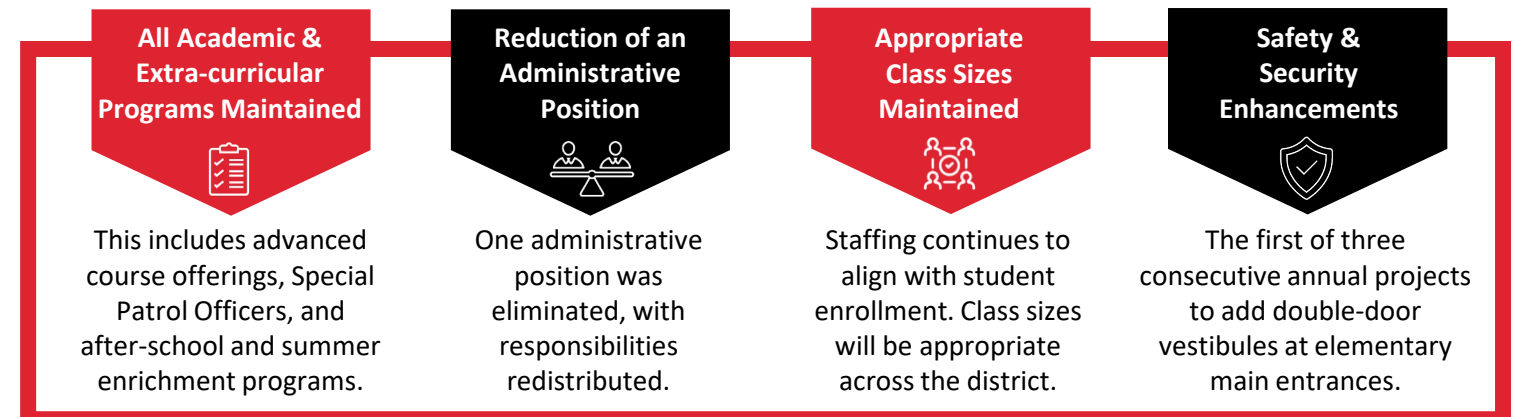
Thank you, Tom Moats

Budget ThoughtExchange Results & Information

Thank you to all who participated in our ThoughtExchange and Community Cafés. We have organized this year's budget information to align with the priorities our families, faculty, staff, students, and community members have shared with us.

Budget Highlights

District Stays At or Below Tax Levy Limit for 12th Straight Year





VVS Budget: By the Numbers



\$44,079,101
Proposed 2023-2024 VVS School District Budget

Lowest 10%
Per Pupil Expenditure in New York State (out of 673 school districts)

3.98%
Average Estimated Net increase in Community Investment Contribution (tax levy) is less than 1/2 of the rate of inflation (8% Consumer Price Index)

1.99%
Proposed 2023-2024 budget increase is less than 1/4 of the rate of inflation (8% Consumer Price Index)

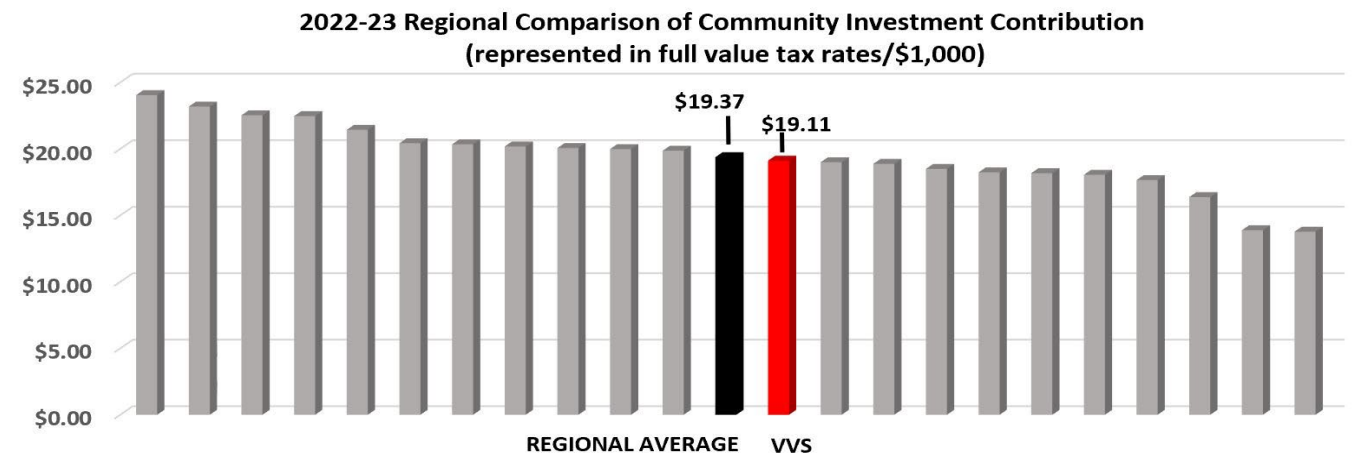
2
There are two Board of Education seat vacancies. See pages 16-17 for more information on the candidates.

1,806
VVS student enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year

Community Priority #4: Value Taxpayers' Contribution

How Does VVS' Tax Rate Compare to the Region?

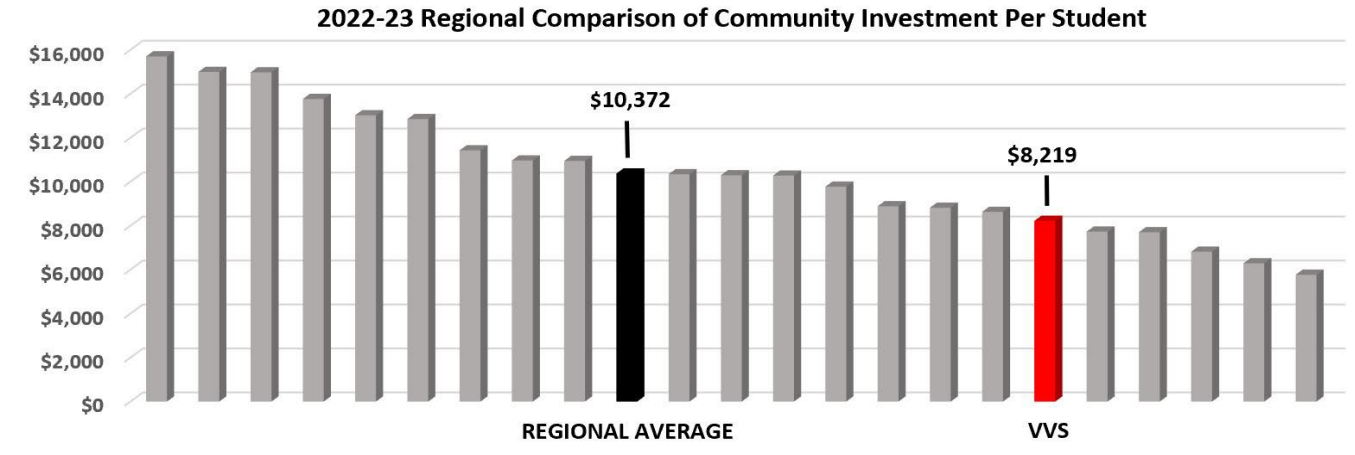
We pride ourselves on putting together a budget that maximizes student programs while respecting and being sensitive to how much we are asking the community to contribute. VVS' Average Community Investment is consistently **LOWER** than the regional average.



Per Pupil Expenditure

- VVS' Average Per Pupil Expenditure is:
- **LESS than 90%** of the school districts in New York State.
 - **LESS than 80%** of the surrounding school districts.
 - **6th LOWEST** in the entire region out of 22 districts.

The graph below shows what the communities in each regional school district are asked to contribute in taxes to educate their students.



Why Doesn't VVS "Spend" More per Student?

The Average Per Pupil Expenditure is not the amount that the district *chooses* to spend on each student. This number is simply the total budget divided by the number of students enrolled. For 2023 that number is calculated by dividing:

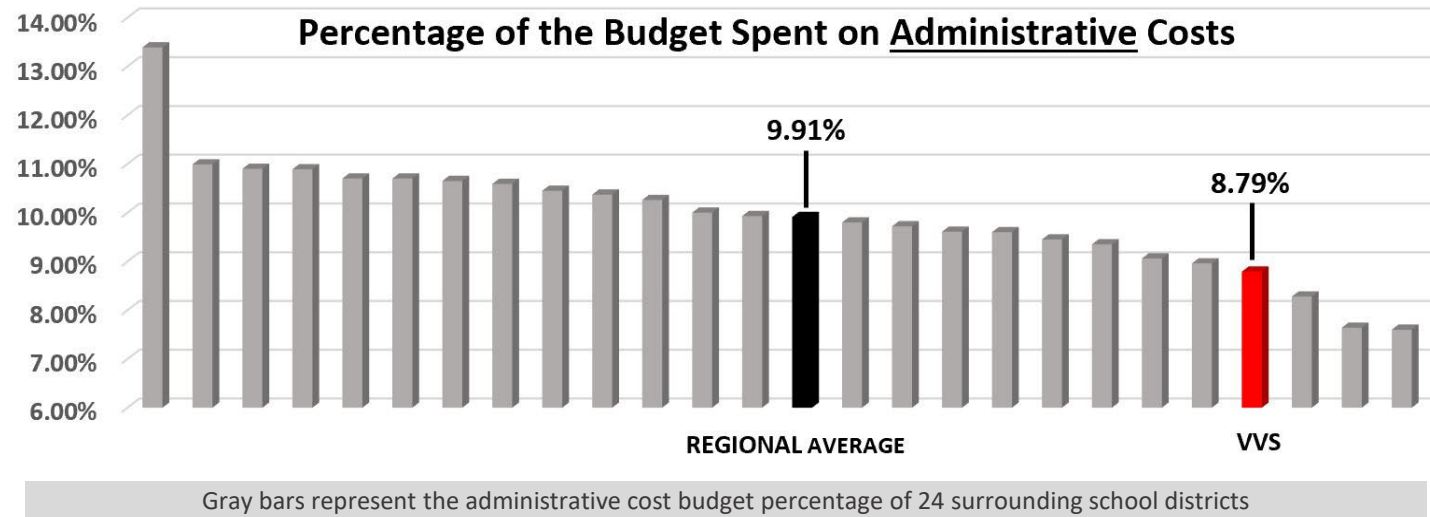
$$\frac{\$44,079,101 \text{ (budget)}}{1,806 \text{ (number of students)}}$$

Because state and federal aid are set numbers, the only way for the district to "spend" more per student is to increase the VVS community's contribution (in taxes).

Community Priority #3: Balancing Administrative Costs

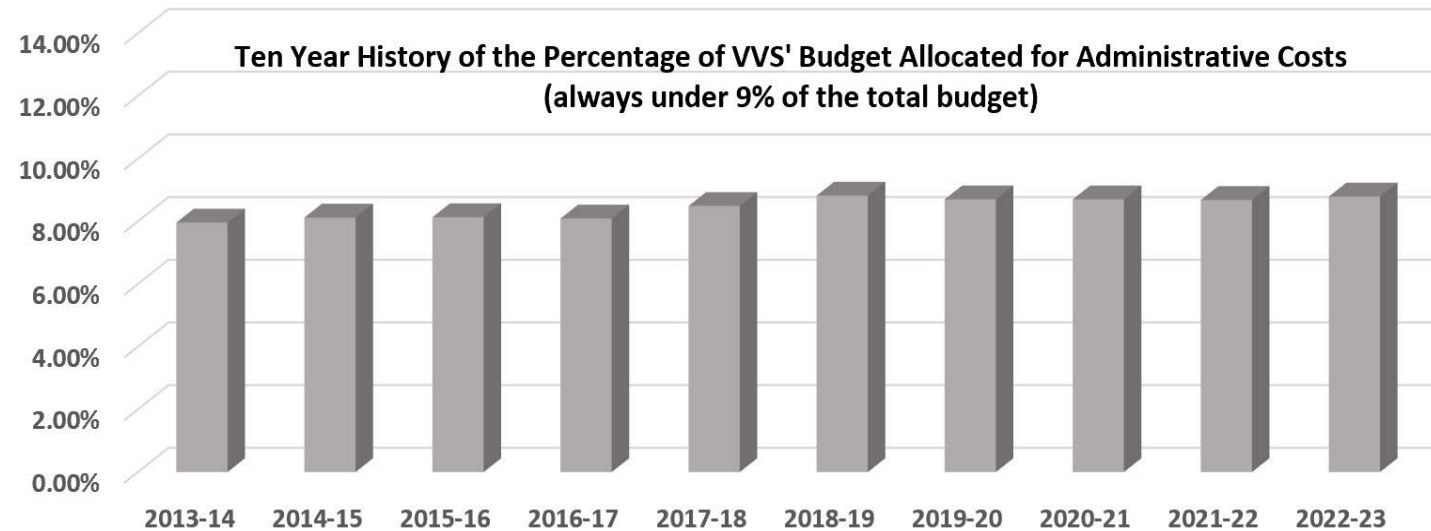
VVS Spends Less on Administrative Costs than 85% of Regional School Districts

In comparison with 24 regional school districts, VVS administrative costs are the fourth LOWEST, with 85% of surrounding districts spending a larger percentage of their budgets on administration. This includes all administrator and principal salaries, financial and personnel services, and central office staff.



VVS Administrative Costs Historically Remain Below 9%

As a percentage of the budget, VVS has historically spent less than 9% of the budget on administrative functions and requirements. This includes all administrator and principal salaries, health insurance administration, personnel, public information services, financial services, legal services and more.



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, personnel, 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, special education, career and technical education, 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 2023-2024

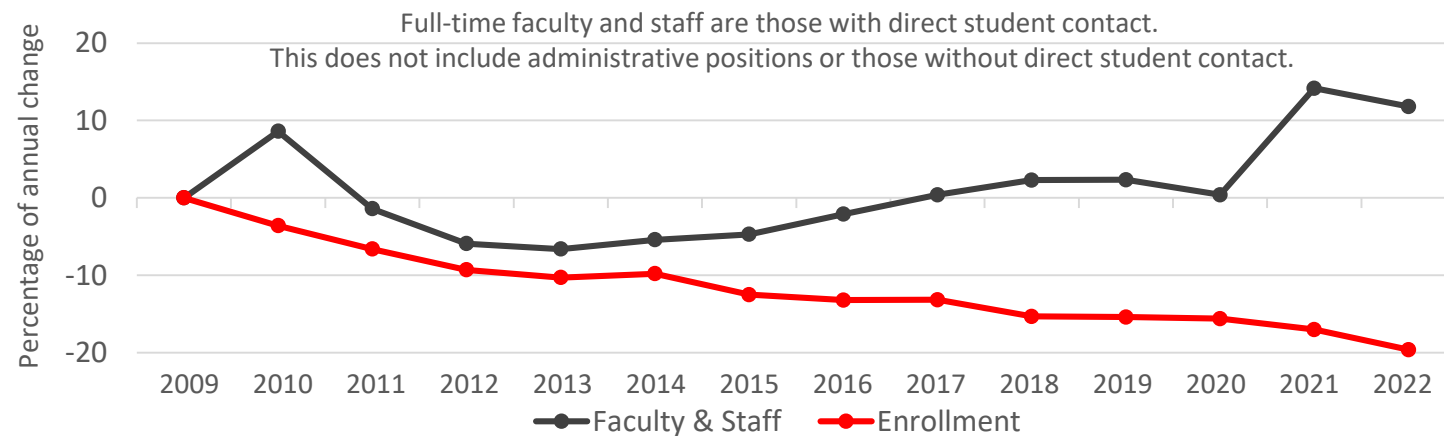
DESCRIPTION	ADMINISTRATIVE	PROGRAM	CAPITAL	TOTAL
Board of Education	\$ 64,657.00			\$ 64,657.00
Central Administration	\$ 265,193.00			\$ 265,193.00
Finance	\$ 413,573.00			\$ 413,573.00
Legal Services	\$ 16,000.00			\$ 16,000.00
Personnel	\$ 97,772.00			\$ 97,772.00
Records Management	\$ 7,776.00			\$ 7,776.00
Public Information	\$ 94,173.00			\$ 94,173.00
Total Central Services	\$ 222,623.00			\$ 222,623.00
BOCES Rent, Admin. & Capital	\$ 446,227.00			\$ 446,227.00
Curriculum Dev. & Supervision	\$ 201,692.00			\$ 201,692.00
Supervision - Regular School	\$ 1,040,956.00			\$ 1,040,956.00
Research & Planning	\$ 225,871.00			\$ 225,871.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 632,879.00			\$ 632,879.00
Finance			\$ 3,357.00	\$ 3,357.00
Operation of Plant			\$ 1,872,898.00	\$ 1,872,898.00
Maintenance of Plant			\$ 504,743.00	\$ 504,743.00
Refund of Taxes			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Transportation Equipment			\$ 0	\$ 0
Employee Benefits			\$ 1,013,123.00	\$ 1,013,123.00
Debt Service			\$ 3,038,840.00	\$ 3,038,840.00
Transfer to Capital Fund			\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Finance		\$ 14,115.00		\$ 14,115.00
Legal Services		\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Total In-Service Training		\$ 213,918.00		\$ 213,918.00
Regular Instruction		\$ 20,538,851.00		\$ 20,538,851.00
Total Transportation		\$ 2,057,366.00		\$ 2,057,366.00
Employee Benefits		\$ 10,961,998.00		\$ 10,961,998.00
Transfer To Special Aid Fund		\$ 26,000		\$ 26,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 3,729,392.00	\$ 33,816,248.00	\$ 6,533,461.00	\$ 44,079,101.00
DOLLAR AMOUNT CHANGE FROM 2022-23	\$ (68,580.00)	\$ 849,765.00	\$ 78,975.00	\$ 860,160.00
PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2022-23	-1.81%	2.58%	1.22%	1.99%
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET	8.46%	76.72%	14.82%	100.00%
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET				\$ 44,079,101.00

Community Priority #1: Staffing & Class Sizes

VVS Aligns Staffing to Enrollment and Student Needs

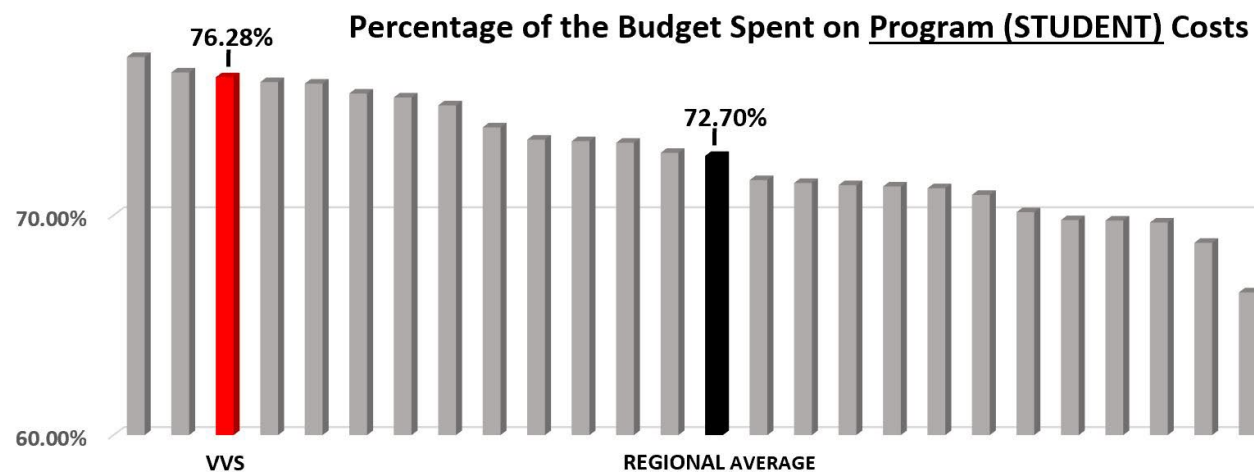
VVS aligns staffing to enrollment and district needs remaining both fiscally responsible and placing priorities on the needs of students and faculty. VVS has eliminated the Director of Curriculum position, reducing the number of administrative positions in the district by one. In addition, two teacher retirements at the secondary level, one at the elementary level, and one at the district-wide level will not be replaced due to declining enrollment. The district will still be able to maintain appropriate class sizes and the administrative responsibilities will be absorbed by other positions.

Full-Time Faculty and Staff vs. Enrollment



VVS Leads the Region in Allocating to Student Programs

VVS ranks in the top three districts in the region for the percentage of its budget allocated to student programs. While the regional average is 72.7%, VVS spends 76.28% of its budget on personnel, equipment, and services that directly impact students every day. VVS spends a larger percentage of its budget on students and programs than 89% of regional districts.

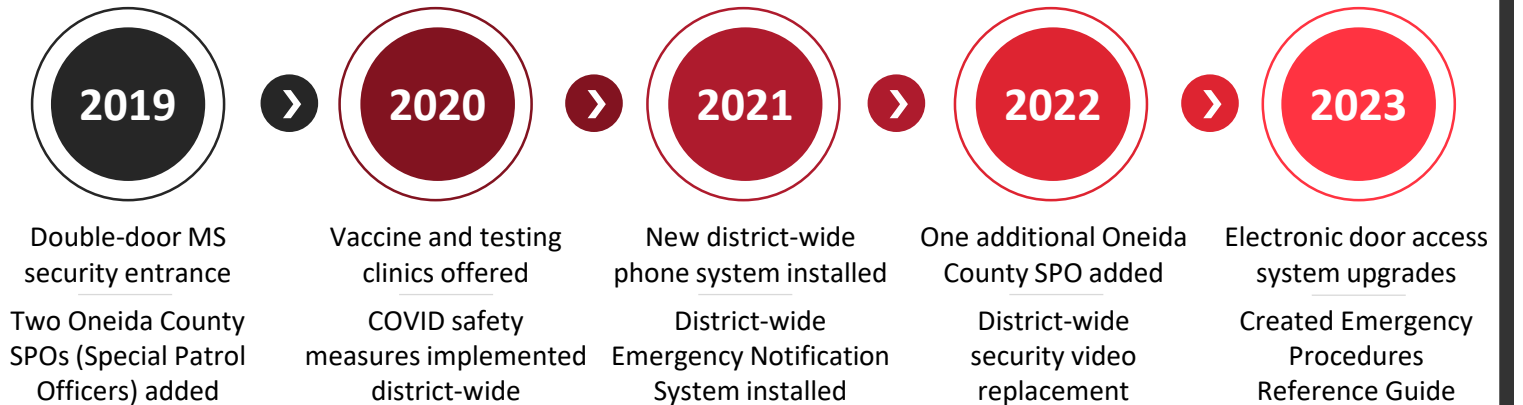


Gray bars represent the student programs budget percentage of 24 surrounding school districts

Community Priority #2: Safety & Security

Safety & Security is an Integral Part of Each Budget

VVS has a District-Wide Safety Plan that includes training, equipment, personnel, and facility upgrades to meet our safety objectives. Over the past five years, VVS has enhanced safety features across the district:



To conclude the 2022-2023 school year, we have several projects that are in progress: adding additional cameras, implementing a new district-wide handheld communication system, and installing Halo Smart Sensors. Halo Smart Sensors are a revolutionary system that detects vaping, THC, aggression or gunshot sounds, smoke, increased or decreased temperature, and carbon monoxide levels.

Over the next three years, **pending budget approval**, our safety and security focus will be installing double-door security entrances at J.D. George (2023-2024 school year), W.A. Wettel (2024-2025 school year), and E.A. McAllister (2025-2026 school year) through Capital Outlay Projects.

In addition to major upgrades, renovations, and building features, VVS focuses on safety and security with dedicated teams that continually review and revise our safety practices, drills, and communications. These teams include faculty, staff, administrators, SPOs, BOCES safety officers, BOE members, and parents. VVS also coordinates plans and drills with local authorities, conducts safety and security table-top exercises, and provides use of our facilities for tours and practice (drug and bomb dogs, armed intruder) with local and state authorities. Student, staff, and visitor safety is always of paramount importance at VVS.

Safety & Security Capital Outlay Project

Double-Door Security System at J.D. George Elementary **Pending Budget Approval**

Included in the 2023-2024 proposed budget is an amount not to exceed \$100,000 (the maximum amount NYS allows districts to allocate) for the purpose of a Capital Outlay Project to install a double-door security system with reception window at the J.D. George Elementary School main entrance.

Construction Cost	\$100,000
State Aid at 89.0%	\$89,000
Net Local Cost After Aid	\$11,000

Similar Capital Outlay Projects are planned for W.A. Wettel Elementary School in 2024-25 and E.A. McAllister Elementary School in 2025-26. **If the budget is defeated, this project would not be permissible under a contingent budget, per Education Law.**