



UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING BOARD

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET 2025 - 2026

Dear Community Member:

The coming 2025-2026 school year will soon be upon us, and with it, will come a season of new opportunities for our students to shine. Be it in the classroom, on the playfield, the stage, or in the arts, the quality of our educational program and the opportunities afforded to our community's children simply would not be possible without your care and ongoing support. Your attendance at our school functions, volunteer efforts, cheering on the sidelines, and engagement in our work, enables our students to develop their potential in ways that are reflective of how much our community values education.

Like nearly every household, in preparing our spending plan for 2025-2026, the District had to confront cost escalations that were largely out of our ability to control. Rising healthcare costs, utility expenses, property insurance, and increased required retirement contributions

all put pressure on our budgetary framework. Additionally, student educational needs, mandated special education programming requirements, and new student enrollments related to the housing development in the Village of Cayuga, all necessitated a considered review of every dollar spent and its application to support the vision and mission of our school district. The Board's efforts to leverage the resources of the District, drive efficiencies wherever possible, and keep expense reductions away from the direct student classroom experience have coalesced into our proposed 2025-2026 budget of \$22,168,202. The budget has a proposed tax levy increase of 3.77%, which raises \$309,297 dollars in increased revenue to support our school district's operations in the coming year. For a home assessed at \$100,000, the proposed levy increase would represent an approximate \$40 school tax increase before STAR.

Continued on page 2



DATE OF ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: MS/HS Gym Lobby

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, May 12, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: MS/HS Library

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If a qualified voter is unable to vote in person on May 20, 2025, an application for absentee/early voting can be obtained by calling the District Clerk at: 315-889-4100. Applications must be received by the Clerk no later than May 13, 2025, for a ballot to be mailed to each qualified voter. All absentee/early mail ballots must be returned at the Office of the District Clerk of the school district no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

Continued from page 1

The proposed budget does much to continue our progress as an educational institution. It refurbishes some of our digital computing devices at the elementary and high school level, provides additional adult support in our classrooms, continues our robust college credit offerings, sustains programming across the educational continuum, fosters new partnerships with neighboring school districts with shared staff for the instruction of health, agriculture, library, science and potentially other electives at the secondary level, to drive state aid, promote economic efficiencies, and align our staffing model to the enrollment needs of our district.

The 2025-2026 proposed budget also expands on some of our efforts regarding work-based learning opportunities for our students, new electives for student consideration in the domain of agriculture education, maintains access to CTE education for our students at BOCES, and increases opportunities for our students to connect their learned classroom experiences to field trips and outings to museums, athletic events, the theater, and

other hands-on learning opportunities. Further, the budget enables us to build momentum toward the future by expanding on our academic successes in early literacy skill development. We are excited for the year ahead and all the opportunities this budget affords our students as they pursue their dreams and develop their potential.

The proposed 2025-2026 budget is designed to continue to raise achievement and promote ways to operate efficiently in support of our overall school community. As we continue to work to ensure the educational, fiscal, and structural health of our district for years to come, your help and continued support is simply an invaluable component to our students' success. Please vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from noon to 9 p.m. in the MS/HS gym lobby.



Sincerely,
Jarett S. Powers, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Union Springs CSD Mission Statement

The Union Springs Central School District is an organized body (composed of students, parents, staff, and community members) that nurtures all learning and recognizes individual differences in a challenging environment.

ALL MEMBERS positively and respectfully encourage one another to succeed, inspiring pride in accomplishments. With everyone ultimately responsible for his or her life-long learning and behavior, the pursuit of excellence is our mission.

We encourage students to develop and achieve their individual educational goals. The Union Springs Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities including career and technical educational opportunities without regard to age, color, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 may be addressed to:
Mrs. Renee Munn, 504 Compliance Officer
239 Cayuga Street, Union Springs, NY 13160
Telephone: 315-889-4117

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX may be addressed to:
Sheila LaDouce and/or Jason Dentel, Title IX Officers
239 Cayuga Street, Union Springs, NY 13160
Telephone: 315-889-4110

ESTIMATED REVENUE

	2024-2025 REVENUE	2025-2026 PROJECTED
TOTAL STATE AID	\$11,716,736	\$12,254,278
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	\$1,169,858	\$1,106,967
FUND BALANCE	\$0	\$0
RESERVES/TRANSFERS	\$0	\$293,504
LOCAL PROPERTY/TAX LEVY	\$8,204,156	\$8,513,453
TOTAL REVENUE	\$21,090,750	\$22,168,202

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS

	2024-2025 BUDGET	2025-2026 PROJECTED
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$2,218,518	\$2,269,934
CAPITAL	\$3,500,054	\$3,695,609
PROGRAM	\$15,372,178	\$16,202,659
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$21,090,750	\$22,168,202

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

	2024-2025 BUDGET	2025-2026 PROJECTED
BOE	\$23,804	\$22,946
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$272,060	\$280,961
FINANCE	\$405,593	\$421,704
STAFF	\$229,015	\$214,158
SPECIAL ITEMS	\$364,645	\$377,745
DISTRICT RESEARCH & PLANNING	\$62,410	\$60,945
SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$455,843	\$487,893
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$405,148	\$403,582
TOTALS	\$2,218,518	\$2,269,934

The Administrative Component provides for overall general support and management activities including Board of Education, central administration, business office, and legal and auditing services. Costs for administration and supervision of each of the district's schools are also included in this component.

CAPITAL COMPONENT

	2024-2025 BUDGET	2025-2026 PROJECTED
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$1,376,126	\$1,279,093
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$67,399	\$69,733
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$303,591	\$322,866
DEBT SERVICE	\$1,752,938	\$2,023,917
TOTAL	\$3,500,054	\$3,695,609

The Capital Component of the budget deals with all equipment, supplies, materials, and personnel for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. It also includes any judgments and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments on principal and interest on short and long-term debt.

PROGRAM COMPONENT

	2024-2025 BUDGET	2025-2026 PROJECTED
TEACHING-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$6,365,053	\$6,572,851
PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS W/ DISABILITIES	\$2,375,166	\$2,976,890
LIBRARY	\$198,585	\$203,501
COMPUTER IT	\$858,714	\$881,807
GUIDANCE	\$424,925	\$379,818
HEALTH SERVICE	\$132,744	\$165,525
PSYCH SERVICES	\$216,136	\$224,501
ATHLETICS	\$372,389	\$380,343
TRANSPORTATION	\$1,088,963	\$1,108,049
BENEFITS	\$3,339,503	\$3,309,374
TOTALS	\$15,372,178	\$16,202,659

The Program Component includes salaries of all teaching staff, as well as pupil transportation and employee benefits.

Candidates for Board of Education: *Voting for 3; (3) three year terms*



Ross Lawton

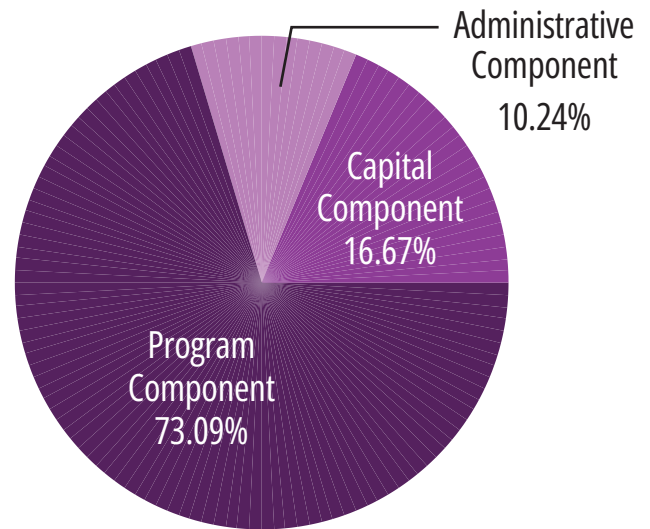
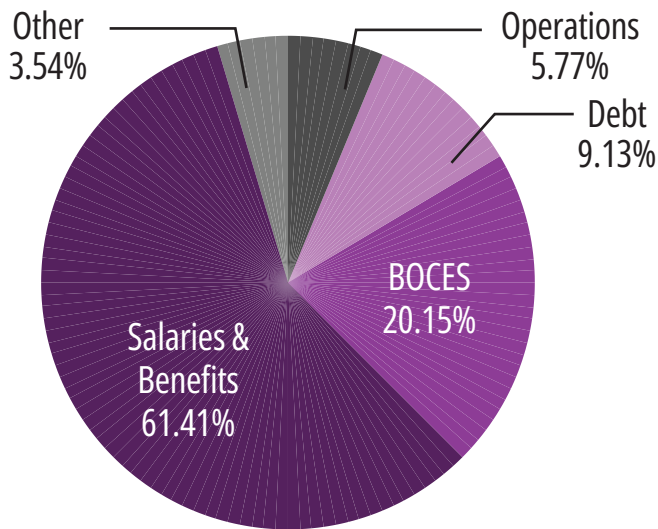


Barry Schwarting



Robin Janas McKay

Cost Categories and Percentage of Total Budget



Questions? Please Call the District Office at (315) 889-4100

PROPOSITION #1

BUDGET VOTE

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Union Springs Central School District shall be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the budget for the 2025-2026 school year in the total amount of \$22,168,202 and to assess and levy upon the taxable property of the District the necessary tax thereof.

PROPOSITION #2

CAPITAL PROJECT

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Union Springs Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements, additions and upgrades to the District's Middle/High School building and campus and Elementary School building and campus, including the purchase of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection with the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used, all to include site, access, parking, lighting, athletic field, track and playfield improvements, demolition, utility, mechanical, plumbing and electrical improvements as well as payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work (collectively, the "Project") and expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$4,747,367, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and to pay for the Project by spending \$500,000 on deposit in the District's existing

Capital Reserve Fund approved by the voters in May of 2022, and by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted in the amount of \$4,247,367 subject to available State aid or to any other revenues available for such purpose, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$4,247,367, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due.

PROPOSITION #3

BUS PROPOSITION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Union Springs Central School District is hereby authorized to expend up to \$349,476 from the existing Transportation Capital Reserve Fund for the acquisition of two (2) diesel-powered student transport vehicles at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$349,476.

PROPOSITION #4

SPRINGPORT FREE LIBRARY

Shall the sum of \$99,000 dollars, an increase of \$3,500.00, from \$95,500 be raised by an annual tax levy upon the taxable real property within the Union Springs Central School District for the purpose of funding the Springport Free Library?

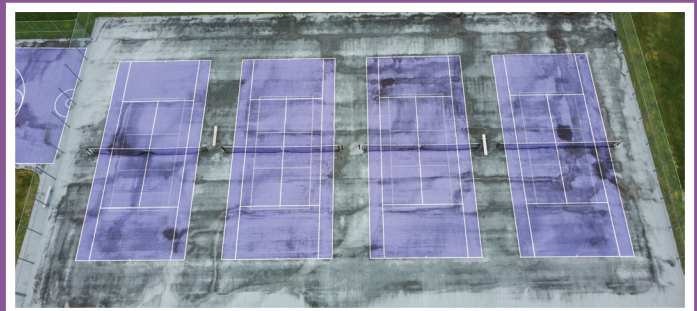
Proposition 2 - Capital Project

On this year's ballot is a proposition to help us both modernize and maintain our athletic and community spaces. So much of what brings us together at our school is our athletic program, as we celebrate and cheer on our community's children. Our teams routinely perform well, and our student-athletes give us much to be proud of with their sportsmanship, work in our community, and athletic prowess. Many of our athletic spaces are now in excess of twenty years old. They are in use constantly and are in need of a refresh to keep them viable for the students yet to come. Further, those spaces that are outside are subject to weather patterns that cause expansion and contraction, water infiltration, and have now cracks and unevenness that if left unaddressed, will only get worse with time, and limit the usage of the spaces.

This proposed project seeks to accomplish a great deal to improve the facilities that our students and community members use. The project proposes to:

- Resurface the track, outdoor basketball, and tennis courts at the MS/HS;
- Replace the main scoreboard, which fails often due to its age;
- Improve the field sound system and provide for exterior field lighting to allow for track, soccer, and football events to expand into the evening hours and enable us to have competitions in the Fall beyond our once-a-year Nights Under the Lights;
- Increase our Internet capabilities in the field spaces to allow for better streaming options;
- Renovate our locker rooms to reflect contemporary student needs regarding storage for batting equipment, golf clubs, team collaboration, general maintenance of the spaces, and updates to the flooring, lighting, and masonry in the spaces.
- Provide for a permanent and genuine concession space for our Sports Boosters to provide refreshments both indoors and outdoors;
- Build a true community-accessible bathroom space beyond the port-a-potty that currently exists, that families, spectators, and community could use while attending our athletic functions;
- Air conditioning the gyms at both AJ Smith Elementary School and the Middle School/High School- these spaces are used year-round by our school and community athletic programs and can get very hot between May and early October; and
- Air conditioning the cafeteria at AJ Smith Elementary, which for security purposes has no exterior windows, and with up to 200 young people eating lunch at a time, and the heat coming from the kitchen, could benefit from some cooler air being available.

This project's proposition is in the amount of \$4,747,367. By leveraging state aid, careful management of debt service, the appropriation of \$500,000 from our capital reserve fund, and a very generous pledged six figure donation from a community member, this project will result in no additional tax levy increase for our school community. If this proposition is approved by voters in May, we anticipate being able to submit to NYS for building approval in the Fall and hopefully be able to commence work in the Summer of 2026. We appreciate your consideration in helping us continue to improve our infrastructure and learning spaces.



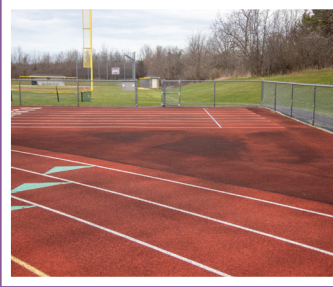
▲ Our tennis courts are worn and weathered—cracked surfaces and uneven playing areas make it unsafe for our student-athletes.



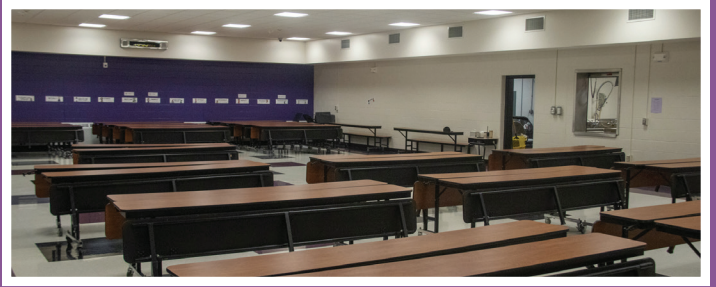
Scan QR CODE to learn more about all areas of needed improvements.



unionspringscsd.org

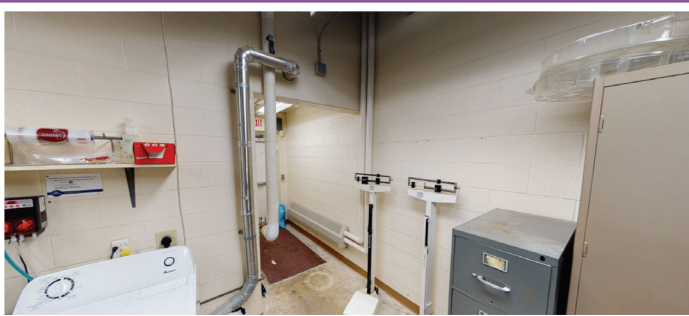
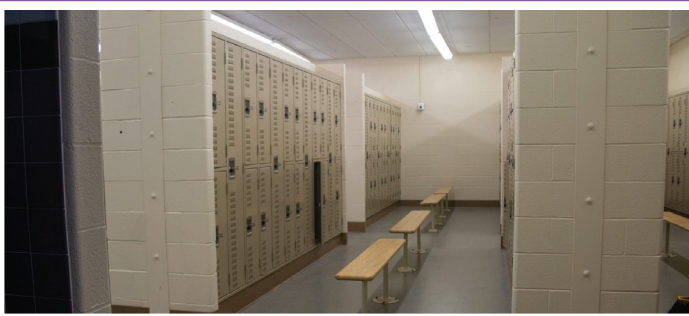


▲ Over 20 years old, the track shows significant wear—cracked borders, rising irrigation lines, and surface deterioration.



▲ With no windows and up to 200 students at a time, the AJ Smith cafeteria heats up fast. Air conditioning would bring much-needed comfort.

Before:



Renderings were provided by CPL

Proposition 3 - Transportation

Asks voters to authorize the district to be able to purchase up to two diesel school buses in the amount of \$349,476 from the existing Transportation Capital Reserve Fund. The District, knowing that its bus fleet is aging, has set aside money to pay for school bus replacement. By receiving voter approval to expend money from this reserve, the district does not have to borrow the funds, pays no interest on the purchase of these buses, and these expenses still qualify for NYS aid.

We recognize that NYS has an electric school bus mandate that goes into effect in 2027. We are working with NYSEDA

and other state agencies to review how that transition process will play out given our geographic size as a school district, our athletic travel commitments, and our need to transport students outside our geographic boundaries for special education services. We believe that by replacing two of our current diesel buses with new diesel buses in 2025-2026, it will allow us further time for the technology, routing plans, and hopefully cost structures, to become more feasible to operationalize. Thank you for your consideration of our bus purchase proposition.

Progress Report: Security Enhancement Project and Plumbing Infrastructure Capital Project

The successful completion of both the Security and Plumbing projects marks an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to providing safe, functional, and welcoming learning environments for our students and staff. These projects represent not just upgrades to infrastructure, but strategic investments in the long-term sustainability and security of our facilities.

The Security Project, now in its final stages, has achieved its goals as outlined in the original scope and included all proposed alternates. Through careful planning, collaboration, and execution, we have significantly enhanced the safety and resilience of our schools. These upgrades have “hardened” our facilities as designed—adding critical layers of protection that will help ensure the well-being of our school community for years to come.

Simultaneously, the Plumbing Project has delivered meaningful improvements across multiple buildings. The completion of this work—including the repaving of parking lots, bathroom remodels, and climate upgrades—has addressed long-standing infrastructure needs. From increased heating system efficiency to improved drainage in flood-prone areas like the boiler room, the outcomes of this project directly support daily operations and student comfort. Notably, the addition of a new water fountain and the remodeling of student restrooms in the middle/high school reflect our commitment to meeting the everyday needs of our students in a thoughtful and responsive manner.

Together, these projects demonstrate what is possible when we approach challenges with collaboration, vision, and fiscal responsibility. We are grateful to everyone involved in bringing these improvements to life—from planning and design to construction and final walkthroughs. As we close out these projects, we look forward to building on this momentum with future improvements that support our mission and values.



▲ Site Deterrents were successfully installed to prevent automobiles from accessing our glass door entry ways and sidewalk spaces.



▲ This brand-new water fountain was installed to replace an old water fountain that was in disarray on the first floor of the MS/HS.



▲ These two boys' and girls' bathrooms on the first floor of the MS/HS were redone and updated.

Union Springs HS Names Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2025

Union Springs High School is proud to recognize two outstanding students for their academic excellence and leadership. Devin Platt has been named the Class of 2025 Valedictorian, and Carter Botindari has been named Salutatorian. Both students have demonstrated a commitment to hard work, perseverance, and involvement in their school community.

Valedictorian: Devin Platt

For Devin Platt, earning the title of Valedictorian is a meaningful achievement that reflects years of dedication. "It means a great deal to me to have earned the title of Valedictorian," Platt shared. "I believe it shows that I have worked very hard these past four years, both in and out of the classroom. However, I would not have achieved this title if it were not for the support and love provided by my family, friends, and teachers."

As she looks ahead to the final months of her senior year, Platt is eager to create lasting memories. "I am excited to spend these last few months with the friends I have made throughout the past thirteen years here at Union Springs," he said. "I am looking forward to my Senior Trip, and I cannot wait to walk across the stage alongside the rest of my peers."

Platt has been an active member of the school community, participating in the high school musical Xanadu, serving as a member of the National Honor Society, and representing students as the Board of Education Student Representative.

After graduation, Platt plans to attend Hamilton College, where she looks forward to exploring different academic paths and making the most of her college experience.

Salutatorian: Carter Botindari

Carter Botindari is honored to be recognized as the Class of 2025 Salutatorian. "Being Salutatorian is an honor, something you cannot take for granted," Botindari said. "It is a mark of academic dedication, hard work, and perseverance. Many people believe that everyone doesn't face difficulties, although they do. Throughout my time in high school, I have had to endure hardships and persist countless times. All in all, this title means a lot to me, and I will continue to try to be the best at everything I do."

As he enjoys the remainder of his senior year, Botindari is especially excited for the upcoming baseball season and spending time with his friends before graduation.

A dedicated student-athlete, Botindari has played both baseball and basketball throughout his high school career and is a member of the National Honor Society.

After graduation, Botindari plans to enjoy the summer before attending Le Moyne College in the fall, where he will study Forensic Science.

Looking Ahead to Graduation

The Union Springs Central School District congratulates Devin Platt and Carter Botindari on their remarkable achievements. Their dedication, leadership, and hard work have made a lasting impact on the school community.

The Union Springs community looks forward to hearing their speeches at graduation, which will take place on Thursday, June 26th, at 6:30 p.m. on the front lawn. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian!

Valedictorian: Devin Platt



Salutatorian: Carter Botindari



Union Springs Odyssey of the Mind Teams Compete at New York State Tournament

Two Union Springs Odyssey of the Mind teams recently brought their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving talents to the New York State Tournament at the New York State Fairgrounds. After qualifying at regionals held at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, both teams represented the district with pride and enthusiasm on the state stage.

The first team, coached by Mrs. Lynn Stock, competed in AstronOMical Odyssey! Division III, earning a total score of 348 at regionals. Team members included Isabella Church, Michaela Guarino-Keim, Julia Mainville, Carter Smith, Lilyana Thornton, and Alex VanHouten. Their performance took audiences on a hilarious journey through a team-created “historical” civilization, filled with original constellations, creative storytelling, and a comedic astronomer character in a “stellar” costume. Their show also included impressive lighting effects and a shooting star!

The second team, coached by Mr. Alec Targett, competed in Cooking with Books Division III, where they earned a regional score of 350. The team featured Brynn Akins, Claire Baliva, Kiersten Colombo, Allison Darling, Riley Kozub, and Kylie Lawton. Their problem challenged them to create a literary-inspired chef character and gourmet meal. They set their scene using elements from classic literature and wowed judges with a team-created cooking gadget and an imaginative dinner party featuring a character from their chosen book.

Both teams were evaluated on their Long-Term Problem, Spontaneous Problem Solving, and Style Points, and their performances at the State Tournament marked a high point in a season filled with hard work and creativity.

“This program teaches so much more than performance and competition,” said Coach Targett. “It builds resilience,

teamwork, and a belief in the power of original ideas. I’m incredibly proud of what our students accomplished this season.”

Although the teams did not advance to the World Finals, their efforts reflect the best of what Odyssey of the Mind is all about—imagination, collaboration, and innovation.

Congratulations to our Union Springs Wolves on an outstanding Odyssey season!

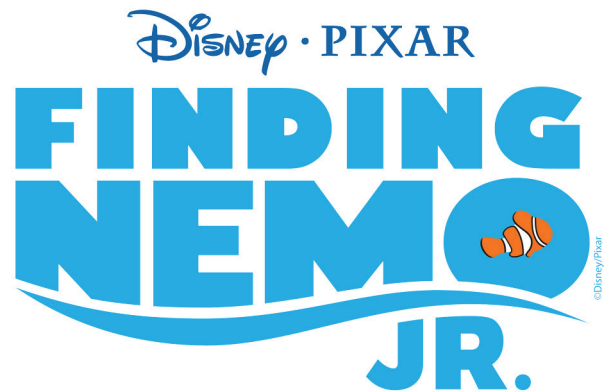


Exciting Announcement: Fall 2025 Middle School Musical!

We are thrilled to announce that the Fall 2025 middle school musical will be *Finding Nemo Jr.*, directed by the talented Jennifer Gordon and Lizzy Reed! This beloved tale follows the adventurous journey of Marlin, a timid clownfish, as he searches for his son, Nemo, who has been captured by a diver. Along the way, Marlin teams up with the forgetful but friendly Dory, and together they navigate the vast ocean, discovering the importance of friendship and bravery.

Auditions for current 5th graders (next year's 6th graders) will take place in June, while auditions for 7th and 8th graders are scheduled for September 8-9. Students should log into the Google Classroom for more information.

Join us for this heartwarming performance featuring delightful songs such as "Big Blue World" and "We Swim Together." Mark your calendars for show dates on Friday, November 7th at 7 PM and Saturday, November 8th at 2 PM. We can't wait to see you there!



Thank You from Springport Free Library!

The Springport Free Library Board of Trustees and staff would like to thank our community for your continued support!

2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 24,677 materials circulated
- 823 registered patrons
- 12,085 library visits

THIS SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY:

Join us for exciting children's activities including tie-dyeing, boat races, fruit salad making, yard games, slime making, and of course—great stories and reading time!

LIBRARY SERVICES INCLUDE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Books
(including large print) | • Brainfuse JobNow |
| • Magazines | • Libby |
| • DVDs | • Tumblebooks |
| • E-books & Audiobooks | • Craft Programs |
| • Online Databases | • Summer Reading |
| • Mango Languages | • Internet Access |

New! Worry & Anxiety Kits, Mindfulness Kits for kids, Dementia Caregiver Kit, and a Hygiene Closet for students and adults.

Thank you for making us your community library!

— **Carla Piperno-Jones, Director**



Mark Your Calendars

May 12	Budget Hearing
May 12	Board of Education Meeting
May 14	Concert Night: Grades K & 1
May 15	NHS Inductions
May 19 - 22	Pre-K -12 Art Show
May 20	Budget Vote
May 21	HS Academic Awards
May 22	Concert Night: Grades 2 & 3
May 23, 26	Memorial Day - No School
May 27	Board of Education Meeting
May 28	COSBA Dinner
June 3	Scholarship Dinner
June 4	HS/MS Spring Chorus Concert
June 5	Concert Night: Grades 4 & 5
June 9	Board of Education Meeting
June 10	HS/MS Spring Band Concert
June 19	Juneteenth - No School
June 26	Graduation

Dr. Jarett Powers,
Superintendent

Valerie Castiglia,
Secretary to the Superintendent

Mike Wurster,
Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Daniel Testa,
Board President

Barry Schwarting,
Vice President

Jeffrey Culver

Ann Marie Daum

Ross Lawton

Matthew Loveless

Robin McKay

Carol Quill

Erin Tones

UNION SPRINGS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of the Wolves



CONTACT US:

239 Cayuga Street
Union Springs, NY 13160

Phone: (315) 889-4101

Fax: (315) 889-4108

FOLLOW US:



@UnionSpringsCSD



@UnionSpringsCSD



FACEBOOK COMING SOON!

Created by CiTi Public Relations



www.citiboces.org/publicrelations



**Scan to Visit
Our Website!**



www.unionspringscsd.org

Pre-K Registration Information

Pre-Kindergarten registration packets have been sent out to eligible students. Please return as soon as possible to the AJ Smith Elementary office.

If you did not receive a packet and have an eligible student, please call the school's office. Eligible students need to turn 4 years old by December 1, 2025.

**UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
239 Cayuga Street
Union Springs, NY 13160

US Postage Paid
Union Springs, NY
Permit #3
Non-Profit Organization

*****ECRWSS*****

Rural Route or Boxholder