

Forestville

Forestville Central School District 2023-2024 Budget Newsletter

Board President's Message



Amy Drozdziel
Board President

What a great school year 2022-2023 has been, filled with exciting activities for our entire school community. So many wonderful academic achievements, amazing musical performances, shining athletes, dances, PARR, Parent connection events, senior fun, foreign language activity, trips and the list could go on. In addition to all the fun, our school has been busy throughout the year with following through on plans for the capital project work that was approved in May 2022. The final plan of the Smart Schools Bond Act that was adopted at our November 2022 board meeting has also provided us with the ability to work towards a more safe and secure environment. We have had many updates regarding timelines and work regarding both. You will begin to see work on the roofs at both buildings this spring and summer.

In addition to the facility improvements, we have appointed a superintendent, Dr. O'Connor, through the 2023-2026 school year, recruited new staff members, and continue to search for a permanent elementary school principal. Our teachers and administration have also been involved in a great deal of hard work in instructional improvements and we are working to improve our systems to help us achieve better communications with our school community. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our many stakeholders for their continued support as all this work will improve our facilities and provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

District Mission Statement is as follows:

We exist to equip every student with tools to experience their greatest potential and lead them to being lifelong learners.

Our District Goals for the 2022 – 2023 School Year are as follows:

- Continue to improve our facilities that provide a clean, safe, and inviting environment that instills school pride.
- Continue providing consistent communications that promote positive relationships.
- Continue to cultivate a culture that inspires and supports excellence in teaching and learning.

Your Board at FCS strives to uphold our district mission and demonstrate to our school family that we hold our mission, values and district goals to a high standard in order to provide the best education possible to our students, all while being fiscally responsible to our community. We hope you can see evidence of that in this newsletter and in all your experiences at FCS.

Budget Season is a busy time for schools all over New York state. Your Board has been meeting monthly in addition to our regular school board meetings to review the budget with Dr. O'Connor and Kerrie Pelletter, Business Executive. They have both worked hard at providing detailed information, as we have newer board members going through their first budget season! We are pleased to report that we have managed to maintain a 0% increase in our tax levy, thanks mainly to creative budgeting from previous boards and administration, federal funding, and strategic planning. Our team has been reviewing the most efficient and responsible way to do so and in ways that provide more opportunities for our students. A few items on the wish list for these funds include a new reading series, diagnostic assessment tools with professional development, music upgrades, and updates in supplies and equipment for science, math and technology.

Please note the following important dates as we approach the May Annual Meeting (budget vote):

- April 19, 2023 ~ Board approval of the budget
- May 4, 2023 ~ Public Budget Presentation 5:30 pm Alene Bradigan High School Library
- May 16, 2023 ~ Annual Meeting (Budget meeting) 1-8 p.m. Elementary School cafeteria
- As always, you are invited to the Public Budget presentation, and encourage everyone to come out and vote May 16th!

Additional details on our budget can be found on our website at www.forestville.com and I can be reached at adrozdziel@forestville.com with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Amy Drozdziel, School Board President, Forestville Central School District



Budget-At-A-Glance

2023-2024 Proposed Budget
\$13,643,847

Increase of \$135,087 or 1.0%

Proposed Tax Levy Increase of
0%

Budget Overview

- Our focus is centered on enhancing student achievement, improving our facilities, and expanding our educational programs
- Includes conservative use of reserve funds while maintaining the long-term financial integrity of the district.
- Provide high-quality education to our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility within our community.
- Continue to promote partnerships with neighboring districts and BOCES for educational collaborations and shared services.
- In response to an ever increasing need for building improvements, we have set aside \$100,000 in the 2023-24 budget to cover a capital outlay project. We anticipate receiving approximately 86% of these costs back in state building aid the following year.
- We will be staying below the state imposed tax levy limit and are pleased to announce that our school district has achieved a zero percent tax increase in the upcoming school year.

Public Hearing

A public hearing for the voters of the District on the 2023-2024 budget will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Alene J. Bradigan HS Library.

Budget Vote

All eligible voters will have an opportunity to vote on the budget on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 1-8 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria. Parking is available in the back parking lot.

Excellence in Education

Superintendent's Message



Dr. John O'Connor
Superintendent

Dear Forestville School Community,

We take great pride in our commitment to providing high-quality education to our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility within our community. With this in mind, we are delighted to present the budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

Our budget has been carefully developed with a thorough assessment of our priorities, needs, and available resources. Our focus is centered on enhancing student achievement, improving our facilities, and expanding our educational programs. Our teachers and staff have been working tirelessly to provide our students with enriching learning experiences, and we have invested in technology and instructional resources that support their success. We are pleased to announce that our school district has achieved a zero percent tax increase in the upcoming school year. This milestone is the result of diligent efforts and responsible fiscal management from the School Board and administration over the past few years. As a school district, we are committed to maintaining open communication and transparency with our community.

We invite you to attend our Budget Hearing on Thursday, May 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Alene J. Bradigan High School Library. In addition, our website, www.forestville.com, provides up-to-date information about our budget, programs, and events. For any further inquiries, our main office can be reached at 716-965-6539, and I can be contacted directly at joconnor@forestville.com.

We value your input and welcome your feedback on our budget and initiatives. Our school district is strengthened by the partnership we share with parents and the community, and we look forward to continuing to work together to provide the best education possible for our students. Thank you for your ongoing support of Forestville School.

Sincerely,
Dr. John O'Connor
Superintendent of Schools

Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Estimated Tax Levy			
2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$4,029,844	\$4,029,844	\$0	0%

Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation (Full Value)			
2022-2023	2022-2023	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$14.15	\$14.15	\$0	0%



Vote! May 16, 2023
1 - 8 p.m.
In the elementary school cafeteria

Proposed 2023-2024 Revenues

Tax Levy

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$4,029,844	\$4,029,844	\$0	0%

State Aid

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$7,974,866	\$8,533,804	\$558,938	7.0%

Other Revenue

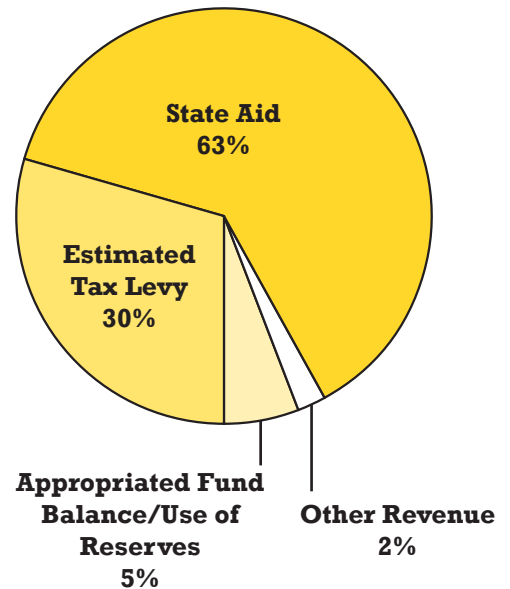
2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$307,615	\$307,615	0	0

Appropriated Fund Balance/Use of Reserves

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$1,196,435	\$772,584	(\$423,851)	- 61%

TOTAL REVENUE

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$12,312,325	\$12,871,263	\$558,938	4.5 %



Proposed 2023-2024 Expenditures

Program Component \$9,291,709

The Program Component represents the largest portion of expenditures. This component maintains all current programs and services and supports the District's mission and vision. This component provides funding for instruction and educational support services for all students. Transportation, health, library, co-curricular activities, and athletics are also included in this component.

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$9,358,121	\$9,291,709	\$(66,412)	-0.49%

Capital Component \$2,590,224

The Capital Component includes costs associated with the operation and maintenance of District facilities, including utilities, building and equipment repairs, and grounds maintenance. Funds are also included for principal and interest payments on capital projects.

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$2,477,023	\$2,590,224	\$113,202	0.83%

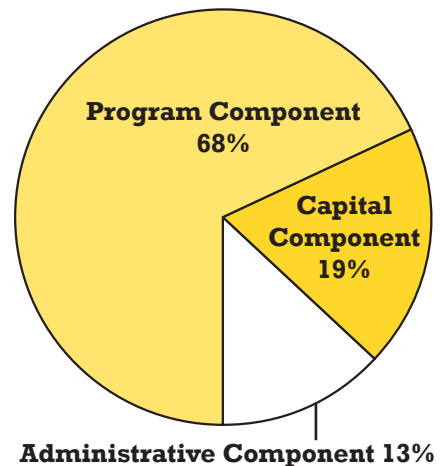
Administrative Component \$1,761,914

The Administrative Component provides for the general support and management of the school buildings and the District.

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$1,673,617	\$1,761,914	\$88,297	0.65%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)	% Change
\$13,508,760	\$13,643,847	\$135,087	1.00%



Voting Information

The 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

Budget and Board of Education Election

Proposition #1

The budget proposition would authorize the appropriation of \$13,643,847. to meet estimated school district expenditures for the 2023-2024 school year. This represents an increase of 1.0% compared to the 2023-2023 adopted budget. Adoption of this budget would result in anticipated tax levy increase of 0% which is within the limits of property tax cap as calculate within the accordance with Chapter 97 of the Laws of New York and qualifying homes will be eligible for the state's Star rebate.

Proposition #2

Bus Purchase

The bus purchase proposition seeks voter approval to purchase 2 (two) 2023 Blue Bird Vision 65-passenger buses at an estimated cost of \$317,703.

Board of Education Election

Voters will elect two members to the Board of Education. The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term to commence on July 1, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2027.



Voter Registration Reminder

1. A citizen of the U. S.
2. Eighteen years of age or older
3. A resident of the Forestville Central School District for a period of 30 days or more preceding the annual vote and election.

Voting Process

Your vote will be accepted using an optical scanning voting machine. Please vote on May 16.

Absentee Ballot Procedures

Absentee ballots for the Budget Vote/Board Member Election will be available by application to the District Clerk's Office for any qualified voter who will be unable to vote in person due to illness or physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration (unless incarcerated for conviction of a felony), or travel outside the District for employment or business reasons, studies or vacation on the day of the vote/election.

Applications for absentee ballots will be available from the District Clerk's Office on or after April 17, 2023. Applications must be received by the District Clerk by May 9, 2023 to be processed by mail or by 3:30 p.m. on May 13, 2023, in person. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Office, by mail or in person, prior to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 to be counted.

2023-2024 Budget Vote

May 16, 2023

1-8 p.m.

**Elementary School Cafeteria
(Parking is available in
the back parking lot)**

Principal's Message



Daniel Grande
MS/HS Principal

As the school year comes to a close, we are excited to announce the upcoming activities planned for our students at Forestville Central Schools.

On May 18th, we will host a Spring Concert for our middle and high school students. It will be an opportunity for our talented students to showcase their musical abilities, and for our community to come together and enjoy some great music.

Our senior class has worked hard all year and will be rewarded with a trip to Cedar Point and Holiday Valley Sky High Adventure Park. We are proud of our seniors and wish them all the best as they embark on their next journey.

Towards the end of May, our high schoolers will participate in a Mock DWI assembly, organized by the Chautauqua County Sheriff Department and Mercy Flight. We are grateful to have such valuable organizations in our community and appreciate their efforts to educate our students on the dangers of driving while intoxicated.

On June 3, our junior and senior students will attend the highly anticipated prom. It will be a special night for our students to dress up and enjoy a memorable evening with their friends.

As we approach the end of the school year, we have organized a Class Night for our graduating seniors on June 9th. This event will provide an opportunity for our seniors to reflect on their high school experiences and celebrate their accomplishments with their classmates.

We would like to express our gratitude to our Senior Class advisors, Mr. and Mrs. LeBaron, and Mrs. VanZile. They have done an exceptional job as senior advisors for two consecutive years. We thank them for their unwavering support for both senior classes.

Finally, our students will be taking their Regents Exams in June. We wish them all the best of luck and know they have worked hard to prepare for these exams.

We are excited to finish the school year strong with our dedicated teachers and amazing students. Thank you to all of our parents and community members for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Daniel Grande, MS/HS Principal

'We Love Being Kind' - By Forestville Elementary Students

Forestville Elementary held a Published Party. Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Borello followed all the steps of writing from brainstorming to drafting, editing, and revising, and then shipped off their book to a publishing company.

The final product looks amazing. You can check out the hardcover book in the elementary library in the next week or so. The title is "We Love Being Kind."



Students Enjoyed Time On The Playground!



THE FORESTVILLE DISTRICT WILL AGAIN BE RUNNING A **SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

TO INCLUDE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS. WE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC OFFERINGS TOWARD THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

TENTATIVELY, THE SESSIONS WILL BE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

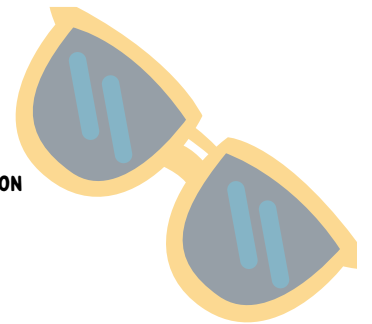
SESSION 1-JUNE 26-29, JULY 3, 5, 6, 7

SESSION 2-JULY 10-13, JULY 17-20

SESSION 3-JULY 24-27, JULY 31- AUGUST 3

FREE TO ALL FCS STUDENTS INCLUDING BREAKFAST AND LUNCH !!!!

MORE INFORMATION TO COME



Forestville Students Become Bucket Fillers

For the month of March, Ms. Bauer's counseling groups have been reading the book " " by Carol McCloud. Students created their own buckets to display and have been doing various activities to learn how to be bucket fillers. The book teaches that everyone in the world carries an invisible bucket. The bucket has one purpose - to hold your good thoughts and good feelings about yourself. We are happy when our buckets are full & sad and lonely when they are empty. A bucket filler is a loving, caring person who says and does nice things for others. They treat people with respect and kindness. A bucket dipper makes fun of others, does or says mean things and even ignores others. Bullying is bucket dipping too! Our daily goal is to fill up others buckets not dip into them.



Playyyyyyy Ball With Stella, Our Therapy Dog

Stella, our therapy dog, loves her elementary friends! Every Tuesday and Friday before dismissal Stella plays ball with students in the gym. Once the weather warms up, Stella will be ready to take the fun outside. Every student will be given the opportunity to play with Stella by the end of the school year.



Principal's Message



Dr. Galluzzo Charles
Interim Elementary
Principal

It has truly been an honor and privilege to be a part of the amazing team we have at Forestville Elementary. The 2022-2023 school year will be one to remember as we have had a full year of returning to a sense of normalcy. We had our middle school dance, participated in fun PARP activities, and watched our high school friends perform in a spectacular musical that debuted our very own third grade student Emma Ruffo in her first performance. We have tapped and made maple syrup and had fun socializing on the playground.

As we look ahead to the next few months, we have many things happening at the Elementary building. Our third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students will participate in NYS assessments in ELA and math. We are also planning on re-instituting field days in June as one of our end of year celebrations. Be sure to read the monthly calendars that will share information about end of the year activities/celebrations.

Dr. O'Connor and the faculty and staff committees will begin the process of selecting a new principal for the 2023-2024 school year and beyond. I am sure that they will be able to find an excellent candidate to carry on the traditions at our school and begin to create new traditions for the future.

I'll see you along the way!

Charlie Galluzzo
Interim Elementary Principal



Glen Colton Visits Forestville Elementary

Glen Colton visited the elementary students for a fun interactive assembly. Glen is a singer songwriter and music teacher that sang all about the importance of reading! All the kids had a blast. He even got Dr. Galluzzo and Dr. O'Connor in a hula hoop battle!



We are excited to be taking part in the Pick a Reading Partner Program (PARP) for this year. The theme for the year is Reading in Paradise.

The program encourages students to read at home for 15 minutes 5 out of 7 days a week as well as in school incentives.

We are so proud of how well all of our students have been doing in the program!



Forestville Bowling Teams Buzz To The Top!

Forestville boys bowling team finished sixth in Class D and 13th in Division II with an 803-786-824-902-802-857-4,974. Brayden Smith took 17th overall with a 223-229-213-202-202-203-1,272. Aydon Heim spun a 135-114-187-216-170-188-1,010, Troy Muck had a 940 series, Tyler Waugh threw a 910 set and Tucker Merritt had an 842 series for the Hornets. Great job to this awesome team!



The Forestville girls bowling team won the Section VI Class D championship on Wednesday at Airport Lanes. Pictured from left to right, are Forestville head coach Brenda Kerstetter, Aspen VanArsdale, Emily Lillie, Alexandra Kerstetter, Dakota VanArsdale, Mackenzy Graziano, Kaylee Adamczak and Tristian Olsen.



The Hills of Forestville Are Alive with The Sound of Music



Photos by Fabi Logan



<p>MAY 16</p> <p>3:00 P.M. - SOLD OUT</p>	<p>CHICKEN BBQ</p> <p> Forestville Central School District</p> <p>JUNIOR CLASS</p>	<p>\$12.00 PRESALE \$15.00 AT THE DOOR AT FORESTVILLE ELEMENTARY</p> <p>COME OUT AND VOTE!</p>
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Board of Education

Amy Drozdziel, President
 Andrea Spengler, Vice President
 Mervin Fry
 Michelle Merritt
 Derek Case
 Jamie Hebner
 Lindsey Ellis

Superintendent

Dr. John O'Connor
School Business Executive
 Kerrieann Pelletier
MS/HS Principal
 Daniel Grande
Interim Elementary Principal
 Dr. Charles Galluzzo
Director of Facilities
 James Knoop

Head Bus Driver

Michael Gajewski
Director of Technology
 Wesley Wright
Cook Manager
 Sarah LoManto
Athletic Director
 Scott Hazelton
District Clerk
 Kristin Irwin

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BOXHOLDER**Forestville, New York 14062****School District Budget Notice**

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 13,508,760	\$13,643,847	\$13,419,693
Increase/Decrease from the 2022-23 School Year		\$135,087	\$224,154
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.21%	1.00%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$4,029,844	\$4,029,844	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$4,029,844	\$4,029,844	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,229,844	\$4,119,463	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$4,029,844	\$4,029,844	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$200,000	\$89,619	
Administrative Component	\$1,673,617	\$1,761,914	\$1,752,161
Program Component	\$9,358,121	\$9,291,709	\$9,217,308
Capital Component	\$2,477,023	\$2,590,224	\$2,450,224
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. All appropriations for non-essential equipment will be eliminated. All appropriations for non-health and safety related capital improvements would be eliminated. All non-contractual increases will be eliminated.			
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			
		Description	Amount
		Acquisition of School Buses	\$317,703
			\$
			\$
			\$

Non-Discrimination

The Forestville Central School District does not discriminate in its employment and admission to programs and activities as applicable, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, veterans' status, political affiliation, domestic victim status, use of a guidedog, hearing dog or service dog, disability, or other classifications protected under federal or state law, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The designated district compliance officers will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, and the New York State Human Rights Law. The Forestville Central School District Compliance Officers are: Superintendent, 12 Water Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-6539, MS/HS Principal, 4 Academy Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-2711, Elementary Principal, 12 Water Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-2742. Complaints may also be filed with the Office for Civil Rights, New York Office, U.S. Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005-2500, phone (646) 428-3800, fax (646) 428-3843, or email OCR.NewYork@ed.gov

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Forestville Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held at Forestville Elementary School in said district on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**, prevailing time in the Forestville Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$511

Per Chapter 258, Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, a local Government Exemption Impact Report is attached to the proposed budget and is available for review on the school website at www.forestville.com.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Forestville central school district, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held at Forestville Elementary school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 1:00 pm prevailing time *OR* between the hours of 1:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Forestville Elementary school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.