



UNION SPRINGS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING BOARD

BUDGET 2022

Dear Community Member:

It is hard to believe that another school year is drawing to a close. Once again our work and efforts this year involved mitigating the impact of pandemic on our school community, while at the same time trying to build and sustain a school environment in which all of our students can succeed to their fullest potential. Through this endeavor, we learned a lot about ourselves as a learning institution and our need to continue to put structures in place to support our students in the years to come.

Not every student had the same experiences during the pandemic, and dynamics at school, at home, with peers, and economically, put some of our students in very vulnerable positions. We have tried to respond to the needs of our students and to help them as they worked through various social/emotional and academic challenges; but more support is needed as we work to connect our students with the counseling, community-based resources, and opportunities they need for continued personal growth. This budget builds our support network for students and families by adding an additional school counselor at the elementary level, and licensed student mental health therapist at the secondary level.

Another challenge we encountered this school year was our technology infrastructure found itself heavily used and pushed to its limits in terms of what it can do to support student learning and achievement. While we have a replacement cycle for devices in the district, the high school student laptops are now five years old, are no longer covered by a warranty, have become a source of frustration for our students due to their age and condition, and need to be changed out. This budget accomplishes this goal and will provide for our high school students new Chromebooks that will have access to the entirety of the Microsoft Suite and orients the replacement cycle of the district for technology devices from five years to three years to help cut the costs of maintenance and repair, and ensure our students have access to the technology they need to learn and grow.

Further, this year, in proposition two, the district is proposing a capital project in the amount of \$850,000 to help us improve our overall technology infrastructure. When the high school was constructed in 1936, the technology of today was not accounted for, and as a result, cabling, network closets, and power connections needed for a stable network across our school district buildings was retrofitted in where space could be found; usually a converted custodial closet with a slop sink close by. However, with the volume of computers, phones, cameras, HVAC controls, clocks, and door locking that our network now supports, dedicated spaces for our network infrastructure, with proper ventilation, updated equipment, and security features is needed more than ever. In order to continue to adapt to the challenges and rigors of the 21st Century, our network needs some significant updating. Through the prudent use of reserve funding, this project will utilize \$355,982 from the 2017 Capital Reserve, with the remainder of the project's funding resulting from State Aid. This capital project will have a zero percent (0%) additional increase on the tax levy.

Additionally, in proposition three, the school district is asking voters to consider the approval of a new capital reserve fund in the amount of \$2.5 million dollars. This reserve fund, by law, has to be approved by the voters, lasts up to 10 years, and in order to have any money expended from it, the voters would also have to approve those expenses, as well. Over the past eight years, the school district has been able to complete millions of dollars of renovations at AJ Smith, the bus garage, and the high school with a zero percent (0%) increase on the tax levy because the district asked voters approve the creation of reserve funds that were able to be utilized to offset construction and borrowing expenses that were not covered by state aid. We are again asking for our community's support in creation of another capital reserve fund. Our most pressing challenge outside of technology from an infrastructure standpoint is our plumbing. Our main building, built in 1936, is 86 years old and the pipes are clogged, compressed, corroded, or broken, and seemingly a source of continuous repair. There is a significant amount of work that will need to be done to update our plumbing in the years ahead, and we need to begin saving money to support and offset those anticipated expenses to help protect the infrastructure of the building and our tax base.

As with every business and family, the 2022-2023 school budget attempts to balance the challenges of inflationary pressures that we are all experiencing with the needs of our district. Rising rates for heat and electric, healthcare costs, minimum wage increases, and fuel costs (we use approximately 38,000 gallons of diesel fuel a year in our bus fleet), all have put real pressures on our budget. We have tried to cut costs and increase revenue through retirements and position control, using BOCES and cooperative bidding to get better pricing and draw in more aid on purchases, auctioning off unused and surplus aged equipment, seeking out competitive interest rates for our cash balances, and paying off some long-term capital obligations to reduce our overall borrowing costs. In all, the proposed 2022-2023 budget of \$20,182,045 has a 1.31 percent increase in the tax levy, which increases school district revenues by \$100,585.

The 2022-2023 budget supports our students' emotional health, improves our technology, invests in our future, and acknowledges the challenges we are all facing with inflationary pressures on costs. I would be remiss if I did not conclude by thanking this community for its tremendous support over these past two years. Your support during the pandemic helped our district to make it through some very challenging times. We are able to do this work on behalf of our children because of you, and I am forever grateful for the cooperation and kindness shown, understanding provided, and the championing of our students, as they worked through some very unique situations. I encourage everyone to come and vote on May 17, 2022, from noon to 9 p.m.



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



DATE OF ELECTION

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

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

LOCATION: MS/HS Gym Lobby

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 9, 2022

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: MS/HS Library

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) from the District Clerk beginning **Friday, April 22, 2022**. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on May 17, 2022.

To request an application/ballot: Call District Clerk, Valerie Castiglia at 315-889-4100 or e-mail: vcastiglia@unionspringscsd.org.

ESTIMATED REVENUE		
	2021-2022 BUDGET	2022-2023 PROJECTED
TOTAL STATE AID	\$10,499,346	\$11,384,067
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	\$596,233	\$659,168
FUND BALANCE	\$350,000	\$360,000
RESERVES/TRANSFERS	\$270,000	\$0
LOCAL PROPERTY/TAX LEVY	\$7,678,225	\$7,778,810
TOTAL REVENUE	\$19,393,804	\$20,182,045

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS		
	2021-2022 BUDGET	2022-2023 PROJECTED
ADMINISTRATION	\$2,169,089	\$2,302,184
PROGRAM	\$14,089,176	\$14,460,938
CAPITAL	\$3,135,539	\$3,418,923
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$19,393,804	\$20,182,045

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT		
	2021-2022 BUDGET	2022-2023 PROJECTED
BOE	\$44,090	\$33,569
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$233,571	\$254,740
FINANCE	\$359,882	\$395,950
STAFF	\$252,117	\$321,800
SPECIAL ITEMS	\$434,661	\$316,497
DISTRICT RESEARCH & PLANNING	\$79,667	\$113,896
SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$417,899	\$469,201
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$347,202	\$396,531
TOTALS	\$2,169,089	\$2,302,184

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

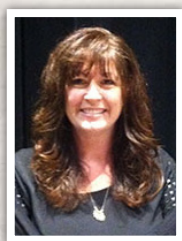
	2021-2022 BUDGET	2022-2023 PROJECTED
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$ 1,419,048	\$1,604,606
\$100K CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT	\$0	\$0
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$42,411	\$43,042
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$227,041	\$237,687
DEBT SERVICE	\$1,447,039	\$1,533,588
TOTAL	\$3,135,539	\$3,418,923

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

	2021-2022 BUDGET	2022-2023 PROJECTED
TEACHING-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$5,692,509	\$5,897,791
PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS W/ DISABILITIES	\$2,127,026	\$1,800,260
LIBRARY	\$222,081	\$224,006
COMPUTER IT	\$1,066,186	\$1,198,579
GUIDANCE	\$327,120	\$388,259
HEALTH SERVICE	\$93,353	\$119,851
PSYCH SERVICES	\$123,343	\$184,341
ATHLETICS	\$262,538	\$327,236
TRANSPORTATION	\$946,569	\$993,382
BENEFITS	\$3,228,451	\$3,327,233
TOTALS	\$14,089,176	\$14,460,938

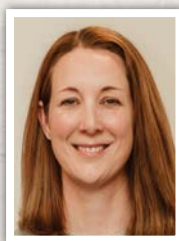
The PROGRAM COMPONENT includes salaries of all teaching staff, as well as pupil transportation and employee benefits.

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

Robin Janas McKay



Barry Schwarting



Kris Chalupnicki



Ross Lawton



Jackie Farrelly-Dougherty

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 2022-2023 school year in the total amount of \$20,182,045 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 Board of Education of the Union Springs Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project (the "Project") consisting of certain renovations, alterations and improvements to all District facilities, including technology improvements, all to include site, access, demolition, utility, mechanical, plumbing, HVAC and electrical improvements, the acquisition of original furnishings, fixtures and equipment and payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work, and to expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$850,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and to pay for the Project by (i) spending \$355,982 from the Capital Reserve approved by the District's voters in May of 2017 together with any unexpended amounts on deposit in such reserve and thereafter terminate such reserve fund, and (ii) by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted in the amount of \$494,018, 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 \$494,018, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due.

PROPOSITION #3
CAPITAL RESERVE

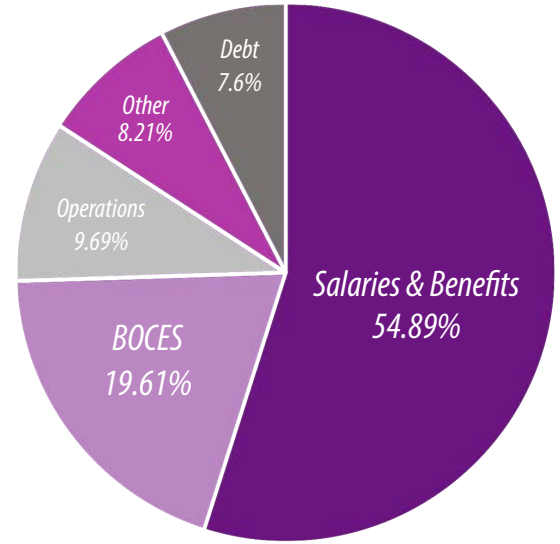
Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Union Springs Central School District be hereby authorized to establish a new ten-year capital reserve pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 to be used for renovations and additions to all District facilities, including the purchase of equipment, technology upgrades, classroom equipment and/or school infrastructure equipment, security and safety improvement, site development, athletic fields, plumbing, storm and sanitary sewers, boilers, driveways, and parking lots, such reserve fund to be funded from (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 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?

PROPOSITION #4
SPRINGPORT FREE LIBRARY

Shall the sum of \$88,500 dollars, an increase of \$3,500.00, from \$85,000.00 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?

Cost Categories and Percentage of Total Budget



QUESTIONS?

Please call the District Office at (315) 889-4100.

Message from Springport Free Library

The Trustees of the Springport Free Library request that, pursuant to Section 259 of New York State Education Law, the Union Springs Central School District Board of Education place the following proposition before the voters at the next (May 2022) School District election: "Shall the sum of \$88,500 (an increase of \$3,500 from \$85,000) be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Union Springs Central School District for the purpose of funding the Springport Free Library?"

The above request is prompted by our desire to provide enhanced library services to all residents of the Union Springs School District. The library traditionally offers reading materials, digital technologies, reference help and a place to socialize. We are very pleased to have added a children's librarian to the public library staff. Our goal is to provide a safe and welcoming space to all who visit us. We offer story walks, children's programming, hands-on STEAM programming, crafting, gaming and story times. Our library staff has proven adept at both in-person programming and virtual programming. We are looking forward to strengthening the ties between the school district, and the public library serving the district. Our children are the future of the community and our most valuable resource.

We would be happy to provide you with additional information or respond to any questions you may have regarding the above. Thank you for your continued support.

Proposition #2 - Technology Infrastructure Capital Project

In proposition two, the district is proposing a capital project in the amount of \$850,000 to help us improve our overall technology infrastructure. When the high school was constructed in 1936, the technology of today was not accounted for, and as a result, cabling, network closets, and power connections needed for a stable network across our school district buildings was retrofitted in where space could be found; usually a converted custodial closet with a slop sink close by.

However, with the volume of computing, phones, cameras, HVAC controls, clocks, and door locking, that our network now supports, dedicated spaces for our network infrastructure, with proper ventilation, updated equipment, and security features is needed more than ever.

The district received a comprehensive technology condition survey report conducted by Archi-Technology, LLC. As part of this report, Archi-Technology, LLC assessed such concerns as: water risk, room size, flooring, security, environmental control, power, grounding infrastructure, cable management, room construction, surveillance coverage, access controls and more. Findings from this survey can be found below.

In order to continue to adapt to the challenges and rigors of the 21st Century, our technology network needs some significant updating. Through the prudent use of reserve funding, this project will utilize \$355,982 from the 2017 Capital Reserve, with the remainder of the project's funding resulting from State Aid.

This capital project will have a 0% additional increase on the tax levy.

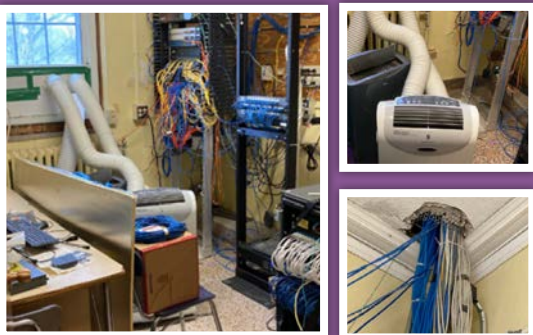
Findings From Technology Condition Survey Report



Among the deficiencies at Union Springs MS/HS are signs of water damage above the ceiling (above left), an AC control is installed but it is not connected to an AC unit (above center), and unlabeled electrical outlets with a faceplate pinching the cable (above right).



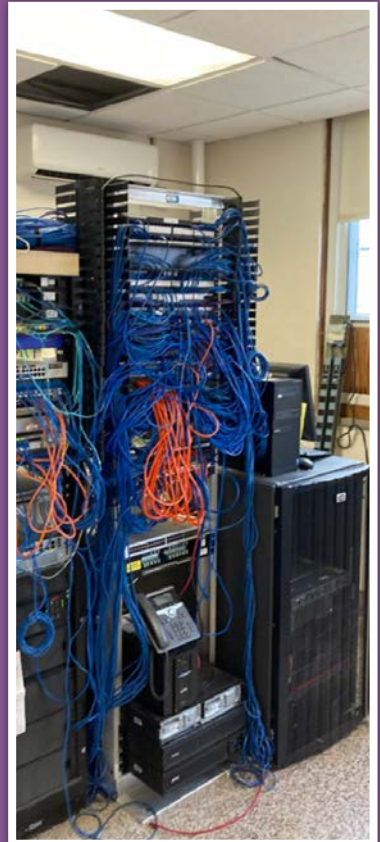
While AJ Smith has adequate horizontal cable supports (above) they are totally lacking in the Middle/High School (below).



Union Springs MS/HS IDF-4 is a dedicated space that is poorly configured (above left). Floor AC units block rack access (top right) and cables enter the ceiling unsupported by conduit nor protected by firestop (bottom right).



Data and power cables sharing the same wall penetrations without correct conduit or firestop installed in the Middle/High School (left).



Union Springs MS/HS MTR/IDF-1 is in extremely poor condition and needs to be relocated (above).

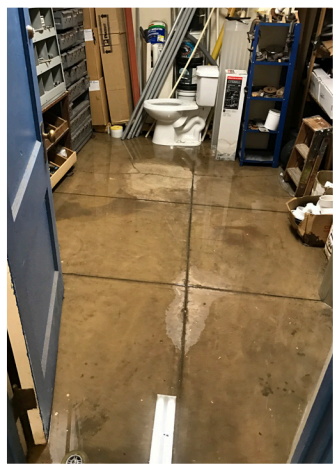
Proposition #3 - Capital Reserve Fund

The Union Springs Central School District has a strong tradition of providing excellent programs and facilities for our community's students. Our shared success is the result of thoughtful improvements and projects over the years that have been designed to protect the district's facilities and infrastructure. Sometimes this means replacing items due to normal usage. At other times, this means upgrading classrooms and technology to meet the needs of our learners, including health and safety improvements, energy-saving improvements, and renovations to areas for enhanced educational programming.

On May 17, 2022, Union Springs Central School District voters will be asked to consider authorizing the establishment of a new Capital Reserve Fund for the district. Funding would come from excess General Fund Monies at the end of the fiscal years and from transfers of other designated reserves as approved by the Board of Education. This fund would allow the school district to set aside money for future construction projects and major purchases and upgrades.

A Capital Reserve Fund is a voter-authorized reserve, much like a savings account that a family would agree to establish in order to make a major purchase. If voters approve a Capital Reserve Fund, the funds could be used towards the cost of a capital project, but only if the project was approved by district voters. A capital project would require a separate vote.

Our most pressing challenge outside of technology from an infrastructure standpoint is our plumbing. Our main building, built in 1936, is 86 years old and the pipes are clogged, compressed, corroded, or broken, and seemingly a source of continuous repair. There is a significant amount of work that will need to be done to update our plumbing in the years ahead, and we need to begin saving money to support and offset those anticipated expenses to help protect the infrastructure of the building and our tax base.



Above, flooding in the basement at Union Springs MS/HS. Pipes are clogged, compressed, corroded, or broken, and seemingly a source of continuous repair.

Above, cracks, potholes and uneven areas have continued to develop in areas of the parking lot surrounding Union Springs MS/HS.

A Message From AJ Smith Principal Sheila LaDouce:

Hello AJ Smith Community!

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a critical component of what AJ Smith Elementary uses to move forward with behaviors, academics and social-emotional learning. PBIS is an evidence-based, three-tiered framework for improving and integrating all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. It is a way to support everyone (students, teachers, and administration) to create the kinds of schools where all students are successful. Students are aware of the daily expectations for behaviors on school buses, and in the hallways, classrooms, bathrooms and playgrounds. Students are rewarded for those positive behaviors with classroom parties and school-wide events.

Our annual grades Pre K- 4 PTO sponsored Walkathon is back and will take place on Friday, May 20th. All AJ students will travel to the high school that morning to enjoy walking the track and participating in other outdoor activities, as well as having a healthy snack.

AJ Smith's third and fourth grade students have been afforded the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument this school year. Students were introduced to a variety of instruments from which they chose one to learn to play. Lessons take place each week with a culminating concert at the end of the school year.

This summer, we will again offer our Summer Boot Camp to select students who need additional support in literacy and math skills. Registration packets will be sent home to students in mid-to-late May.

Pre-K registration has begun! If you have a child who will be four years of age on or before December 1 and you have not received a Pre-K registration packet, please call the office at AJ Smith Elementary.

Mrs. Sheila LaDouce
Principal of Special Programs
Andrew J. Smith Elementary

AJ Smith Elementary Enjoys Hat Day



Students at AJ Smith Elementary School enjoy many themed days throughout the school year. Above, students in Mrs. Smith's class shared laughs on Hat Day.

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, 2022.

Six Students Represent Union Springs at All-County Band



Union Springs CSD had six students represent the district at the Spring All-County Band and Chorus Concert at Port Byron High School. Pictured from left, students Olivia Koeffler, Ava Smith, Sophia Testa, Kelsey Albino, Catherine Gilmore, and Sarah Morehouse. Morehouse, who plays the bass clarinet, was also selected to the All-State Band.

A Message From MS Principal Mrs. Mullen:

Happy Spring to the Middle School Wolf Pack!

As spring begins, we would like to share some exciting updates from the past few months and many events we're looking forward to in the months ahead. In February we celebrated our Mid-Year Awards Ceremony. Students in grades 5-8 came to the auditorium to recognize classmates whose academic achievement earned them a place on the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, or Principal's List. Students who had the Top 10 academic averages for their grade level were also recognized. At these assemblies we reviewed our Way Of the Wolf expectations and celebrated those who were nominated by their teachers for Way Of the Wolf Awards. We are so proud of our students' progress this year and we hope they shared their awards with their families.

Throughout the past few months we have celebrated many extra-curricular achievements. Our Middle School athletes played at every level this winter and were integral members and leaders of their athletic teams. Four of our eighth grade Studio Art students were recognized for their phenomenal art work in the Scholastic Art Awards. Our Studio Art classes were also able to visit the immersive Van Gogh experience in Rochester. Our band and chorus students in each grade level have been diligently preparing for NYSSMA. It has been a busy winter and we have had some wonderful opportunities to recognize our students and all of their accomplishments both in school and in our community!

This summer we will be hosting summer school on our campus for our middle and high school students. More information on summer school will be coming out as the year comes to a close. In the meantime, please encourage your student to make up any missing work or simply ask questions to get extra help during 10th period (2:20-3 p.m.) Monday through Thursday. Academic help is also available Monday through Thursday from 3-5 p.m.

We are looking forward to celebrating the end of this year having our fifth grade students officially moving up as Middle School students, and our eighth grade students moving on to the High School. We are excited for the eighth grade trip to Boston and have been planning fun activities to celebrate the end of this school year. Be on the lookout for information on these celebrations, and as always please reach out to us with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. Breana Mullen
Middle School Principal

Union Springs MS Honors Students at Virtual Mid-Year Award Ceremony



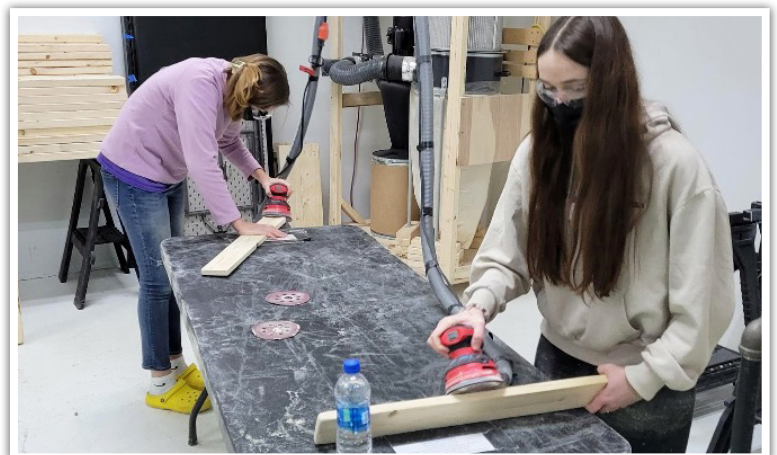
Following tradition, Union Springs Middle School held their annual Mid-Year Award Ceremony to honor both academic achievement and positive behavior traits.

One at a time, each grade level was called down to the auditorium where students sat as their names were called to be recognized for their accomplishments.

Awards included: honor roll, high honor roll, and principal's honor roll, as well as Top 10 and Way of the Wolf awards. Remote learners were also recognized for their efforts.

So parents, families and friends could view the award ceremony, a slideshow video was made for the district's website and Twitter page.

NJHS Members Help Build Beds for Those in Need



National Junior Honor Society student's Anna McKay, Jennie Daum, Alex Smith, Ella Dougherty, Chloe Wilde, Kate Besner, and Caroline Smead donated their time to the Auburn Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This organization builds beds for children within the local community who do not have a place to sleep at home. The NJHS students helped build 12 beds for the cause.

A Message From HS Principal Mr. Dentel:

Happy Spring, High School Families,

As I write this, we are in the middle of a two-hour delay, with 70-degree temperatures predicted later this week. In our classrooms, we are preparing for the return of the Regents exams. As spring sports begin, it is an excellent time to reflect on the wonderful work that our students have done over the past few months.

Musical performances came back to the high school in March. Our student's rendition of "Little Women" was terrific. Audiences each night could not believe the powerful singers and actors we had. The cast and crew should be proud of their performance.

In February, I met with students from each grade level. It was expressed that we need school community events. An event mentioned was Spike Night. Spike Night is a fundraiser for the Masterminds Club and the senior class. So, as March came to a close, our Masterminds and senior class advisors planned Spike Night. We had over 100 students and parents show up to play, watch, and have fun.

Also, in March and April, we took the opportunity to recognize students to the Board of Education. In the first meeting, we acknowledged our student-athletes who accomplished impressive accolades. Next up was music and art recognition. We honored Scholastic Art winners and All-State and All-County music awards. We also recognized our BOCES CTE students who placed in the SkillsUSA competition. That same night we recognized a student who was selected to the Empire Girls State Program.

Finally, in April, we named Methew Schenck as Valedictorian and Riley Secor as Salutatorian for the Class of 2022. Both students worked hard to overcome the change in schooling over the past two years. Their grit, perseverance, and dedication resulted in these prestigious honors. Congratulations to Methew, Riley, and your families!

Once again, we will be hosting summer school on campus. At the high school level, serves three main purposes. The first is to recover credit from the 2021-2022 school year. We are also offering driver's ed, health, economics, and government for students who cannot fit them into their schedules. Finally, with the anticipated return of Regents exams, we want to make sure students can prepare for exams they may need to retake.

As we progress towards June, we look forward to a Spring Dance, Prom, and the many senior events culminating in graduation on June 26th. Preparation for all of these events is underway, and I look forward to honoring the Class of 2022.

In Wolf Pack Pride,

Mr. Jason Dentel

High School Principal

Union Springs CSD Announces Val & Sal for Class of 2022



Over the last several years, senior Methew Schenck has worked hard to maintain his pursuit of academic excellence. That hard work has paid off, as Schenck was recently named Class of 2022 Valedictorian.

Schenck said he is very proud of this achievement, noting that the hard work and stressful times were worth it in the long run. Schenck said he would like to thank many individuals for helping him achieve this honor, including family, faculty and friends.

"I want to thank my parents for supporting me all the way back in Korea. I want to thank my friends for helping me get used to America. And I would like to thank my teachers for helping me with all my work," he said.

When asked what he will miss most about Union Springs upon graduation, Schenck said the people who made him feel at home.

"I made many friends in this high school, and all of the teachers were very friendly," Schenck said. "I had a lot of fun talking to them, and I will miss everyone."

After graduation, Schenck will be attending SUNY Korea to major in computer science. His hope is to one day work in the video game industry. When asked what advice he would give students entering high school next year, Schenck said he would advise students to ask as many questions as possible.

"I never would have succeeded this much without asking questions," he said.



Riley Secor was named class Salutatorian, an honor he said he is very proud of.

"I have spent the last four years working hard to get the grades I have today and I am proud of my diligence and focus," he said.

Secor said he would like to give appreciation to his teachers who made his high school experience enjoyable. Secor also credited his dad and prayer for helping him get through some stressful times, including Regents exams.

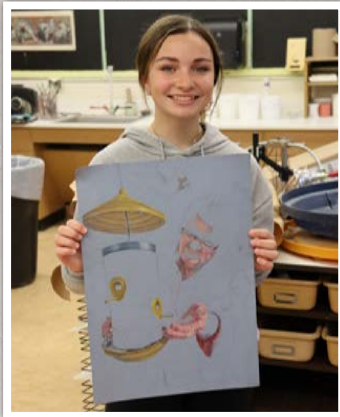
Secor said he will miss his teachers and friends who helped him throughout his four years at Union Springs High School. After graduation, Secor hopes to do missionary work for the Jehovah's Witnesses before exploring more opportunities down the road. When asked what advice he would give to incoming freshmen, Secor said time management is a key to success.

"Time management is one of the most important things to be mindful of since we all have a limited amount of it," he said. "Above all, try to find something that gives you purpose like I already have. I hope everyone can find that."

Angelia Scholz wins National Scholastic Art Award

Senior Angelia Scholz took inspiration from a family tradition and turned it into a nationally recognized piece of art.

After her art teacher Jason Charles suggested Scholz draw her mother for a class project, Scholz secretly began the drawing using colored pencils. The drawing features Scholz's mother preparing meatballs, a Sunday family tradition along with watching football. The piece was appropriately named "Sunday Traditions."



"We really wanted to capture Sundays in the fall for our family," she said. "The tough part was keeping it a secret from my mom."

After receiving a Gold Key at the CNY Scholastic Art Awards, Scholz (along with 11 other Union Springs students listed below) also received recognition at the New York State Scholastic Art Awards. Those submissions were then sent to the national level, where Scholz's art was recognized once more.

"Mr. Charles came up to me and said it may have a shot to win, and then a few days later he told me it did win, and I was just kind of in shock," she said.

Scholz said she would like to thank Mr. Charles for continuously supporting her throughout high school.

After high school, Scholz is planning to major in Physical Therapy in college. While Scholz has yet to decide on which college she'll attend, she does intend on taking some art classes to continue her passion for drawing.

Evener Excited to Attend Empire Girls State Program

Looking to gain valuable leadership skills and an authentic college experience, Union Springs High School junior Xavia Evener will be one of just five students throughout the county to participate in the Empire Girls State Program this summer.

Empire Girls State is an educational program of the American Legion Auxiliary, developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part and commensurably responsible for the character and success of her government.

In the one-week program, attendees will build the government of a mythical 51st state. Based on this state, they will participate in campaigns, rallies, speeches, various legislative committees, create bills, and more.

"To be honest, I didn't know how to react when I heard the news," Evener said about being one of 360 students from throughout the state to be selected for the program. "This is such a big opportunity and a great résumé builder for college."

The program will take place at SUNY Brockport, which is something that caught the eye of Evener, who plans to major in accounting in college.

"I definitely plan on attending college, so this is a great opportunity to see the college experience," she said. "I'll check out the campus and the dorms and really get a feel for it all."

To be eligible for Empire Girls State, participants must be academically in the upper third of their class, as well as recommended by their counselor, principal, or superintendent. Every attendee is also eligible to apply for the American Legion Samsung Scholarship: 10 national winners receive \$10,000 each, 10 national runners-up receive \$5,000 each and remaining finalist receive \$1,250 each.



A celebratory graphic with a purple and blue background. It features various art supplies like paint tubes, brushes, and a palette. The text reads: "UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Congrats Students! NEW YORK STATE SCHOLASTIC ART AWARD WINNERS". Below the text is a list of names: Ainsley Biter | Asa Brown | Jennifer Daum | Ava Dennis | Ella Dougherty | Kailey Forbes | Catherine Gilmore | Hannah McHenry | Devin Platt | Angelia Scholz | Gabby Sennett | Ava Smith.



Winter Sports Teams Honored at Board of Education Meeting

Two winter sports teams were honored at a March Board of Education meeting for their excellent seasons. The Girls Varsity Basketball team (IAC Champions) and the Girls Bowling team (IAC and Sectional Champions) were both celebrated at the meeting.

Senior Jose Reyes Notches 1,000 Career Points



Senior Jose Reyes joined elite company this past basketball season, as he eclipsed the 1,000 point plateau. Reyes became the first player since 1990 to accomplish that feat for Union Springs High School. Reyes was also honored for his feat at a recent Board of Education meeting.

Athletes Honored at Winter Sports Awards



Student-athletes were lauded for their efforts at the Winter Sports Awards. Before a gym full of proud family members and friends, coaches took turns recapping their seasons and handing out awards to specific athletes, including Most Improved Player and MVP. Pictured, junior Kailey Kalet and senior Jose Reyes received Athlete of the Month recognition at the ceremony.

Morehouse Represents Union Springs in All-State Band

Years ago, Union Springs High School senior Sarah Morehouse was playing clarinet in band and wanted to switch up instruments. Morehouse was handed a bass clarinet, and the rest is history.



After scoring high on her New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) solo video entry last year, Morehouse was recently named to the All-State Band for her abilities on the bass clarinet.

By becoming an All-State performer, Morehouse was able to play with 150 other all-state musicians at the Eastman Theatre in Albany, NY.

"It was amazing to perform with the other students," Morehouse said. "The sound was incredible. You realize that a band needs all the instruments to work together."

Morehouse said most of the 150 students were from downstate and noted that she was proud to represent Union Springs and Central New York during the performance.

"Most of the students were from Long Island, and they were shocked to learn where I was from," Morehouse said laughing.

High School Principal Jason Dentel said Sarah's accomplishments in music are something the entire community can be proud of.

"Our students are talented in diverse areas. We especially excel in the arts," said Dentel. "Sarah's accomplishments in music are of great pride to our entire school community. I remember Sarah playing at the Board of Education meeting that I was hired at. She is a wonderful musician and student."

Band Director Steve Persad said Morehouse put in many hours of practice to achieve her goal of being accepted into the All-State Band.

"Sarah made it a goal when she started participating in a NYSSMA solo to be accepted into the All-State band her senior year," said Persad. "It has been a pleasure to watch Sarah develop as a musician over the years and am proud of her accomplishment as she represents herself, her family, school and community. Congratulations, Sarah!"

Morehouse said she wanted to thank Mr. Persad, her mother, and her older sister Lauren for being her biggest supporters throughout her time in band.

Mark Your Calendars

- May 8 Mother's Day
- May 9 **Budget Hearing** & Board of Ed. Meeting
- May 12 AJ Smith Curriculum/Concert Night (K&1)
- May 17 **Budget Vote**
- May 17 AJ Smith Curriculum/Concert Night (2&3)
- May 21 Junior Prom
- May 23 Board of Education Meeting
- May 30 Memorial Day - No School
- June 1 High School Academic Awards
- June 2 MS/HS Spring Band Concert
- June 7 Scholarship Dinner
- June 8 Spring Varsity Sports Awards
- June 9 MS/HS Spring Chorus Concert
- June 13 Board of Education Meeting
- June 19 Father's Day
- June 20 Juneteenth - No School
- June 26 Graduation

**FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VIEW OUR
CALENDAR ON WWW.UNIONSPRINGS.ORG**

Students Shine During 'Little Women' Performances



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