



Onondaga Central Schools

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Tuesday,
May 20, 2025
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Rockwell Elementary School's
Gymnasium, 208 Rockwell Road,
Nedrow, NY

Jr./Sr. High School's Cafeteria
Lobby 4479 South Onondaga
Road, Nedrow, NY

Budget Facts

Proposed Budget

\$27,363,348

Year Over Year Increase

\$662,750 (2.48%)

Proposed School Tax Levy

\$11,413,032

Estimated Tax Levy Increase

2.75% Increase



Dear Stakeholders,

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to take a moment to share some insights and details regarding our financial planning for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

I am pleased to announce that we have finalized our budget for the upcoming school year, despite the New York State budget not yet being approved. This has demanded both adaptability and resourcefulness, but we are moving forward with unwavering confidence and determination.

This year, we have put considerable thought into our budget, focusing on responsible spending while ensuring that our students continue to receive a quality education. A key element of our budgeting approach has been influenced by declining enrollment. This decline in enrollment has enabled us to realize savings from unfilled teaching positions left open by retirements. By not immediately filling these vacancies, we are able to allocate resources more effectively while still maintaining the high educational standards Onondaga Central has always provided.

Additionally, our transportation department has proactively adjusted by reducing routes and optimizing driver assignments. This adjustment has achieved greater efficiency and significant cost savings, all while maintaining our commitment to student safety and reliable service. These strategic adjustments not only reflect our commitment to fiscal responsibility but also enable us to prioritize what matters most—student success.

Demonstrating our commitment to efficiency and sustainability, the proposed 2.75% tax levy increase—well below our 5% maximum under the tax cap law — will allow us to maintain current programs, meet contractual obligations and retain staff.

We are incredibly proud of our district's continued academic growth and accomplishments. This year, Onondaga Central achieved top scores in Onondaga County and New York State on the Math and U.S. History Regents exams—an outstanding reflection of our students' hard work and our educators' dedication. Our high school has also been recognized among the "Best High Schools" by U.S. News & World Report, a testament to the strength of our academic programs. Outside the classroom, our students excel in a variety of extracurricular activities—from acclaimed drama productions and participation in the Regional Spelling Bee Championship to a broad athletic program that empowers them to thrive at every level. Looking ahead, we are excited to strengthen our partnership with Le Moyne College through the Erie 21 program, which will offer expanded opportunities in technology and innovation, helping to prepare our students for the future in an ever-evolving world. Our commitment to academic excellence goes hand in hand with our dedication to student support and program development.

We remain dedicated to delivering high-quality educational experiences that serve all learners. This budget ensures continued investment in essential programs, student support services and meaningful opportunities that help our students thrive.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we will keep building an environment that empowers our students for successful futures.

Warm regards,

Rob Price

Rob Price,
Superintendent of Schools

WE GET YOU READY FOR LIFE.

Onondaga Central Hosts County Executive Ryan McMahon's 7th State of the County Address

Onondaga Central was honored to serve as the host site for Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon's 7th State of the County address, marking a proud moment for the district and community.

The Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School auditorium was filled with local dignitaries, community members and members of the press for the event. The evening began with an Opening Invocation by Pastor Decarto Draper, followed by a moment of distinction for OCS student and National Honor Society Secretary, Madelyn Schultz, who had the honor of leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adding to the district's pride, Onondaga County Legislator for the 11th District, Richard McCarron, a proud OCS resident, spoke about witnessing the district's growth and advancement firsthand before introducing Superintendent Rob Price to the stage.

A key reason OCS was selected as the venue for this year's address was to showcase Le Moyne College's ERIE 21 Technology Education Program, which has been transforming STEM learning opportunities for students. Thanks to a \$250,000 grant from Onondaga County last year, the program has expanded to include students from OCS and LaFayette Central School District, providing them with hands-on experiences in technology, engineering and innovation.



OCS is proud to be part of this groundbreaking initiative and looks forward to its continued success in preparing students for future careers in STEM fields.



For more information about the ERIE 21 program, check out this video featuring students and staff from the district. Visit the link: <https://youtu.be/Pysj3SIXFRs> or scan the QR code!



SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025

Orchard Vali Golf Club

9:15-9:45 a.m. Registration

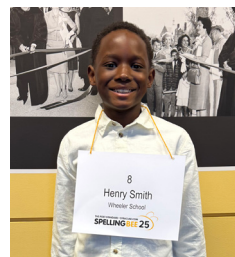
10 a.m. Shotgun Start

Buffet and Prizes to Follow

Cost: \$100 per golfer, \$65 per student golfer

Includes: Golf, Cart, Lunch, Dinner Buffet & Prizes

For more information, please contact Lisa Whitwell at 315-345-7218 or ocsefgolf@gmail.com



SMITH REPRESENTS WHEELER AT REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Wheeler Elementary's Henry Smith did a fabulous job representing Onondaga Central at the Regional Spelling Bee on March 22.

Smith persevered through multiple rounds of the bee, making it all the way to Round 5. An eighth-grader was declared the winner. OCS is very proud of Henry!

Onondaga Art Students See Their Work Touch Lives Across the Globe

This year, Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School's art students participated in The Memory Project for the 13th consecutive year, creating portraits to bring joy to children around the world. Under the guidance of Mrs. Passetti, the students crafted heartfelt portraits for children in India. Now, the children who received the portraits have shared their joy in a touching video sent back by The Memory Project!

The video is available for viewing on our website and shows the Indian children's smiles as they receive their personalized portraits. The heartfelt message of gratitude sent by the organization highlights the incredible impact these works of art have had on the recipients.

"The smiles on their faces say it all," said Mrs. Passetti. "It's such a meaningful way for our students to connect with others around the world through art and kindness."

The portraits were displayed at the Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School auditorium earlier this year before being shipped overseas. This global art exchange is a hallmark of The Memory Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding and kindness through youth art programs. Since 2004, more than 320,000 youth in 57 countries have been impacted by this initiative.



Onondaga students have made a difference in lives from Sierra Leone to India—and they're already looking forward to participating again next year.

For more information about The Memory Project, visit www.memoryproject.org.



SCAN FOR VIDEO

<https://vimeo.com/1057697654/1a811a36d7>

Employment Opportunities



Maintenance Worker II

OCS has a vacancy for the position of Maintenance Worker II. This civil service position is non-competitive but requires 5 years of full-time paid work experience in skilled maintenance and repair tasks in

at least one of the major trades, such as carpentry, plumbing, electric or HVAC. The work performed covers a wide variety of maintenance, repair and installation work, usually requiring a high degree of skill. Also required is possession of a valid NYS Non-CDL or CDL, including any special endorsements, as required for the type of vehicle being operated. This is a full-time probationary position. Deadline to apply is May 9, 2025. See the website for the application.

Substitute School Bus Driver or Bus Monitor

Retired? Looking for something to do or some extra money? Are you at least 21 years old? Do you have a driver's license? Do you like working with kids? Come see us and we will train you! We can get you ready for your road test or teach you how to assist special needs students on the bus. No experience necessary, but is always appreciated. Please call 315-552-5090 if interested.

Substitute Custodians

Generally needed for evening shift from four to eight hours at Rockwell, Wheeler and the Jr./Sr. High School. Some heavy lifting required. Training is provided. Contact 315-552-5090.

Substitute Teachers (*certified and uncertified*) and Substitute Teaching Assistant

If interested, please visit our website at onondagacsd.org for applications.

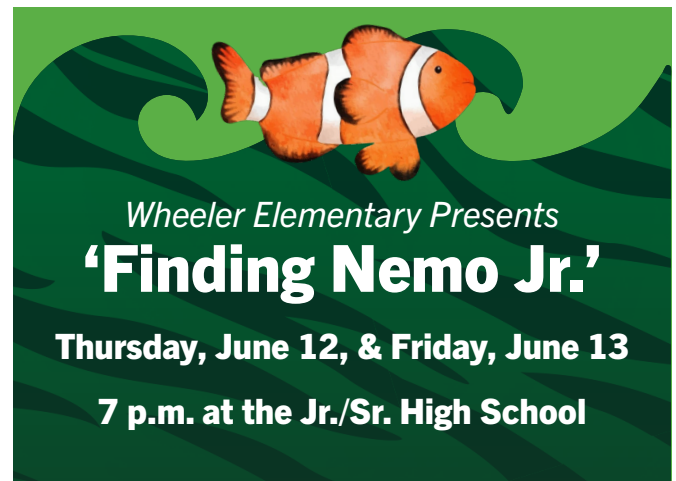


Rockwell Elementary Brings Learning to Life with “Scooter City” in PE Class

Rockwell Elementary’s Physical Education program recently transformed the gymnasium into an engaging and interactive “Scooter City,” offering students a creative and active way to learn and explore their community. This unique unit allowed students to navigate the gym’s imaginative streets on scooters while visiting various community landmarks.

The setup included stops at the mechanic’s shop, veterinarian clinic, bank, grocery store, car wash, gym, pizza and ice cream shop, DMV, post office, dance studio and gas station. Each station was designed to mimic real-world experiences, promoting physical activity, teamwork and an understanding of community roles. Even OCS Superintendent Rob Price took a tour of the “city.”

“The goal of Scooter City was to create a fun, hands-on learning experience where students could explore life skills and community interaction while staying active,” said Physical Education Teacher Nichole Demers. “The students’ enthusiasm and creativity truly brought the city to life.”



Pre-K Students Erupt with Excitement While Building Volcanoes

Learning was explosive at Rockwell Elementary as Pre-K students engaged in a hands-on volcano-building activity that brought science to life.

As part of their early STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education, young learners explored the fascinating world of volcanoes by constructing their own models using materials like baking soda, vinegar and dish soap. The classroom turned into a mini-laboratory as students watched in awe while their volcanoes erupted in bubbly “lava.”

The volcano project not only introduced basic science principles but also encouraged creativity, teamwork and problem-solving. By mixing and measuring ingredients, students developed early math skills while fostering a love for discovery.

☆ ☆ HONOR ROLL ☆ ☆

12TH GRADE:

Alaina Kelsey*
 Aliyah Mattox*
 Amieya Morman
 Bryan Hammond*
 Candace Robinson*
 Cindy Chen*
 Daelyn Cousineau*
 Damon Hollister Jr.*
 David Hunter, II*
 Deshea Lettsome*
 Ella Donath*
 Emanuel LaMacchia*
 Evan Catarisano
 Evelyne Mango*
 Gabrielle Davis*
 Hannah Schultz*
 Helena Foster*
 Jacob Rodriguez
 Jacob Volles*
 Jadin Vincent*
 Jaiden Bellinger
 Jasmine Taylor*
 Jesse Recor*
 John Abbott
 John Toomey
 John Welch
 Jordan Cheek*
 Jordan Holley*
 Kaydee Garafolo*
 Keahra Rodriguez*
 LaJada Grenton*
 Leah Schultz*
 Lina Hayes*
 Lindsay Fikes*
 Lucas McIntosh
 Mackenzie Schmidt*
 Maddox Yemma*
 Madelyn Schultz*
 Melissa Sanborn*
 Olivia Bloom*
 Richard Thousand III
 Ryan Troch*

Sahara Grady*
 Savannah Job
 Skylar Smith*
 Sylvana Adams*
 Tyson Bennett*

11TH GRADE:

Aaron Hall*
 Alex Crews*
 Amillia Carter
 Antonio Montulli*
 Avery Brasket*
 Benjamin Nett*
 Brysen Mayoral
 Carolyn Andino*
 David Pierce Jr.*
 Grace Mahoney*
 Howard Wright IV*
 Jack Burton*
 Jacob Braun
 Johnny Cannon V*
 Joshua Urbas
 Justin Moses*
 Kaleigha Fordyce
 MacKenna Cox*
 Madilynn Miller*
 Maxwell Brown*
 Michael LaRocco
 Nathan Doner*
 Nolan Morris
 Riley Mulligan*
 Ryan Victoriano*
 Sydney Boyer*
 Sydney Cox*
 Tessa Hill*
 Tucker Mckee
 Vasyi Prokopchuk*
 Yoselin Palacios
 Ramirez*
 Zachary Wilhelm

10TH GRADE:

Abigael Freyer*
 Addison O'Dell
 Adeline Spencer*
 Amani Donze*
 Anna Spies*
 Brian Murphy
 Bryce Mattison
 Ciera Smidga
 Derrick Knittel
 Emalie Rhyant*
 Grace Pierce*
 Jacob Burton
 Jamere Smith Jr.*
 Jayden Keane*
 Jesse Ryan
 Kaleb Mayotte-Woods
 Kendal Marsh*
 Knoll McCoy*
 Lena Spies*
 Lyla Kobasa
 Madison Knapp*
 Madison Szabo
 Mariana Frazier*
 Mayerli Gomez Mejia
 Nih' Jawn Adams
 Nolan Cousineau
 Olivia Fox
 Raun Gabriel, Jr.*
 Reed Luton*
 Savanah Trotman
 Sean Miller, Jr.
 Sydney Fiaschetti
 Theodore Hourigan*
 Trevor Hunter*
 Tyler Haines*
 William Fikes
 William Hughes*
 Zanai Wright*

9TH GRADE:

Ariana Toro*
 Brooklyn Searle*
 Colton Cummings*
 Cooper Smorol*
 Daniel Abdurakhmanov
 Ella Mumford*
 Francesca Lasinski*
 Gavin Dixie*
 Ian Powell*
 Jackson Lehmann*
 Jacob Wadsworth
 Jakari Hill*
 James Gemmell*
 Jorden Hill*
 Kevanie Clarke*
 Logan Dixie
 Lucas Allen*
 Lucy Fowler
 Macie Barbuto*
 Quan'Dai BOWENS
 Tucker Steeprock*
 Unique Reeves
 Zachary Boyer

8TH GRADE:

Addison Shute
 Aden Finlay*
 Alexandra Foster*
 Allison Pierce*
 Andrew Hourigan*
 Anthony Polge*
 Arlena Charette
 Aubrey Kallfelz*
 August Moore*
 Avery Kelsey*
 Bobby Baxter III*
 Brayden Hourigan*
 Carson King*
 Colton Spencer*
 Coralena Relles*
 Damian Massey
 Dashawn Richardson*

David Tkachenko*
 Ella Lettsome*
 Emily Fikes*
 Gabriel Cage
 Gianna Hughes
 Hunter Hass
 Iceiz White*
 Illia Kyslyak*
 Jacob Kelsey*
 Jameson Conners
 Kaelyn Donaghy
 Lillian Scheve*
 Madison Mulligan*
 Madison Ryan*
 Miles Welch*
 Nathan Pulver
 Nayanis Cruz Pagan*
 Nevaeh Shepherd*
 Nicholas Kelsey
 Paityn Zarnowski
 Paul Corrente*
 Penelope Veri
 Preston Marhelis
 Quinn Burns*
 Rosemarie Andino*
 Ryan Kobasa*
 Sean Patterson*
 Shahriaz Meah*
 Taylor Hourigan*
 Teto Kgalemang*
 Violet Greene*
 Zion Sanders*

7TH GRADE:

Addison Palmer*
 Aeliana Gemmell*
 Alvin Torres*
 Andrew Millett*
 Aryanna Hardwick*
 Austin Murphy*
 Bennett Lehmann
 Brayden Murphy*
 Bryce Hudson*

Bryson Cox*
 Callin Conway*
 Carter Hunt*
 Charlotte Berger*
 Clara Braun*
 Colin Phillips*
 Connor Samson
 Daniel Corrice, Jr.*
 David Phinney
 Easton Hosler*
 Egan McCoy
 Epiphany Bey-Wright*
 Evan Taylor*
 Evelina Marhelis*
 Grace Batschelet*
 Isabella Gowing*
 James Bergman*
 Jansen Brooks*
 Jayden Campbell*
 Jeannette Vonderweidt*
 Johanna Clafin
 Julia Berger*
 Kara Adams*
 Kylie Forest*
 Liam Luchsinger*
 Logan Luchsinger*
 Madison Burns*
 Mason Decker*
 Matthew Lasinski*
 Ne'vaeh Pimentel*
 Samantha Kudlick*
 Shane Nelson*
 Sophie Cox*
 Stanislav Klekochko*
 Theodore Price*
 Vincent Sicignano*
 Weston Maloney*
 Willa Luton*
 William Cryslar*
 Winter Romano

* Indicates High Honor Roll



OCS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PERFORMS AHEAD OF SYRACUSE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School Band recently had the honor of performing in the lobby before a Syracuse Symphony Orchestra concert. This special opportunity allowed the talented young musicians to showcase their skills and passion for music in front of an appreciative audience.

OCS Students' Art on Display at Baltimore Woods Nature Center

The Baltimore Woods Nature Center hosts an exhibition of artwork in May, and student work from Onondaga Central students is included. This annual event celebrates the creativity and talent of young artists in the community.

The student artwork featured by OCS in this collection will be:

- » "Theo's Portrait" by Madison Szabo, Grade 10
- » "Red Gondola" by Benjamin Nett, Grade 11
- » "Mushrooms" by Lilyann Ziebarth, Grade 11
- » "Nymph Protecting the Woods" by Sylvana Adams, Grade 12
- » "Butterfly Jar" by Riley Mulligan, Grade 11
- » "Frog Jar" by Quan'Dai Bowens, Grade 9

Visitors can explore the exhibit during Baltimore Woods Nature Center's regular hours from May 3 to May 30. Admission is free, though donations to support the nature center's programs are welcome.

Baltimore Woods Nature Center is located at 4007 Bishop Hill Road, Marcellus, NY. For more information about the exhibition, please visit their website.



Pre-K Students Run a 'Farm'

Rockwell Elementary pre-k students had a blast learning all about farm animals. From cows and pigs to chickens and goats, the kids got a hands-on, sensory experience discovering how these animals contribute to our daily lives.

OCS Athletes Shine with Outstanding Achievements in Winter Track

The OCS Tigers roared with pride as two of their star athletes achieved remarkable milestones in winter track.

Emily Ryan hit an indoor track individual high jump record.

Jake Burton placed 3rd place in Section 3 D2 Wrestling Championship and NYS Wrestling championship qualifier.

Reed Luton finished in 3rd place at the Cross Country Section 3 Championships; the team finished 5th overall. He was First Team All-Section 3 and finished 21st in the NYSPHSAA Cross-Country Class C Championship.

Keahra Rodriguez qualified for the state championship in the triple jump, showcasing her incredible talent and hard work. Her dedication and perseverance earned her a spot among the state's elite competitors.



Ben Nett set a new OCS winter track record in the pole vault with an impressive height of 11 feet, 6 inches. His exceptional performance cements his place in school history and inspires fellow Tigers to aim high.

Congratulations to Keahra and Ben for their outstanding accomplishments. The OCS community is proud of your hard work and success.

OCS Achieves 100% Proficiency on Algebra State Exam

Onondaga Central is proud to announce an incredible milestone: 100% proficiency on the Algebra State Exam. This achievement highlights the outstanding dedication and hard work of students, teachers, and staff throughout the district.

This accomplishment is not just about the impressive exam results; it is a reflection of the collaborative spirit that defines OCS. Every member of our school community—whether in the classroom, providing support services, or managing operations—plays a vital role in fostering an environment where our students can thrive.

The success of our students extends far beyond assessments, reflecting the daily interactions, encouragement and support that drive our students' academic growth. Together, our collective efforts make a lasting impact on the educational journey of each student in the district.



Rockwell Elementary Students Celebrate 100 Days of School with Fun and Learning

Rockwell Elementary students and staff came together to celebrate the milestone of 100 days of school with an exciting array of activities that blended learning and fun.

The celebration brought smiles, teamwork and a sense of accomplishment to students and staff alike, reminding everyone of the exciting journey ahead for the rest of the school year.





Onondaga Central Jr/Sr High School Students Brought “Mean Girls” to Life on Stage

Onondaga Drama Club dazzled audiences with its hilarious and heartwarming production of *Mean Girls* at the Jr./Sr. High School.

Based on the iconic 2004 film, *Mean Girls* told the story of Cady Heron, a homeschooled teenager who navigated the treacherous social hierarchy of high school. When she fell prey to the Plastics, the school’s reigning clique, Cady had to choose between popularity and her true self.

Audiences were treated to a dazzling array of catchy songs, witty dialogue, and fabulous costumes as the talented cast

brought Regina George, Gretchen Wieners, Karen Smith and the rest of the unforgettable characters to life.

Mean Girls was a must-see for anyone who ever felt like an outsider, craved acceptance, or simply enjoyed a good laugh.

The show featured an incredible cast and crew, whose hard work and dedication made the production an unforgettable experience.

CAST LIST

Cady Heron: Deshea Lettsome *
Damien: Lindsay Fikes *
Janis: Sydney Boyer *
Regina: Mac Schmidt *
Gretchen: Carolyn Andino
Karen: Gracie Mahoney
Aaron: Colton Cummings
Ms. Norbury: Riley Mulligan
Kevin G: Jeremiah Hammond *
Mrs. George: Frankie Lasinski
Mr. Duvall: Adan Cruz *
Mrs. Heron/Lizzie/Rachel: Lina Hayes *
Dance Captain
Coach Carr: Maxwell Brown
Caitlyn: Rosie Andino
French Teacher/Taylor Weddell/Grace: Abigaël Freyer
Mr. Heron/Martin/Shane: Ben Nett

STAGE & TECH CREW

Sylvana Adams * (*Stage Manager*)
 Jordyn Carter
 Nayanis Cruz-Pagan
 William Freyer
 Alex Foster
 Helena Foster * (*Stage Manager*)
 Kaydee Garafolo *
 Jordan Holley *
 Christian Lasinski
 Ella Lettsome
 Madison Mulligan
 Ian Powell
 Lily Ziebarth
Artistic Direction: Jackie Passetti
Technical Direction: Rob Cormier
Directed and Produced by: Patty Cormier
Costumes by: Kim Lasinski

Choreography by: Aidan Blaylock, Sydney Boyer *, Patricia Cormier, Santana Cummings, Lina Hayes *, Frankie Lasinski, Kim Lasinski, Deshea Lettsome *, Grace Mahoney, Riley Mulligan, and Mac Schmidt *

ENSEMBLE

Kara Adams	Aubrey Kallfelz
Madison Burns	Matthew Lasinski
Quinn Burns	Alex O'Rourke
Kylie Forest	Allie Pierce
Lucy Fowler	Teddy Price
Jorden Hill	Coral Relles
Tessa Hill	Addison Shute
Carter Hunt	

**Class of 2025, Senior Class*

Onondaga Central High School Student Council Reaches Blood Drive Goals, Awards Scholarships

The Onondaga Central Jr./Sr. High School Student Council is thrilled to announce the success of their recent blood drive and extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated. Thanks to the generosity of donors, 21 units of life-saving blood were collected during this round, including contributions from 8 first-time donors.

With this achievement, OCS has met its annual goal of a minimum of 50 total donations across three blood drives, a milestone that will enable the school to award multiple Red Cross scholarships to graduating seniors this year.

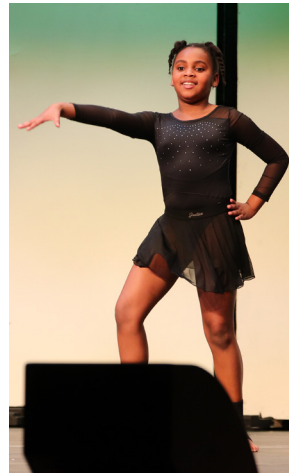
“Every donation has the potential to impact up to three lives,” said Social Studies Teacher Kristi Delgado. “We are so grateful to our community for rolling up their sleeves and



making a difference for hospitals and patients in need. This accomplishment reflects the power of coming together for a common cause.”

Whether donors were first-timers or regular participants, their contributions played a vital role in supporting the Red Cross's mission to provide life-saving blood to those in need.

The Student Council is already looking ahead to the fall for their next blood drive and invites the community to join them again in making a life-changing impact.



Wheeler Elementary Showcases Annual “Wheeler’s Got Talent”

Wheeler Elementary School proudly showcased the creativity and talent of its students at the highly-anticipated “Wheeler’s Got Talent” annual event.

The evening brought together students, families and staff to celebrate a wide range of performances, highlighting the unique skills, creativity and growing confidence of Wheeler’s youngsters.

From stunning dance routines and heartfelt songs to captivating instrumentalists and laugh-out-loud comedy acts, the talent on display was nothing short of inspiring.

Students from all grades participated, each demonstrating the courage and self-assurance to perform in front of a supportive audience.

The evening was a huge success, drawing a packed audience of family members and friends who cheered on the performers. The event not only celebrated individual talents but also created an atmosphere of encouragement and school spirit, with group choral and band pieces.

A full album of photos can be viewed on the District’s Facebook page.

Two Students Inducted into NTHS

Onondaga Central proudly recognizes two outstanding students, James Corrente and Lina Hayes, for their induction into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) on April 10 at the OCM BOCES Cortlandville Campus. The ceremony, held in the McEvoy Auditorium, celebrated students' academic achievements, strong character and success in hands-on, career-focused programs.

Corrente and Hayes have exemplified the core values of NTHS: respect, honesty, skill, responsibility, leadership, service and citizenship. To be eligible for this prestigious honor, students must maintain a GPA of 85 or higher, demonstrate excellent attendance and exhibit a commitment to these values. Their hard work and dedication reflect the high standards of Onondaga Central.



Rockwell School Shines Bright for World Autism Awareness Month

Rockwell School united in celebration of World Autism Awareness Month, spreading kindness, understanding and acceptance throughout the community.

Students and staff joined together to highlight the importance of inclusion and support for individuals with autism, showcasing the school's commitment to fostering an environment where everyone can thrive.

Students Love Winnie the Therapy Dog

Winnie Sindone, an adorable F1B Goldendoodle, has quickly become a beloved member of the school community, bringing joy, comfort and support to students and staff alike.

Since her introduction to Rockwell and Wheeler Elementary Schools, Winnie has seamlessly integrated into the school environment and is now working full-time alongside Mrs. Sindone. Her presence has had a noticeable positive impact, fostering a calming atmosphere, reducing stress and enhancing social interactions among students.

Winnie's hypoallergenic nature—75% poodle and 25% golden retriever—has made her an ideal fit for the school setting. Whether offering quiet companionship during reading sessions or simply spreading happiness in the hallways, Winnie's contributions to the schools are noticed.



Rockwell Elementary's Spring Sing

Rockwell Elementary celebrated 'Music in Our Schools' month with its annual Spring Sing on Friday, March 28. Each grade level showcased their talents, singing a special song during the Morning Program.

Thank you to our amazing students and staff for a fantastic event that brought music and joy to our school community.



Onondaga Central Celebrates Creativity at Night of the Arts

The Onondaga Central Jr./Sr. High School recently came alive with creativity and talent during its annual Night of the Arts event. This engaging celebration showcased the remarkable artistic and musical achievements of the district's students, leaving attendees inspired and impressed.

Visitors were welcomed by an extraordinary art exhibition that transformed the school's halls into a vibrant gallery. Paintings, drawings and mixed media works adorned the walls, while intricate sculptures and 3D art pieces captivated onlookers with their detail and creativity.

The event's atmosphere was further enriched by live performances from the school's talented choral groups and instrumental ensembles.

The Night of the Arts coincides with two nationally recognized celebrations: Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM) and Youth Art Month (YAM). These initiatives highlight the essential role of arts education in schools.

A full album is available on our Facebook page.



Senior High Chorus Shines at the Syracuse Crunch

Our talented Senior High Chorus wowed the crowd with a stunning performance of "God Bless America" during a Syracuse Crunch game. Special shoutout to Jerimiah Hammond, who saved the day (and our section) by catching a stray puck with his bare hands. Talk about quick reflexes!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-LEAGUE HONOREES:

Sydney Cox - 1st Team All-League

Lajada Grenton - 2nd Team All-League

Kendal Marsh - Honorable Mention All-League

We're so proud of your hard work and dedication on and off the court!



OCS Fire Club Explores History and Heroism in Philadelphia

The OCS Fire Club recently embarked on an unforgettable educational journey to Philadelphia, immersing themselves in the rich history of both firefighting and naval service.

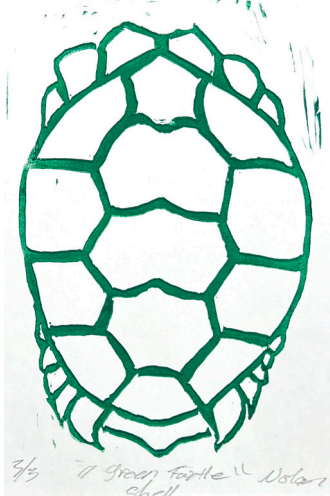
The adventure began with a visit to the Battleship New Jersey Museum, where students stepped aboard the most decorated battleship in U.S. history. As they explored its decks, they gained firsthand insight into the daily lives of sailors, the ship's storied past and the challenges faced by those who served at sea.

Next, the group delved into firefighting history at the Fireman's Hall Museum, where they traced the evolution of the fire service, dating back to its roots with Benjamin Franklin. Students learned about the advancements in fire safety and the unwavering dedication of firefighters throughout history.

A highlight of the trip was a special visit to Engine 8 and Truck 2 of the Philadelphia Fire Department, where professional firefighters took time to share their experiences, demonstrate equipment, and answer questions—offering students a real-world perspective on the bravery and skill required in their line of work.

Beyond these hands-on learning experiences, students also had the chance to explore Philadelphia's most iconic landmarks, including the Liberty Bell and the Rocky Statue.

With 50 enthusiastic students taking part, the trip was a resounding success, fostering a deeper appreciation for both history and public service. The OCS Fire Club looks forward to more experiences that inspire and educate future generations.



Onondaga Central Student Artwork Featured in "Student Art - Naturally" Exhibit

Onondaga Central is proud to announce that student artwork from our district will be featured in "Student Art - Naturally," an exhibit sponsored by Region 3 of the New York State Art Teachers Association.

This special exhibit, showcasing nature-themed artwork created by local students in grades 6-12, was on display at Beaver Lake Nature Center. Art teachers were invited to submit up to eight works each, highlighting the creativity and artistic talents of their students.

The exhibit concluded with an Artists' Reception on Sunday, April 27, where participating students will be honored with certificates recognizing their achievements. Family, friends and community members are invited to attend and celebrate these young artists.

Entries (displayed left to right):

1. "Jelli Belli" by Amillia Carter, Grade 11, block print
2. "Sunset Hibiscus" by Kendal Marsh, Grade 10, block print
3. "Fish" by Ally Coyne, Grade 10, block print
4. "Green Turtle Shell" by Nolan Cousineau, Grade 10, block print
5. "Orchids" by Daelyn Cousineau, Grade 12, block print
6. "Leaves On Water" by Isabella Roundtree, Grade 9, watercolor
7. "Autumn Leaves" by Olivia Woods, Grade 9, watercolor

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

BOYS' WINTER TRACK

Nih'Jawn Adams
Adan Cruz
Raun Gabriel Jr.
Tyler Haines
Bryan Hammond
Emanuel LaMacchia
Reed Luton
Benjamin Nett
Ian Powell
Grant Gates
CC McClary
Tate Sullivan

GIRLS' WINTER TRACK

Olivia Bloom
Gabrielle Davis
Kennedy Harmatuk
Alaina Kelsey
Deshea Lettsome
Ella Mumford
Emalie Rhyant
Keahra Rodriguez
Mackenzie Schmidt
Hannah Schultz
Leah Schultz
Madelyn Schultz

Skylar Smith
Adeline Spencer
Joselyn Garcia
Ryan Ortlieb
Claire Zehner

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Maxwell Brown
Jordan Cheek
Justin Moses
Howard Wright IV

HOCKEY

David Pierce

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Macie Barbuto
Sydney Cox
Amani Donze
LaJada Grenton
Lyla Kobasa
Kendal Marsh
Zanai Wright
Madison Ryan

WRESTLING

Colton Cummings
Knoll McCoy



NYSPHSAA Recognizes OCS for Commitment to Sportsmanship

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) is proud to announce the completion of the Sportsmanship Promotion Survey by OCS, an initiative designed to promote and evaluate positive sportsmanship within high school athletic programs across the state.

Onondaga Central has demonstrated a meaningful commitment to fostering respectful and supportive athletic environments. As part of this recognition, the district has received a Sportsmanship Certificate, acknowledging their efforts to enhance sportsmanship policies, procedures and programs.



RODRIGUEZ SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT

OCS Senior Keahra Rodriguez signed her letter of intent to attend the University of Akron for Track and Field. We are very proud!

"WHERE THE MONEY GOES"

PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026

CATEGORY	2024-2025 BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	PERCENT INC/DEC
Board of Education <i>Board of Education, District Clerk, Budget Meeting</i>	\$20,780	\$20,780	\$0	0.0%
Central Administration <i>District Office</i>	\$348,443	\$373,450	\$25,007	7.2%
Finance <i>Business Office, Independent Auditor, Tax Collection, Fiscal Agent Fee, Treasurer</i>	\$420,087	\$433,023	\$12,936	3.1%
Staff <i>Legal Services, Personnel and Public Relations</i>	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$0	0.0%
Maintenance	\$2,200,024	\$2,283,298	\$83,274	3.8%
Central Services <i>Printing Operations, Admin, Computers and SRO's</i>	\$339,500	\$426,145	\$86,645	25.5%
Special Items <i>Liability Insurance, BOCES Rent and Administration, Unclassified</i>	\$215,950	\$233,467	\$17,517	8.1%
Admin. Improvement <i>Principals, Clerical Staff, BOCES Services, SRO In-Service Training</i>	\$803,689	\$821,388	\$17,699	2.2%
Teaching	\$9,249,707	\$9,141,967	(\$107,740)	-1.2%
Instructional Media	\$992,600	\$1,082,513	\$89,913	9.1%
Pupil Services <i>Guidance, Health & Psychological Services, Co-curricular Activities, Athletics</i>	\$1,593,917	\$1,682,710	\$88,793	5.6%
Transportation <i>Student local and out-of-district transportation and Bus Garage</i>	\$1,843,322	\$1,888,716	\$45,394	2.5%
Employee Benefits	\$5,140,214	\$5,336,646	\$196,432	3.8%
Debt Service <i>10-Year Bonds, 5-Year Bonds, Tax Anticipation</i>	\$3,436,365	\$3,543,245	\$106,880	3.1%
Total Budget	\$26,700,598	\$27,363,348	\$662,750	2.48%
General Support	\$3,640,784	\$3,866,163	\$225,379	6.2%
Instruction	\$14,483,235	\$14,617,294	\$134,059	0.9%
Undistributed	\$8,576,579	\$8,879,891	\$303,312	3.5%

**PLEASE
VOTE!**

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

7:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Rockwell Gymnasium

Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

PUBLIC HEARING /

INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

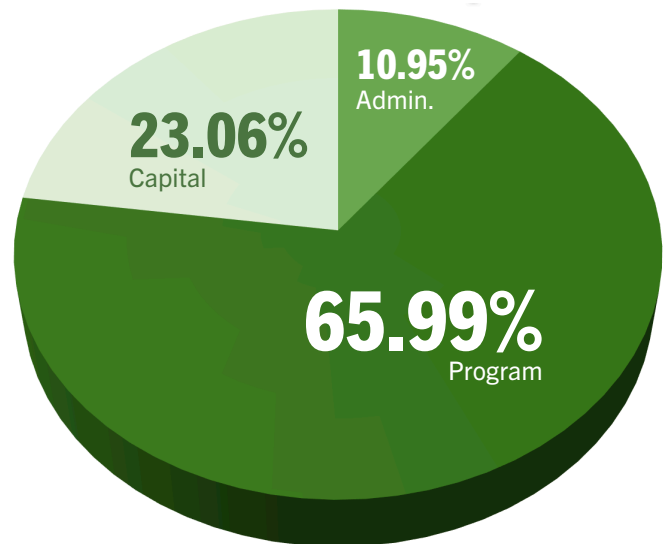
Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

CATEGORY	3-PART BUDGET	BENEFITS	TOTAL 3-PART	2025-2026 PROPOSED	2024-2025 BUDGET
Administration	\$2,404,253	\$591,702	\$2,995,955	10.95%	10.40%
Program	\$13,795,905	\$4,261,347	\$18,057,252	65.99%	66.78%
Capital	\$5,826,543	\$483,598	\$6,310,141	23.06%	22.82%
Total	\$22,026,701	\$5,336,647	\$27,363,348	100.00%	100.00%

Administrative Costs include the salaries and benefits of all certified staff who spend 50% or more of their time in administration, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also, school board costs, curriculum development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing and BOCES administrative costs.

Program Costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library, and athletics). Also, textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

Capital Costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, utilities and general insurance.



EXAMPLE TAX BILL CALCULATION

ON A \$100,000 HOME LOCATED IN ONONDAGA AT A 2.75% TAX LEVY INCREASE



2024-2025 TAX BILL

House Assessment Value		100,000.00
Divided by:	/	1,000.00
\$1,000 of Assessed		100.00
Multiplied by Projected Tax Rate	X	30.319426
Proj. Tax Bill Without Basic STAR		\$3,031.94
Subtract Actual Basic STAR Amount	-	\$644.89
Final Projected Tax Bill		\$2,387.05



PROJECTED 2025-2026 TAX BILL

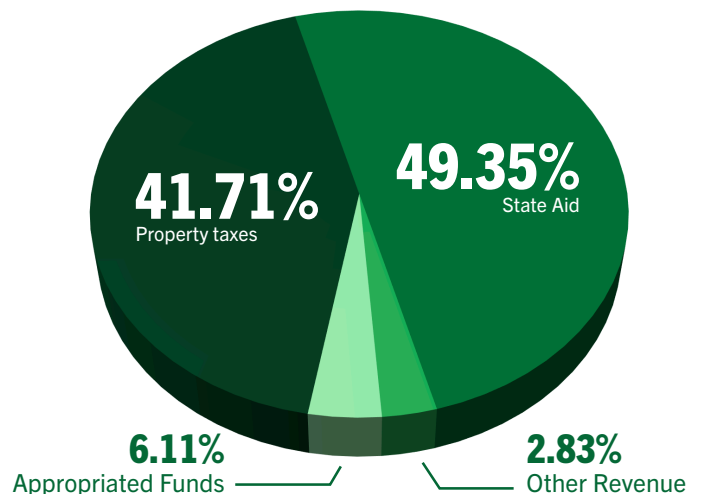
House Assessment Value		100,000.00
Divided by:	/	1,000.00
\$1,000 of Assessed		100.00
Multiplied by Projected Tax Rate	X	31.17071
Proj. Tax Bill Without Basic STAR		\$3,117.07
Subtract Max. Basic STAR Amount	-	\$645.00
Final Projected Tax Bill		\$2,472.07

PROJECTED YEAR OVER YEAR ANNUAL INCREASE: \$85.02

SUMMARY OF BUDGETED REVENUES

PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026

	2024-2025	2025-2026	\$ CHANGE
PROPERTY TAXES			
Property Tax including STAR	\$11,107,260	\$11,413,032	\$305,772
STATE AID			
Foundation Aid, Building Aid, Special Education	\$9,742,542	\$10,274,668	\$532,126
Transportation	\$1,909,044	\$1,957,706	\$48,662
BOCES Aid	\$1,314,789	\$1,195,680	\$(119,109)
Textbook, Library, Hardware, Software	\$76,070	\$75,151	\$(919)
Total State Aid	\$13,042,445	\$13,503,205	\$460,760
OTHER REVENUES			
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$707,879	\$776,000	\$68,121
APPROPRIATED RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE			
Employee Retirement Reserve	\$370,000	\$400,000	\$30,000
Teachers Retirement Reserve	\$380,000	\$170,000	\$(210,000)
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$0
Unemployment Reserve	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$833,014	\$841,111	\$8,097
Appropriated Fund Balance and Reserve Total	\$1,843,014	\$1,671,111	\$(171,903)
Total Revenues	\$26,700,598	\$27,363,348	\$662,750



	BUDGET TO BUDGET % CHANGE	\$ CHANGE IN TAX RATE PER \$1000	% CHANGE IN TAX RATE	INFLATION
2015-16	2.65%	\$0.44	1.57%	1.62%
2016-17	1.45%	\$(0.18)	-0.65%	0.12%
2017-18	2.01%	\$0.10	0.36%	1.26%
2018-19	1.13%	\$(1.10)	-3.86%	2.13%
2019-20	4.05%	\$(0.01)	-0.02%	2.44%
2020-21	2.41%	\$0.24	0.89%	1.81%
2021-22	2.61%	\$0.41	1.50%	1.23%
2022-23	7.31%	\$0.63	2.26%	4.70%
2023-24	3.72%	\$1.18	4.13%	8.00%
2024-25	3.45%	\$0.53	1.77%	4.12%
2025-26	2.48%	\$0.85	2.81%	2.95%

This historical comparison highlights a fiscally responsible approach to budgeting over the past decade. Despite modest annual budget increases, the tax rate has remained relatively stable—with several years of reductions—and consistently outpaced by inflation. Notably, even during years of significant inflation, such as 2022–2024, tax rate increases were moderate, reflecting a balanced commitment to essential services while minimizing taxpayer burden.



WELCOME NEW OCS TEAM MEMBERS!



BUDGET NOTICE

PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 26,700,598	\$ 27,363,348	\$ 27,057,576
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 662,750	\$ 356,978
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.48%	1.34%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 11,107,260	\$ 11,413,032	
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)	\$ 11,107,260	\$ 11,413,032	\$ 11,107,260
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 268,864	\$ 334,331	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 10,838,396	\$ 11,078,691	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 10,838,396	\$ 11,078,691	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 2,778,002	\$ 2,995,955	\$ 2,819,184
Program Component	\$ 17,829,756	\$ 18,057,252	\$ 18,092,350
Capital Component	\$ 6,092,840	\$ 6,310,141	\$ 6,146,042
*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
Description	Amount		
Library	\$ 64,998		
	\$		
	\$		
** 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)			

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 645

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Onondaga Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at Rockwell Elementary School and Junior/Senior High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

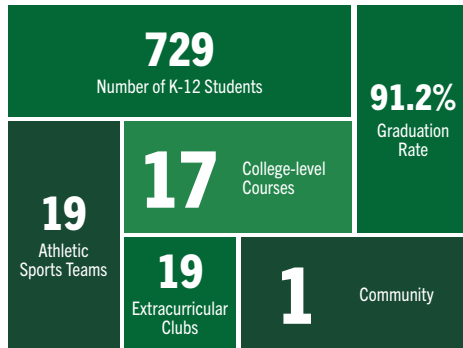
1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

CONTINGENT BUDGETS

If residents vote down the proposed budget, the Board of Education has two options:

1. Resubmit the same budget or a revised budget for a revote.
2. Adopt a contingent budget, which state law now dictates cannot exceed the current year's tax levy. (If residents vote down a re-submitted budget, the district MUST adopt a contingent budget.)

What's a contingent budget? Unlike in years past, the new statute requires contingent budgets to carry a ZERO percent increase over the current year's levy. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year or less – without any adjustment for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, mandated or not. It also means all “non-contingent expenses” would have to be cut from the budget. These include field trips for social or entertainment purposes, new equipment, non-essential maintenance spending and some student supplies.



HONORING OUR UNIFIED EFFORT

We are thrilled to announce that Onondaga CSD is one of three school districts tied for highest proficiency mark in Onondaga County, achieving proficiency levels of 95% or better on the U.S. History and Government Regents. The state had data on history Regents results for a total of 631 districts across NY.

From the classroom to behind-the-scenes support, every role contributes to building a community where students are empowered to grow and succeed. This is a moment to reflect on the incredible impact of our collective effort. Thank you for bringing your best to everything you do. Together, we're transforming lives and creating a brighter future for our students.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Onondaga Central School Community challenges individual maximum potential, prides itself on success and prepares contributing citizens for life.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

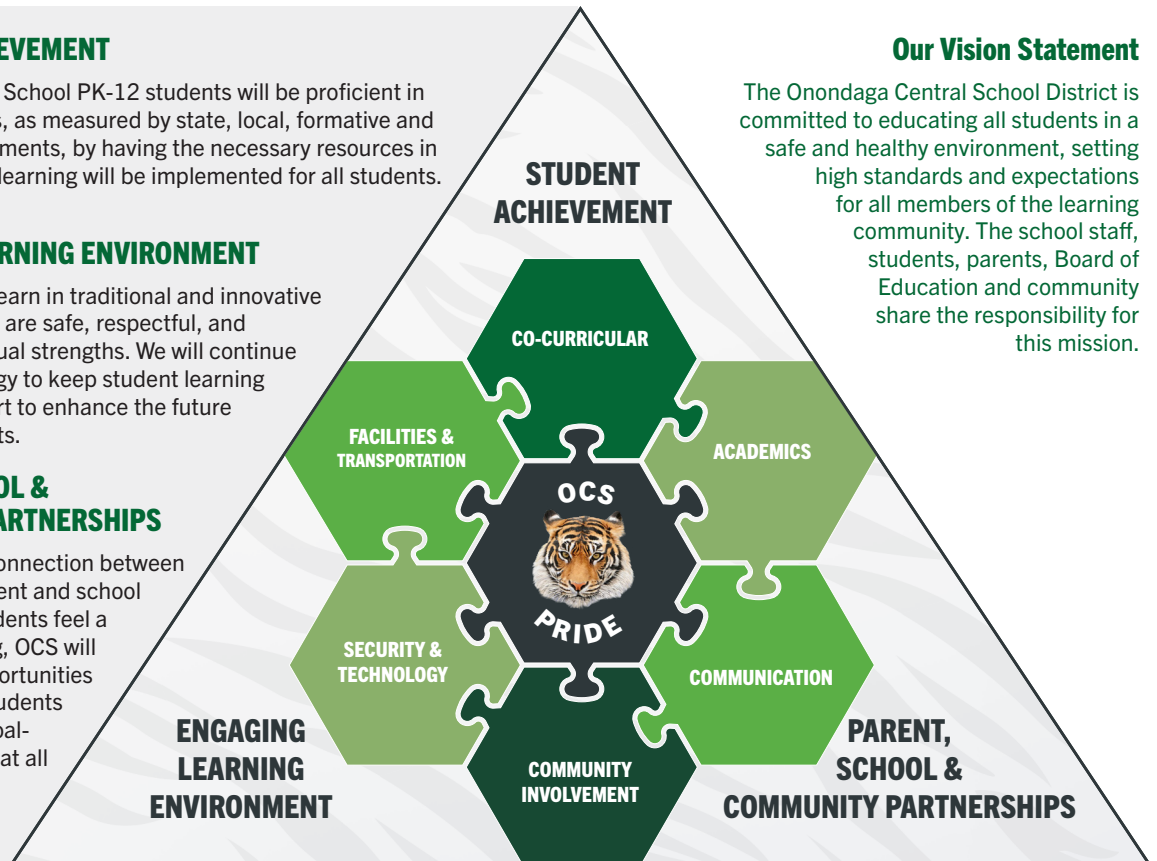
Onondaga Central School PK-12 students will be proficient in all curricular areas, as measured by state, local, formative and summative assessments, by having the necessary resources in place and service learning will be implemented for all students.

ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our students will learn in traditional and innovative environments that are safe, respectful, and encourage individual strengths. We will continue to utilize technology to keep student learning relevant in an effort to enhance the future success of students.

PARENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing the connection between student achievement and school success when students feel a sense of belonging, OCS will communicate opportunities for families and students to participate in goal-oriented activities at all grade levels.



Our Vision Statement

The Onondaga Central School District is committed to educating all students in a safe and healthy environment, setting high standards and expectations for all members of the learning community. The school staff, students, parents, Board of Education and community share the responsibility for this mission.



Jason Baleno: Jason Baleno, a lifelong South Onondaga resident and OCS Class of '93 graduate, is a dedicated father, first responder, and advocate for our schools. After graduation, he went on to earn his degree in Civil Engineering and Construction Management from Clarkson University. Today, he and his wife, Kristen, are proud parents of two daughters, Kylee and Alyssa, both of whom currently attend OCS.

For over three decades, Jason has been a pillar of service in Onondaga County. He's a 33-year active member of the South Onondaga Fire Department, currently serving as Assistant Chief, and a 29-year member of the county's search and rescue team, where he has served as coordinator for the past 12 years. His leadership, grounded in experience and integrity, extends to everything he does.

Now, Jason is ready to bring that same hands-on leadership to the OCS Board of Education. His focus? Getting back to the basics, championing real results for students, and fostering healthier, more balanced lives for children and youth. Known for his "no-nonsense" approach, Jason believes in cutting through red tape and prioritizing what matters most: our kids.

Outside of his community work, Jason enjoys spending time with his family, relaxing at their Adirondack camp, and staying active with hiking and kayaking.

Rooted in service and driven by purpose, Jason Baleno is committed to making OCS a better place for all students.



Jamie Burton: Hardworking, genuine, and always ready to lend a hand, Jamie Burton is the kind of person who shows up for his neighbors and his community. A lifelong resident of South Onondaga and a third-generation OCS graduate (Class of '93), Jamie takes pride in continuing his family's strong connection to the district. Today, he and his wife, Danielle, are raising the next generation: Jack, Jake, and Jimmy.

Jamie has been coaching with the OCS Youth Wrestling Program since 2013, supporting student-athletes with the same dedication he brings to everything he does. A 25-year veteran firefighter with the City of Syracuse Fire Department, Jamie serves full-time while also running Burton Farms on Bussey Road—a true testament to his work ethic.

He's running for the Board of Education to make a difference where it matters most: in our schools, for our kids. Jamie believes in practical solutions, honest communication, and doing what's right. He's not a politician—he's a parent, a coach, a farmer, and a public servant who knows this community inside and out.

When he's not working, you'll find him outdoors with family and friends—camping, hunting, fishing, riding ATVs, or woodworking in his shop. Jamie and his family are also active members of Saint Patrick's Church in Otisco.

Jamie Burton is all in for OCS. He's ready to represent families with heart, honesty, and a strong sense of purpose.



Erik Nelson: A lifelong resident of South Onondaga, Erik Nelson is deeply connected to the Onondaga Central School District. He and his wife, Jessica, are proud OCS graduates, and their four children—Shane, Avery, Ashlyn, and Kole—are current OCS students. As a parent and small business owner, Erik is passionate about the future of our schools.

Erik has long served his community as Chief of the South Onondaga Fire Department, a coach in the SOAL baseball program, and as coordinator and coach of Onondaga Youth Wrestling. Whether on the field, on the mat, or responding to a call, Erik shows up with integrity, dedication, and a deep care for others.

Now, he's running for the Board of Education to bring a common-sense, student-first approach to the table. He values transparency, cutting through red tape, and making decisions that prioritize kids, families, and educators.

When he's not coaching or on call, Erik enjoys time with his family, relaxing at their Lake Ontario camp, and being outdoors.

With a heart for service and a voice for families, Erik Nelson is ready to advocate for what matters most—our children, our schools, and our community.



Maggie Mahoney: Maggie's roots run deep in Onondaga Central. A 1987 graduate, she understands the values and aspirations of our community because she lives them. Currently residing in the home she grew up in (4585 Abbey Rd), alongside her mother and nearly 17-year-old daughter. While navigating personal challenges, including the recent loss of her stepfather, she remains steadfast in her dedication to public service. She has demonstrated she's willing to put in the necessary work and her meeting attendance is near 100% (which is approximately 20 meetings annually for board members and 40 meetings annually for officers).

Her professional background is a testament to her ability to advocate for others. From her long tenure at Verizon to her impactful roles with IBEW Local 43, 1199SEIU, and now as Office Manager for UA Local 81, Maggie has consistently championed the needs of working families. Her extensive union experience, including roles as Assistant Business

Manager/Business Agent, Unit Chairperson, and Steward, demonstrates her ability to negotiate, collaborate, and deliver results.

Maggie is a single mom and believes that elected representatives should come from all walks of life to best represent the interests of a diverse community such as ours. She understands the value of collaboration and will continue to strongly advocate for our children and the District. She will work to balance the needs of the District as a whole (students, faculty/ staff, and the community) to ensure everyone's needs are met to the best of our ability. If re-elected this will be her fourth term and while on the board, she has served as Vice-President and President. She looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve our community as a Board of Education member in the Onondaga Central School District. You may contact Maggie via email at mmahoney@onondagacsd.org or 315-727-7707 (cell/ text).



Justin Polly: Justin Polly has lived on Everingham Road in Nedrow for the past 10 years. His incredible wife Kasey (McHale) Polly was an OCS grad class of 2004 and has been a part of the OCS community her entire life. Justin and Kasey are proud to be raising Jackson, a third generation OCS Tiger who is currently in 1st Grade at Rockwell. His mom, Debra retired from teaching in 2021 and is currently a sub at Rockwell. Justin himself is a third generation educator, teaching 9th and 11th grade Social Studies at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. He is also director of the FM Fall Play, and advisor of the Improv Club, Thespians International,

and National History Day. He has a MS in Special Education from Le Moyne College, a BA in History from Le Moyne, an AA from OCC, and his high school diploma from Jackson Hole High School in Jackson, Wyoming. Justin would bring his experiences as a parent, teacher, taxpayer, and extra curricular advisor to the OCS School Board. His goal would be to help foster an educational environment that students, parents, teachers, faculty members, and community members from all walks of life would be proud to be associated with.



Tara Carter-Lettsome: Tara Carter-Lettsome and her husband Deshea live in Tabitha Creek with 4 of their 5 children. Their children have attended all 3 schools. Their oldest, Malik graduated in 2019. They have 4 children in the Onondaga Central School District. Deshea is in 12th grade, Jayda's in 11th, Carter's in 9th, and Ella's in 8th.

Tara graduated from Thomas J Corcoran High School in 1992. She has a BA in Health and Human Services from The State University of New York at Buffalo and a Master's in Business Administration from Medaille College. She was a stay at home mom for the past 14 years but decided to return to Syracuse City School District last February. During her time as a stay at home mom she served on the executive board for the Valley Stallions Football and Cheer Organization as their scholastic coordinator. In 2019-2020, she helped

coordinate the 5th and 6th grade boys' and girls' basketball program for Wheeler Elementary. Prior to that she worked as a substitute teacher and a teaching assistant for the Syracuse City School District. She has lived in the district for 18 years.

"I will have children attending these schools for 4 more years so I have an interest in keeping our district great. They are very involved in a variety of activities. They're in sports, band, chorus, drama, and several after school clubs. So I know the importance of trying to have our students well rounded. With my own children I have experienced a range of academic levels. I feel that I would be a good fit to continue on the board because of these reasons. I also believe that because the district has become more diverse that the board should represent that diversity."

ONONDAGA CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
4466 South Onondaga Road
Nedrow, NY 13120
315-552-5000
FAX 315-552-5005
onondagacsd.org

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BOARD OF EDUCATION
Maggie Mahoney, President
Michael Kobasa, Vice President
Laurel Bennett
Tara Carter-Lettsome
Noelle Relles
Kyle Kolwaite
Nathaniel Brown

Rob Price, Superintendent of Schools

PROPOSITION I » BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of the Onondaga Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefor?

PROPOSITION II » LIBRARY

Shall the Onondaga Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$64,998 (which is an increase of \$1,893 from the levy in effect from 2024-2025 in the sum of \$63,105) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by the Onondaga Free Library historically supported by the Onondaga Central School District?

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- » Must be a citizen of the United States
- » Must be eighteen (18) years of age
- » Must be a resident of the OCS District for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to May 20, 2025

PROPOSITION III » CAPITAL RESERVE

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a new ten-year capital reserve pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, inclusive of investment earnings, to be used for renovations and additions to all District facilities, including purchase of equipment, technology upgrades, classroom equipment and/or school infrastructure equipment, site development, athletic field and playground improvements, storm and sanitary sewer, driveways, and parking lots, such reserve fund to be funded from year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund, (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT CLERK NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON MAY 20, 2025.

Options for Early Mail Voting (NEW) and Absentee Voting: Early Mail voting provides the ability to vote by mail in lieu of voting in person, by absentee ballot, or by military ballot. Residents who will not be in the area on May 20, 2025 may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office. If the early/absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 20, 2025. Early/Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

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