

“THE QUOTE”

www.westirondequoit.org

May 2023

Special District Budget Edition

Quick Facts:	\$4.41	Estimated Tax Rate decrease per \$1,000 assessed value
	7.60%	Budget Increase
	2.30%	Tax Levy Increase, within allowable tax cap

From Superintendent, Aaron Johnson

It is easy to miss the inconspicuous brass plaque resting atop a brick pillar by the flagpole in front of Listwood. It reads: *Buildings Speak ... They say to students that you and your future are important. We must listen.* Dr. Glenn Wachter.

In what continues to be a rapidly changing world, the wisdom of former West Irondequoit CSD Superintendent, Dr. Wachter, couldn't be more evident. Students and our schools are the future and the lifeblood of our community.

As the Board of Education and district embarked on developing the 2023-24 budget plan, they were guided by this goal: Create a safe, comprehensive and robust educational experience in which every child finds comfort and a place where their unique talents and personality are valued. Thanks to the support of our community and a highly skilled and dedicated staff, our students deliver year after year on that promise. Education, and youth, are West Irondequoit's prime investments, and it shows.

Being fiscally sound and financially responsible is a core commitment at the heart of the budget planning process. With rising inflation and the stress of local reassessments, maintaining this commitment continues to be of primary importance. Again, this year's budget plan falls within the state's tax cap calculation, helping us maintain a 12-year average tax levy increase of 2.15%, and our per pupil spending remains second-lowest in Monroe County (16th out of 17 districts). Statistics like this make our district one of the



Two new, age-appropriate playgrounds for our middle schools are part of the district's proposed Capital Project. Learn more in the insert to this newsletter.

top values in the area and, as we know, a desired community to raise a family.

This is the final year of New York State's commitment to fully fund foundation aide, the largest portion of NYS school aid. This is important to know because after this year it has been forecasted that schools will receive limited state aid increases for the foreseeable future. This point was a key consideration in our budget development. As a result, we were cautious in adding and including additional reoccurring costs to the proposed budget.

Districts like ours must address fundamental concerns about school safety, learning loss, and growing social, emotional and mental health needs. In some years, we have been forced to make concessions that have impacted infrastructure, safety, support services, and our continuum of services because of the lack of state funding. As a best practice, we analyzed our programs, including instruction, operations, safety and security, and student services, over the past few years. We have begun restoring services to the levels needed by today's standards. This year has included reinstating the Director of Safety and Security, additional security and mental health support, expanding self-contained and

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Proposed 2023-24 Revenue Budget

Revenue	2022-23	2023-24 (est.)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Local Property Tax	42,503,672	43,479,852	976,180	2.3%	49.0%
Foundation Aid	24,359,067	31,780,312	7,421,245	30.5%	35.8%
Expense Driven Aid	6,452,367	5,457,218	(995,149)	-15.4%	6.2%
Building Aid	3,453,834	2,471,442	(982,392)	-28.4%	2.8%
Sales Tax	3,700,000	3,800,000	100,000	2.7%	4.3%
Misc. Revenues	1,253,350	1,401,147	147,797	11.8%	1.6%
Interfund Transfer	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Fund Balance	681,633	300,000	(381,633)	-56.0%	0.3%
Reserve: Unemployment	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Reserve: Worker's Comp	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Reserve: Retirement	-	-	-	-	0.0%
TOTAL	\$82,403,923	\$88,689,971	\$6,286,048	7.6%	100.0%

Proposed 2023-24 Expense Budget

Expenses	2022-23	2023-24 (proposed)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Central Services	\$2,917,336	\$3,030,927	\$113,591	3.9%	3.4%
Operations and Maintenance	\$8,115,394	\$9,705,739	\$1,590,345	19.6%	10.9%
Curriculum and Supervision	\$3,043,361	\$3,293,352	\$249,991	8.2%	3.7%
Instruction and Student Programs	\$39,728,376	\$43,375,293	\$3,646,917	9.2%	48.9%
Fuel and Contract Transportation	\$3,360,126	\$4,054,346	\$694,220	20.7%	4.6%
Debt Service (Mortgage)	\$2,842,200	\$1,564,600	-\$1,277,600	-45.0%	1.8%
Employee Benefits (Health, Retirement, FICA, Disability)	\$22,007,130	\$22,555,714	\$548,584	2.5%	25.4%
Interfund Transfers	\$390,000	\$410,000	\$20,000	5.1%	0.5%
Funding of Capital Reserve	-	\$700,000	-	-	0.8%
TOTAL	\$82,403,923	\$88,689,971	\$5,586,048	6.8%	100.0%

Vote Tuesday, May 16, 2023 — 6 AM to 9 PM

St. Paul Blvd. Fire Department, 433 Cooper Road

Proposed Tax Levy Increase: 2.30%

TAX LEVY

Projected Tax Levy \$43,479,852
 Projected Rate per \$1000 Assessed Value \$24.81

The amount of money needed to balance the budget between expenditures and all other revenue. It is the total amount of revenue raised through property taxes.

STAR Savings

Basic \$771
 Enhanced \$1,789

BUDGET DETAILS

Budget information is on our website, www.westirondequoit.org. Look for the "May 2023 Budget and School Vote Information" box on the main page. For more information, call (585) 342-5500.

Expenditures in Three Components

TOTAL BUDGET = \$88,689,971

11.9%
OF BUDGET

Administrative
\$10,586,952

Provides general support and management for the District

- Board of Education and Superintendent's Office
- Finance, Personnel and Public Information
- Technology infrastructure
- Legal services and liability insurance
- Auditing services
- Curriculum development
- Supervision of the schools by principals and assistant principals

14%
OF BUDGET

Capital
\$12,388,433

Maintaining the infrastructure and facilities for the District

- Upkeep of 134 acres of District property
- Maintenance of 10 schools and 8 additional buildings
- Utility bills (natural gas, electric, fuel, telephone)
- Refund of property tax claims
- Principal and interest payments on District debt for previous capital improvements

74.1%
OF BUDGET

Program
\$65,714,586

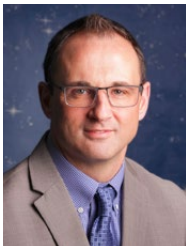
Provides instruction and support services to schools

- General education faculty and staff
- Special education faculty and staff
- Co-curricular and extra-curricular programs
- Transportation
- Health services
- Guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists
- School supplies, textbooks, library books, software, instructional computers

What if the district budget is not approved by voters?

A simple majority vote is required for the proposed budget to be approved, as the proposal meets the acceptable tax levy threshold for West Irondequoit with a 2.30% tax levy increase. The Board of Education could propose one more budget for voter approval, or it could elect to adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget cannot contain a tax levy that is greater than the levy of the previous year. [»](#)

Superintendent's Message *continued from cover*



Dr. Aaron Johnson

integrated classroom options at the elementary grades, and rethinking our support for instructional technology and our infrastructure.

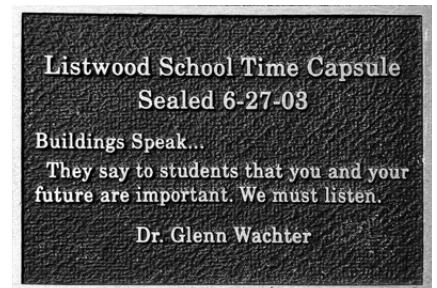
Also included on the May 16 ballot is a \$19 million Capital Project proposition addressing essential infrastructure, safety needs and program improvements. We call it the R.I.S.E Project (Reimagine-Inspire-Secure-Educate) and it's important to note that it will not increase your tax bill by a single cent. Please read more about it on the center insert of this newsletter or the district website, but some highlights include creating a second-story, enclosed bridge between Dake Junior High School and IHS and fortifying classroom doors. Both enhance safety. Replacing select aging rooftop HVAC units, upgrading Library Media Centers and adding age-appropriate middle school playgrounds are also part of the R.I.S.E. Project.

Our buildings have spoken. They need attention and the R.I.S.E. Project will begin to address that and more.

Every year offers a chance to recognize our children's importance in the future of our community, state and nation. Whether or not you're a household with school-aged children, today's youth are tomorrow's doctors, nurses, lawyers, technicians, scholars, scientists, musicians and more.

If Irondequoit is to fulfill its motto of being "a town for a lifetime," we must start by providing for our most precious asset, our children.

In partnership,
Aaron R. Johnson, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools



Board of Education Candidates

Two candidates are running for two seats on the Board of Education. The seven-member board is made up of community volunteers who serve three-year terms. All candidate biographical information appears in *The Quote* as it was submitted by each candidate. Names will appear on the ballot in the following order as drawn by lottery.



John T. Vay

25 Parr Circle
585-269-9490
johntvay@gmail.com

Age: 55

Family:

Spouse – Colleen Vay, Rogers Middle School teacher for 26 years, Son – T.J., 2016 IHS graduate, Daughter – Maggie, 2019 IHS

graduate, Daughter – Becca, 2020 IHS graduate

Occupation:

Manager, Clinical Engineering, University of Rochester Medical Center

Education:

Degree from Simmons School of Mortuary Science
NYS Licensed Funeral Director
Apprenticeship from Kodak in Electrical Instrumentation

Community Involvement:

- West Irondequoit CSD Board of Education member since 2007
- West Irondequoit CSD Board of Education President 2017-20
- West Irondequoit CSD Board liaison to Helmer Nature Center
- IHS Lacrosse Booster club member
- Helmer Nature Center member
- St. Kateri Parish member

Candidate Statement:

“The West Irondequoit CSD is one that I know very well. I am a 1986 graduate of IHS. My son, TJ, graduated from IHS in 2016, my daughter Maggie in 2019 and my daughter Becca in 2020. My wife has been a teacher at Rogers Middle School since 1997. I, myself, have been on the Board of Education in West Irondequoit since 2007. I believe I have experience that can help our district combat the challenges COVID brought on. A major challenge we are facing is learning loss. I believe I can use my experience to help our district focus on helping students with their academic and social-emotional needs. I believe BOE members need to be thoughtful, responsive, reflective, and knowledgeable. It is important for a board member to be able to work with others, to ask important, thoughtful questions and make decisions based on what is best for our students, and our community. I have done that for 16 years and will continue to do that in the next three years.”



Victoria Bournival

17 Mount Marcy Drive
585-683-1044
victoria.bournival@gmail.com

Age: 39

Family:

Spouse – Shane Bournival
Son – Maxwell; Dake Jr. High, 8th grade
Son – Jackson; Rogers Middle, 6th grade
Daughter – Isabelle; Brookview, 2nd grade

Occupation:

Associate Director of Talent/Retention/HR at St. Ann’s Community

Education:

HRCI, Senior Professional of Human Resources Certification
BS Organizational Management, Roberts Wesleyan

Community Involvement:

- Board Member for Irondequoit Chamber of Commerce
- Junior Achievement volunteer teacher
- United Way Champion volunteer
- Various school activities/events
- DEI Committee Member for St. Ann’s Committee
- Exploring Racism Community Program member
- Employer Resource Network Committee Member

Candidate Statement:

“I aspire to become a West Irondequoit School Board member because I am very passionate about supporting education and providing life skills the children of our community need in order to be successful in the classroom and as our future workforce. I am also passionate in working with local legislators to advocate for our district to receive proper funding to help support our educational programs. My goal is to apply my Human Resource and advocacy knowledge and volunteer experiences to support the rigorous work of providing our children with the high-quality education they deserve, along with being a good steward of the school budget finances. I am asking for your support at the upcoming district vote and would be honored to serve you so I can ensure all the children of our community receive the education and advocacy they deserve.”

WATCH CANDIDATES’ NIGHT

Candidates’ Night is Monday, May 8 at 6:30 PM in the Campus Center (small cafeteria at Irondequoit High School). To watch a video replay of the 2023 West Irondequoit Central PTSA Candidates’ Night after May 8, go to the district YouTube channel at bit.ly/WICSD_YouTube.

A Living History: Students learn from local veterans

On March 29th, more than 80 Irondequoit High School students spent more than two hours speaking in small groups in the IHS Media Center with 36 local veterans from different branches of the military. The first-of-its-kind IHS event was called, “A Living History,” by social studies teacher, Amanda Janas-Tramonto.

A few years ago on TV, she saw a similar event and contacted the California school about it. Her vision and hard work brought it to our district. “We are putting a face to the history that we talk about in class,” she said.

“It’s fun to talk (with students). It takes you back to when you were young,” said Navy veteran Donald J. Wilbert. “Nobody ever did this for us.”

Originally scheduled for March of 2020, the event was postponed due to COVID-19. Thankfully, Janas-Tramonto saved her copious notes and contact information. “I think this is a great opportunity, not only for myself and other veterans, but I think it’s a great opportunity for the kids,” said local Vietnam veteran, Mr. Patrick Hoover.

You can watch a video story on the event on the district YouTube channel. Just search “West Irondequoit CSD” on YouTube.. [📺](#)



IHS sophomores Natalee Sinclair, Abby Bowen and Penelope Paredes spoke during the “A Living History” event with C.P. Maloney, a veteran and 1965 graduate of IHS.

WICSD Senior Citizen Gold Card Program

West Irondequoit residents who are at least 62 years old are invited to join our Gold Card Program. The card is free and entitles holders to:

- Discounted fees for select Community Education courses
- The opportunity to participate in the Senior Lap Swim Program at a discounted rate
- A special invitation and free admission to select student theater performances

- A special invitation to our Senior Citizen Dinner Theatre
- Free admission to regular-season home sports events

Please call the Public Information Office at 585-336-3067 with questions about events or the Community Education Office at 336-3014 with questions about adult classes and opportunities. [📺](#)



Mamma Mia... what a show!

The IHS Spring musical “Mamma Mia!” in March attracted near-sellout crowds for four nights, including the annual Senior Citizen Dinner Preview, and Sunday afternoon show. The IHS Spring Comedy “Southern Hospitality” is June 1-3 at 7 p.m. in the Irwin Center for the Performing Arts.

2023-24 Budget Objectives

Development of the 2023-24 budget centered on the following objectives:

- Balance enrollment changes at grade levels to maintain class sizes
- Continue to follow Special Education mandates
- Align our curriculum and instruction resources as stated in the Strategic Plan
- Restore elements of the budget that had been reduced in the past
- Maintain a sustainable 5-Year Financial Plan while staying within the Tax Levy Cap.

The continued restoration of Foundation Aid and its promise to provide a predictable and sustained revenue source for the District has allowed for the right sizing of budget elements and meeting targeted staffing objectives identified in our department functional

reviews. For Instructional Technology, the 2023-24 budget includes a Senior Network Technician. The inclusion of this important position will enhance the cyber security of our networks and maintain a high level of satisfaction with our 1:1 computer initiative. The budget also includes funds for the addition of up to three special educators for our ICT program at 7-12 to meet student needs and ensure compliance with special education mandates.

The budget also includes \$100,000 for a Capital Outlay Exclusion Project (COEP) to make improvements at Seneca elementary school. The proposed project will address classroom and corridor doors to improve lockdowns without compromising fire egress routes. There also will be flooring replacement and associated asbestos abatement. We anticipate receiving more than \$80,000 in state aid on this project, for the following budget year. 📄

West Irondequoit Gives Back

Whether it's junior-high students raking leaves on Veterans' Day, high school sports teams or business students raising money for good causes and students making food such as lasagnas to give to those in need, West Irondequoit gives back. Here are three more below:

Adam Milne Game

The 21st annual Adam Milne faculty basketball game in March honored the former IHS teacher who died of leukemia and raised \$3,583 for three charities. Money was donated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Michael J. Fox Foundation (\$1,416.50 each) and to the American Diabetes Association (\$750).

Freezin' for a Reason

On Sunday, February 5th, more than 20 students and staff members were among the thousands who participated in the annual Polar Plunge at Ontario Beach State Park. Through community donations, we raised more than \$4,600 for Special Olympics New York.

Kids Heart Challenge

Students in all six elementary students participated in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge again this school year and West Irondequoit increased its donation total to \$15,287.30! Thank you to our students and physical education teachers, Renée Gould, Brian Maginn and Kyle Trevas, who led the effort and our community! Students learn how to keep a healthy heart, spread that message to others and they earn prizes based on their donation amount. 📄



The Irondequoit Icy Eagles at the Polar Plunge.



Physical education teachers, from left to right, Kyle Trevas, Brian Maginn, and Renée Gould pose with elementary students from all six of our K-3 schools after being honored at a Board of Education meeting for their great effort on the Kids Heart Challenge!

The R-I-S-E Project



Reimagine — Inspire — Secure — Educate

This project has **NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT** on District residents and businesses.

Over the past few years, the West Irondequoit Central School District has analyzed the state of our facilities, infrastructure and learning spaces. After working with strategic partners and gathering community feedback, we have developed a long-range vision for a multi-phased Capital Improvement Plan. The first leg in that plan is the R-I-S-E Project that is being proposed on May 16.

We recognize that to provide the best learning opportunities for our students, we must also be considerate of our taxpayers. This project will accomplish much-needed renovations in our schools with **NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT** on District residents and businesses. That is the result of smart planning, fiscal responsibility, and leveraging our capital reserves and available state building aid to fully fund the project.

The R-I-S-E Project will make dramatic improvements to areas of need in our District. It will revolutionize outdated Library Media Centers, bringing us up to speed with other schools. It will enhance safety and security in a variety of ways and help us make necessary upgrades to facilities and systems that need it. It will improve our schools and the learning experience for students, staff and our community. We invite you to attend the School Budget Hearing on May 4 to learn more about the R-I-S-E Project. You may also email any questions to public_info@westiron.monroe.edu. Please read on to learn more about the project. Cast your vote at the St. Paul Fire Department on May 16.



A second-story bridge would connect Dake and IHS.
An enclosed walkway will improve safety so students will no longer need to exit to change buildings.

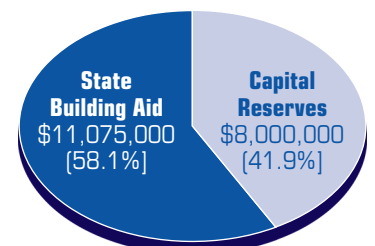
Project Components At A Glance

- Bridge connecting Irondequoit High School to Dake Junior High School
- Playground additions at Rogers-Southlawn & Iroquois schools
- Library Media Center renovations at Rogers-Southlawn & Iroquois
- Mechanical system replacements (HVAC) at IHS, Dake, Rogers-Southlawn
- Interior door and hardware replacements at Dake & Iroquois
- Lighting and stage rigging replacements at IHS Auditorium
- Renovations at Lakeview site for Dept. of Environmental Services relocation



Project Financing

The total referendum amount for the scope of work that is being proposed in the R-I-S-E Project is \$19,075,000. Due to careful project planning and consideration of our taxpayers, the proposed project's financing plan would be tax neutral, resulting in **no additional tax impact** on District residents and businesses. The proposed project will be paid for using a combination of available State Building Aid and \$8,000,000 from the District's capital reserves, which are designated to be used specifically for capital improvements.



Funding Sources
No additional tax impact

Anticipated Timeline

REFERENDUM
MAY 16, 2023

SED SUBMISSION
OCTOBER 2023

CONSTRUCTION
BEGINS SPRING 2024

SUBSTANTIAL
COMPLETION
FALL 2025

PROJECT PLANNING

DESIGN
PHASE

SED
REVIEW

BID

CONSTRUCTION

Project Highlights

Bridge Connector/Walkway

An enclosed walkway bridge connecting Irondequoit High School to Dake Junior High School was initially planned to be included in our 2003 Capital Improvement Project. It was tabled due to funding limitations, and we are now able to revisit and accomplish this need. An enclosed, second-story walkway will improve safety and security so students will no longer need to exit and re-enter to change buildings.

Playgrounds at Rogers and Iroquois

Our six K-3 playgrounds were replaced as part of our last Capital Project in 2018. The R-I-S-E Project will allow for new, age-appropriate playgrounds to be provided for grades 4-6.

Library & Media Center Upgrades

The library and media center areas at Rogers-Southlawn and Iroquois schools will be re-imagined and renovated to provide Makerspaces and support our growing STEAM programs. In addition to reconfiguring and redesigning these program spaces, they will also be outfitted with more innovative and modernized learning tools and resources to complement our book collections.



New 4th-6th Grade Playgrounds



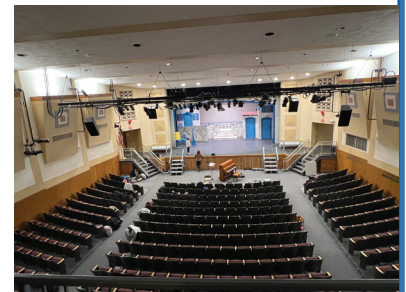
School Library Renovations

Additional School Building Improvements

- Replacement of aging HVAC rooftop units at IHS, Dake and Rogers-Southlawn will improve classroom ventilation and temperature control.
- Various interior door/frame/hardware replacements at Dake and Iroquois will improve safety and security.
- Ground floor bathroom renovations at Iroquois will improve health safety and accessibility.
- Installation of security window film in various academic buildings will enhance building security.
- New lighting and rigging at the Irondequoit High School Auditorium will allow our actors, musicians, and other performers to shine even brighter.

D.O.E.S. Building Relocation & Renovation

The District's Department of Environmental Services (D.O.E.S.) building on Washington Avenue is outdated and unsuitable for our current needs. The former Lakeview Elementary property at 330 Pattonwood Drive, which is owned by the District, would become its new and permanent location. The new location will provide ample space for vehicle maintenance/repairs and storage needs. It will also enable our D.O.E.S. staff, who are crucial to maintaining our buildings and grounds, to be housed together in one building rather than across the District.



High School Auditorium Upgrades

Important Dates & Information



2023-2024 School Budget Hearing

There will be an opportunity to learn more about the R-I-S-E Project and ask questions at the Budget Hearing.

When: Thursday, May 4, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Where: District Office, 321 List Avenue

Questions? Email public_info@westiron.monroe.edu

R-I-S-E PROJECT OTE

When: Tuesday, May 16, 2023
6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: St. Paul Fire Department
433 Cooper Road

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	\$ 82,403,823	\$ 88,689,971	\$ 87,713,791
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 6,286,148	\$ 5,309,968
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.6 %	6.4%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 42,503,672	\$ 43,479,852	
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)	\$ 42,503,672	\$ 43,479,852	\$ 42,503,672
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 42,504,672	\$ 43,480,852	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 42,503,672	\$ 43,479,852	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Administrative Component	\$ 9,332,237	\$ 10,586,952	\$ 9,933,579
Program Component	\$ 61,499,367	\$ 65,714,586	\$ 65,528,134
Capital Component	\$ 11,572,319	\$ 12,388,433	\$ 12,252,078

* 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.

A contingency budget would be one developed with zero levy increase from the prior year, the administrative component being an equal percentage as the prior year and elimination of all equipment not required for health and safety needs.

** 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
2023 Capital Improvement Project	\$ 19,075,000
	\$
	\$
	\$

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 771

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the West Irondequoit school district, Monroe County, New York, will be held at the St. Paul Fire Department in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, 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.

West Irondequoit Schools Are Community Schools!



Debbie Lane at work in the cafeteria.

Dake Jr. High Food Service Employee featured!

Dake Junior High School Food Service worker, Debbie Lane, was featured by WXXI News earlier this year for an in-depth story on employees with disabilities being great team members. She describes herself as a slow learner with anxiety issues, but over the past six years has grown to love working at Dake.

“Everything she does is very good. Very good,” says Dake Cook Manager, Lourdes Santana.

Ursula Nicholson, the Director of Employment Services for Starbridge, the agency that placed Lane with West Irondequoit, says some employers grossly underestimate people with disabilities, but the tightening of the labor market is starting to change that mindset. “They’re coming in with that new energy, that passion of ‘Finally, someone sees me and I want to be here,’” Nicholson said.

That’s Lane, who credits her parents for teaching her about having a strong work ethic. Lane says she hopes people who read about her will learn acceptance of people with disabilities. “We are people; we have feelings,” Lane said. “We’re human beings and we should not be, like, pushed aside.”

DECA Students Enhance Safety on Cooper Road

Advocacy secured speed-tracking sign in front of schools

Irondequoit High School business students in its DECA Club won their usual large allotment of awards this school year and seven were scheduled to participate at the national competition in Orlando in late April. But two DECA students were the driving force behind a project that will have a long-lasting impact on our school and community.

As part of their annual “Advocacy Campaign,” seniors Isabella Falcone and Cameron Murray emailed a video to Town Supervisor Rory Fitzpatrick detailing the need for a digital speed-tracking sign in front of IHS and Dake Junior High School on Cooper Road. It fulfilled the “Public Policy” component of their multi-layered campaign, but it also will make for a safer street. After seeing the video, Fitzpatrick requested a meeting with the students and told them the town secured funding for the sign. It went up this spring.

“It is always great to meet with students who are well informed on a topic that is important to them when they can provide factual evidence to back up their claims,” Fitzpatrick noted in a letter praising Falcone and Murray.

“Hats off to Isabella, Cameron and our whole DECA family at large on another big success. Pedestrian safety on Cooper Road is always on our mind and securing this added resource in partnership with

Emerging Leaders



Supervisor Fitzpatrick and the Town adds another protective layer,” West Irondequoit CSD Superintendent, Aaron Johnson, said. “It’s an incredible real-life civic experience that yielded real results.”

Murray and Falcone, along with classmates Alyssa Calarco, Cayden Catalina and Morgan Donahoe, were named “Emerging Leaders” nationally by DECA, the international student organization that helps prepare young people for business careers and more.

Stay Connected with our Schools & Programs

We have various communication platforms to help you stay connected with our schools. From the latest updates to videos and photo galleries, we are active on **Facebook** and **Twitter** to show you what is happening in our buildings and beyond. Our **YouTube** channel has nearly 1,000 videos and more than 2,600 subscribers.

The Safe School Helpline

Let us know ANONYMOUSLY when you become aware of anything that threatens the safety of our schools. Anyone can call: Parents, Students, Staff

- Call: 800-4-1-VOICE ext. 359 / 800-418-6423 ext. 359
- Text: 66746, then type TIPS
- Website: safeschoolhelpline.com
- Facebook: Facebook.com/safeschoolhelpline

Check out their free mobile app (Apple or Android). Break the Silence...Prevent the Event.

Student Achievement Data

Information regarding the New York State Report Card containing Profile, Assessment and Accountability Data is available at <http://bit.ly/2pLb2ve>

A link to this document is provided on our website at www.westirondequoit.org. Click on District, then on NYS District Report Card. A hard copy of the report is available from the District Office, 321 List Ave., (585) 336-3067. Contact the office via email at public_info@westiron.monroe.edu.

Community Education

The Community Education program provides the opportunity for students of all ages to participate in a variety of classes and activities using school facilities and community resources. Program highlights include:

- Art & Crafts
- Business/Financial
- Driver Education/Pre-Licensing Course
- Music
- Nerf Battles
- Pickleball
- Rock Climbing
- Sports Camps
- Water Fitness
- Yoga, Zumba, Belly Dance

View the catalogue: bit.ly/CommunityEd_WI




Register for classes online: registration.xenegrade.com/wisd

Call to register or with questions: 585-336-3014 

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Connect on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

Follow our **DISTRICT** on:

-  West Irondequoit CSD
-  @WestIrondequoit
-  West Irondequoit CSD





Follow **IRONDEQUOIT HIGH SCHOOL** on:

-  @IrondequoitHS
-  Irondequoit HS Art

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-  WIEagles

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Follow the **WEST IRONDEQUOIT FOUNDATION** on:

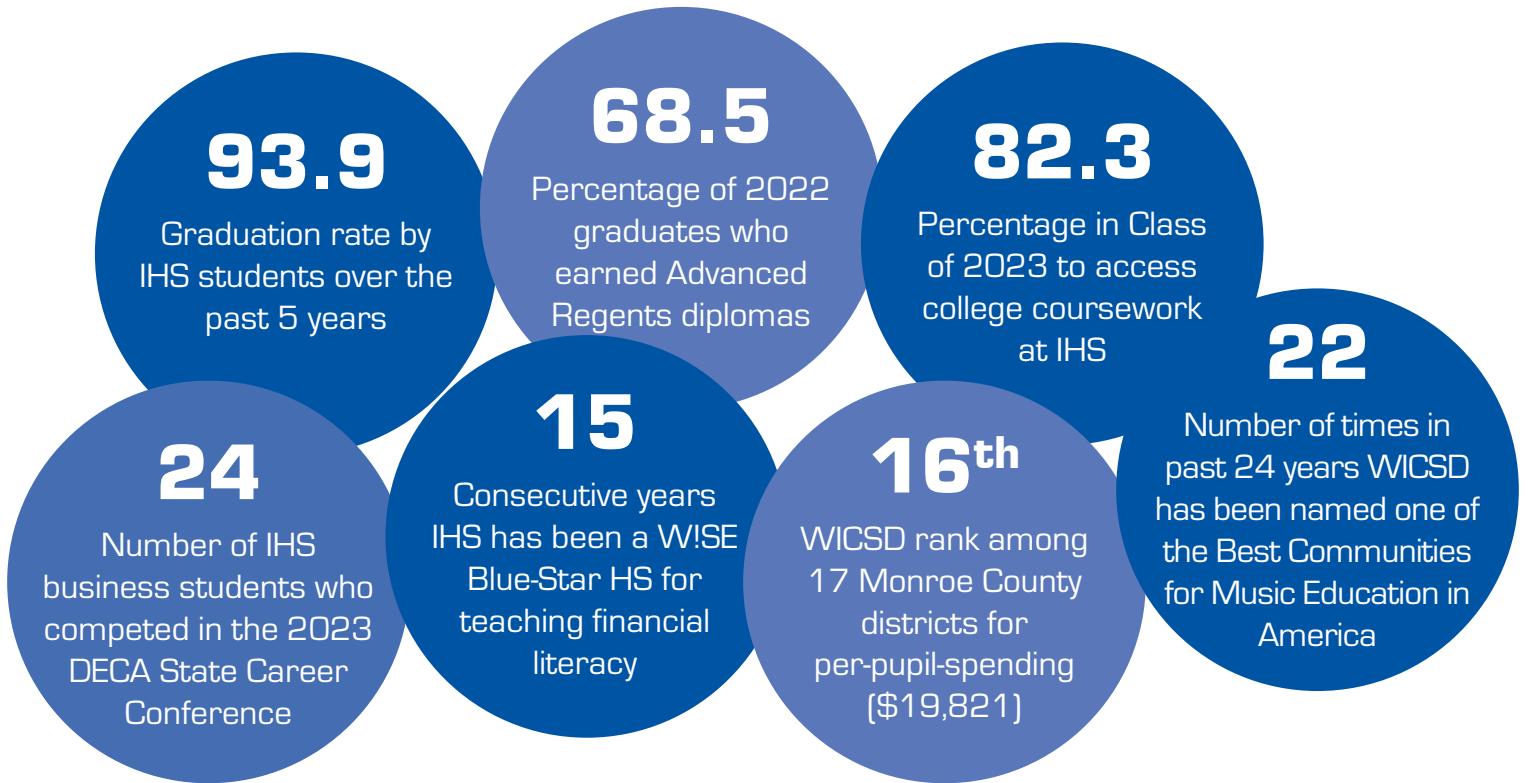
-  West Irondequoit Foundation

To see the 2023-24 school year calendar, go to westirondequoit.org and click on CALENDARS



Duke Junior High School students had fun during a presentation for local politicians at Helmer Nature Center.

District Snapshot



Achieving Peak Performance!

Comprehensive education: We offer one of the area’s most comprehensive high schools with programs in art, building trades, business, music, performing arts, technology and vocational automotive.

Neighborhood schools: Average enrollment of 168 among our six K-3 schools.

Career Connections Program: Helps students thrive in work-study jobs, internships & career shadowing.

Fine arts: Offer 16 courses in art; students regularly have work displayed in local exhibits.

Performing arts: Four major dramatic presentations annually by IHS and Dake Jr. High students.

1:1 technology: Laptop computers for grades K-12, a first, for the 2020-21 school year.

Professional Development: For 35-plus years we have provided a teacher learning center.

Athletics: Varsity teams in 27 sports, including girls flag football (new)!

Unified Sports: Inclusive co-ed basketball/bowling teams that unite students with and without disabilities.

Helmer Nature Center: Our District-owned 45-acre “outdoor classroom” teaches environmental awareness to our students and is a widely used community asset offering exposure to woods and wetlands.

West Irondequoit Foundation: Has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to the District for educational programs and equipment.

Welcome. Nurture. Inspire.

WI sending two teams to Odyssey of the Mind 'Worlds'

For the first time in nine years, West Irondequoit is sending a team to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. In fact, we are sending two groups – both from Iroquois Middle School – and having multiple teams earn a spot hasn't happened since 2009! They will compete May 25-27 in East Lansing, Mich., on the campus of Michigan State University with traditionally more than 600 teams from around the globe and about 30,000 fans in the stands.

"It has been our privilege working with such talented students and dedicated parent volunteers (as coaches)," said Mary Beth Lenzi, who shares the title of West Irondequoit CSD Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator with her husband, Patrick.

"Over the years we have seen the profound and lasting impact this program has had on students, and we are so fortunate to have this program in our district. It builds confidence and independence because the students do all the work themselves," Mary Beth added. "This year we were blown away by the creativity and hard work of all the West Irondequoit teams. We are especially proud of these two Iroquois teams, and we are excited for the enriching experience they will have at World Finals."

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is an international educational program for students in grades kindergarten through college (offered in our district for grades 4-12). It requires students to work collaboratively using creativity, ingenuity, quick-thinking and problem-solving skills. Those problems may range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. Across our district, 119 students participated in OM this school year under the guidance of 39 volunteer coaches. Teams advance through local competition, six earned a spot in the April 15th state competition in Syracuse and two are on to the Worlds! Both feature seven students.

One team, called "The Most Dramatic Problem Ever" is all sixth-graders. The other, called "Because iCan," is all fifth-graders.

Success takes months of working together, often a couple times a week. Teams choose from five problem categories: Vehicle, Technical, Classics, Structure and Performance. The fifth-graders chose Technical Performance and sixth-graders chose Performance. One of their competition tasks also includes being able to think and work through problems spontaneously.



Introducing the "Most Dramatic Problem Ever" sixth-grade team – front row (left to right) Anasophia Cartagena, Marta Kauffman, Mitchell Getz; back row, Peter Rinella, Conrad Kamola, Matthew Crane and Oliver Sherwood. Coaches (not pictured) Keri Getz and Sarah Sherwood.



Introducing the "Because iCan" fifth-grade team – front row (left to right) Henry Elias, James Pittinaro, Elijah Lineman; back row, Christopher Dys, Joseph Giglio, Henry Spencer, Finnean St. Croix. Coaches (not pictured): Dawn Vogler-Elias, Andrea Giglio, Patrick Spencer.

"They learn how to work together, compromise and really listen to each other even when they don't always agree," Mary Beth Lenzi said. "these are skills for life."

Two West Irondequoit teams have been crowned World Champions and they happen to be the same seven students who won it all as Dake Junior High School eighth-graders in 2005 and then again as juniors in 2008. Their names: Keith Bull, Sarah D'Ambrosio, Matt Hoderlein, Laura Kieliszak, Allison Lenzi, Lindsay Taylor and Micah Wightman. Yes, Allison is Mary Beth and Patrick's daughter and is now a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy.

This year two Irondequoit High School seniors were awarded Odyssey of the Mind scholarships. Nora VanDerMeid received the 2023 Julie Ryan Memorial Scholarship from the Greater Rochester Regional Odyssey of the Mind Association and Lauren Lamberson received the 2023 New York State Odyssey of the Mind Association scholarship.

When asked what it took to get to Worlds, a few members of the 2023 teams said it took creativity, teamwork, strong friendship, determination and perseverance. "Never giving up," said sixth-grader Oliver Sherwood.

And, they said, it's fun. Good luck, teams! 🍀

To learn more, go to odysseyofthemind.com.

DONATE! To help offset travel costs for the teams, search "West Irondequoit Odyssey of the Mind" on Facebook to see details on donating via GoFundMe.com.



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Mrs. Jenna Lustig, District Clerk

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Nick Onorato, Student Representative
Ava Palo, Student Representative

Newsletter Editor
Mr. Jeff DiVeronica

DISTRICT VOTE: MAY 16 at St. Paul Blvd. Fire Department

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen; you have lived in the West Irondequoit School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote; you are at least 18 years of age by the day of the vote.

The West Irondequoit Board of Education requires proof of residency at the polls. Examples include a driver's license or other documentation proving residence in West Irondequoit.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

West Irondequoit residents, who qualify, can vote on the annual budget and board election by absentee ballot. Residents unable to vote in person because of disabilities, illness, travel or other valid reasons listed under election law, may request an application for an absentee ballot in person weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from District Clerk Jenna Lustig, District Office, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617. The application is also available on the district website at www.westirondequoit.org. Completed applications must be received in the district clerk's office at least 7 days before the vote (May 9) if ballot is to be mailed, or by 4:30 p.m. the day prior to the vote (May 15) if ballot is to be delivered in person. Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 16.



MUSIC PROGRAM EARNS HONORS

For the 16th straight year and 22nd time in the past 24 years, West Irondequoit has earned the distinction as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America. The designation comes from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. Now in its 24th year, the BCME honor is bestowed on districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the award, West Irondequoit answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.



On May 16th, the day of the vote, Bay Vista Taqueria and Netsins will be serving food and ice cream in the front loop of Dake Jr. HS and Irondequoit HS from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.