



# LANCASTER SCHOOLS

## Annual Budget Report 2023-24



## Students Assist in Repairs at Lancaster Youth Bureau

The mission of the Lancaster High School Manufacturing and Construction Skilled Trades Academy is to allow students to explore the productive and rewarding possibilities in these fields and develop the student's skills and talents to succeed in these industries while creating active, productive citizens. Students in the academy recently put that mission into action when they assisted in repairing damage at the Lancaster Youth Bureau.

The bureau's facility, located at 200 Oxford Avenue, was damaged during the massive winter storm that hit the region in late December, as a burst pipe filled the building with inches of standing water. The damage led to the facility being unusable for months, with the bureau's staff working out of the nearby Senior Center.

David Santoro, teacher and director of the academy, said that when he and his students were asked if they wanted to help, the answer was simple. "The Youth Bureau does so much for the community, it was a no-brainer. I told the kids, 'Your reward is knowing you

*continued on page 3*



Class of  
2023  
Top 10  
Page 4



Budget  
Facts &  
Figures  
Page 10



Board of  
Education  
Candidates  
Page 12



# Budget Focused on Ensuring Student Success

Dear Lancaster School District Residents,

As we prepare for next school year, our focus is ensuring our ability to maintain the strength of programs and offerings that have made Lancaster a destination district - one that families seek out to provide their children an exceptional educational experience. We are proposing to our voters a budget that allows us to continue to support and advance student achievement while offering a multitude of extracurricular opportunities that our school community has come to value and appreciate.

The budget development process starts each year in January, and through monthly budget work sessions, we review spending proposals for each department. During these sessions, the board is able to ask questions and have our administrators expand on key areas of each presentation. If you would like to access that information, all of our meetings are available to view on the district's YouTube channel.

Our administrative team, together with the Board of Education, is guided by the fundamental principle that everything we do is done in the best interests of our students. The proposed budget maintains a well-rounded educational and extracurricular experience and continues our focus on the physical, mental, and social-emotional well-being of students at all levels.

I am proud of our board and administrative team for preparing a budget that provides for the continuation of the enriching and invaluable program offerings our stakeholders have come to expect while maximizing the use of state aid and local resources. With unprecedented funding levels from New York State in 2023 for education, this proposed budget remains well below the district's property tax levy cap limit and also recognizes and maximizes revenue available from other sources and district reserves.

I encourage you to review the budget and participate in the budget vote and board election on May 16, 2023. Detailed information on the 2023-24 proposed budget is available on the District website at [www.lancasterschools.org](http://www.lancasterschools.org). As always, thank you for your continued support of the Lancaster Central School District.

Sincerely,  
Michael Sage, President, Board of Education

**YOUR  
VOTE COUNTS**

**BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
**7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Lancaster High School**  
**One Forton Drive**  
**North Entrance • New Java Gym**

## Budget at a Glance

<b>2023-24 Budget Total.....</b>	<b>\$130,704,018</b>
<b>Appropriations</b>	
Administration.....	\$12,621,880
Program.....	\$96,194,359
Capital.....	\$21,887,779
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$130,704,018</b>

The following are estimates of revenue for the proposed budget. By state law, school districts must present a balanced budget (approximations = revenue) to the voters.

<b>Revenues</b>	
Property Tax.....	\$61,232,869
Other Property Tax Items.....	\$1,499,502
Erie County Sales Tax.....	\$8,000,000
State Aid (Various Types).....	\$49,751,470
Interfund Transfers.....	\$10,000
Local Revenues.....	\$2,736,200
<b>Use of Fund Balance</b>	
Use of Reserve Funds.....	\$4,353,524
Appropriated Surplus.....	\$3,120,453
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$130,704,018</b>

# Students Assist in Repairs at Youth Bureau



(continued from cover) much for the community, it was a no-brainer. I told the kids, ‘Your reward is knowing you did a good deed.’”

Among the tasks for the students, overseen by their teachers and professional contractors, included removing ceiling panels and wall shelving as well as tearing out damaged carpeting, perfect for a group that Mr. Santoro described as “the hands-on kids.” The students’ work allowed the professional contractors at the site to work more efficiently and focus on higher skilled tasks associated with the repairs.

“It was simple stuff we could get done, and it helped move along the project,” said Samuel Judasz, a senior in the class who plans on working with heavy equipment after graduation. “Having more people made the work go a lot faster and easier for everyone.”

**“We are very fortunate  
to have such coordination  
and good nature between  
the town and school district”**

John Trojanowsky, Lancaster Youth Bureau Executive Director



The three-year Manufacturing and Skilled Trades Academy program is designed for students who are interested in exploring careers in the Manufacturing & Construction industries. In their coursework, students develop soft skills as well as technical skills to gain employment in the field through interactions with professionals and site visits.

Carson Gugliuzza, a senior in the class, said the visit to the bureau facility was the first time he had been on a professional work site, and it made him see the value in teamwork on a job site. The visit also reinforced his plans to get into electrical work after he graduates. “It showed me I actually enjoy doing this,” Carson said. “I could see myself doing this for the next 30 years.”

John Trojanowsky, the bureau’s executive director, said the students’ work was a “huge help,” and a sign of shared community spirit. “Lancaster is a very special community,” Trojanowsky said. “We’re very fortunate to have such coordination and good nature between the town and the school district.”

Trojanowsky said that he expected the Youth Bureau to return to its facility in May.

More information about the academy can be found at [https://www.lancasterschools.org/trades\\_academy](https://www.lancasterschools.org/trades_academy).



From the top: Students take direction from Mr. Santoro; Students get to work removing ceiling tiles; LHS Technology Education teachers Phillip Streit, Matthew Baehr, and Keith Hochreiter along with Trades Academy Director David Santoro.



# Lancaster High School Class of 2023 - Top 10



**Parents:** Jennifer & William Heiler  
**College:** University of Michigan or RIT - Mechanical Engineering  
**Plans for the future:** I plan to pursue a master's in mechanical engineering and work on the development of renewable energy while continuing to compose and perform music.  
**Activities:** Varsity Tennis; Math Honor Society (including Teacher Desk service project), treasurer; Project Lead the Way, financial director; Academy of Visual and Performing Arts; Science Honor Society (including Woodlawn Beach and Cayuga Creek cleanings); Carnival Kids Steel Orchestra; Symphony Orchestra; Jazz Ensemble; Jazz Combo; Ski Club; Prairie Pavement rock band; Civil Engineering Internship at W.M. Schutt & Associates; Student Union; Pianist for Saint Gabriel's R.C. Church.  
**Honors:** 11th Grade Math Department Award; Science Student of the Month, January 2022; NYSSMA Area All-State Musician, Percussion; ECMEA All-County Musician, Percussion; NYSSMA Conference All-State Alternate, Percussion; RIT Presidential Scholarship; RIT Performing Arts Scholar; RIT Honors Scholar; AP Scholar.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** The fantastic music program as a whole at Lancaster High School has given me a wonderful creative outlet and has allowed me to enjoy performing with so many amazing people. AVPA, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band have been so valuable and have built my confidence in music and beyond. Moreover, backing Carnival Kids' Steel Orchestra on the drum set in gigs all over Western New York has been an unbeatable way to spend my summers.



**Parents:** Iryna Zaminova & Mohammad Habiby Kermany  
**College:** University at Buffalo - Biochemistry  
**Plans for the future:** I am looking forward to engaging in on-campus research at the University at Buffalo, and involving myself in experiences that will prepare me for work in clinical settings.  
**Activities:** Science Olympiad, president; Model United Nations; Math Honor Society, officer; Science and French Honor Societies; Healthcare Academy; LHS Peer to Peer Tutoring Program.  
**Honors:** UB Presidential Scholar; Richard Davidson Science Award; Terrence J. Smerka Humanitarian Award; Model UN: Superior Delegate in World Health Organization; Model UN: Excellent Delegate in NATO; Science Olympiad Environmental Chemistry medalist; Chemistry Olympiad local round selection; Foreign Language Department Award, French; AP Scholar.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** AP Chemistry has had such a significant impact on me. The course material was always so fascinating, and the hands-on labs were engaging. The class as a whole made me truly fall in love with the field, and encouraged me to look further into expanding my knowledge into my undergraduate years.



**Parents:** Adam & Shirley Conners  
**College:** University of Glasgow – Electronics and Electrical Engineering  
**Plans for the future:** I hope to get a bachelor's degree from the University of Glasgow and then return to the United States to work in Electronics.  
**Activities:** Student Union, representative; Science Olympiad, secretary; Art Honor Society, president; Science Honor Society; Project Lead the Way; Academy of the Visual and Performing Arts; Lancaster Village Mayor's Office, intern.  
**Honors:** AP Scholar with honor; University at Buffalo Gifted Math Program graduate; Science Olympiad Codebusters medalist; Buffalo News Editorial Cartoon Contest honorable mention; Mabel Bates Art Achievement Award.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** When I signed up for the Project Lead the Way Academy during my freshman year, I didn't know what I wanted to study in college. But after my junior year in the academy, it became clear to me that I loved working with electronics and that I needed to pursue that as a career.



**Parents:** Valerie & Michael Buechi  
**College:** Binghamton University - Accounting  
**Plans for the future:** I plan to pursue my Certified Public Accountant license and a future career in financial accounting.  
**Activities:** Academy of Finance, secretary; National Honor Society; Math Honor Society, officer; Science Honor Society; English Honor Society, vice president; Spanish Honor Society, president; LEO Club; Lancaster Historical Society, volunteer.  
**Honors:** Chemistry Student of the Year; Spanish Student of the Year; Business Student of the Year.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** I was most impacted by the friendships formed in the Academy of Finance. The small learning communities at Lancaster allowed me to meet so many wonderful people with similar passions and form some of my closest friendships.



**Parents:** Maria & Daniel Khang  
**College:** Gannon University - Accelerated Physician Assistant Program  
**Plans for the future:** I plan on attending Gannon University as a part of their physician assistant program.  
**Activities:** Lancaster Youth Bureau Teen Volunteer Program; Youth Court; Health and Wellness Peer Facilitator Program; Healthcare Academy, Officer; Resurrection Life Fellowship Food Distribution Center, volunteer; Student Union; National Honor Society; Science Honor Society; Math Honor Society; English Honor Society; Spanish Honor Society; Freshman Class Board; Sophomore Class Board; Junior Class Board; Bald for Bucks; Student Section Leader; Block L; Powder Puff; Niagara Frontier Volleyball; New York Diamond Girls Softball; Varsity Softball; Curling Club.  
**Honors:** Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame; NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence Recipient; National Honor Society Member of the Month  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** Being a student in Lancaster is what ultimately led me to an impactful lesson. Lancaster High School has taught me that having fun is equally as important to having academic success. Fifty years from now, no one will remember that I was fifth in my class. However, everyone will be able to recall the times when laughter seemed to fill an entire room. While grades are what got me here, responding to this prompt, my real accomplishments are not on paper or the internet. They can only be remembered by the people I spent my time with at Lancaster. I will forever cherish the memories I made at Lancaster High School.



**Parents:** Monica Karwan & Brian Zybala  
**College:** University at Buffalo - Environmental Engineering  
**Plans for the future:** After high school, I plan to attend college for environmental engineering and earn at least a bachelor's degree. I hope to stay close to home and start a career in New York State. Throughout my time in college and in my adult life, I want to stay involved in the performing arts in addition to engineering.  
**Activities:** Lancaster Dance Center; Performing Arts Society; Environmental Action Club; Sign Language Club; Role-Playing Games Club.  
**Honors:** National Merit Scholarship Finalist, High Honor Roll; Technology Student of the Month, February 2022; Math Student of the Month, October 2021; Foreign Language Student of the Month, September 2019.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** The school musicals have had the most impact on me at Lancaster High School. Working together to create a show is an amazing experience and brings the group very close together every year. The school musicals have helped me to grow as a performer and as a member of a team. They've created lasting friendships and memories that I'll carry with me beyond high school.



**Parents:** Mark & Carrie Greene  
**College:** The University of Tampa - Nursing  
**Plans for the future:** I plan to move to Florida to attend The University of Tampa and study nursing to hopefully become a labor and delivery nurse.  
**Activities:** Student Union; Math Honor Society; Healthcare Academy; Varsity Women's Soccer; Varsity Women's Lacrosse; Curling Club; Ski Club; Lady Monsters Lacrosse; Youth Lacrosse Coaching.  
**Honors:** High Honor Roll; Varsity Women's Soccer, captain; ECIC Second Team for Fall 2019-2021; NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** Being accepted into the Healthcare Academy at LHS has had the biggest impact on me because it gave me an opportunity to take specific classes that expanded on my interest in the healthcare field and has ultimately lead to my college and career decision.



**Parents:** Dawn & Steve Buscaglia  
**College:** University of North Carolina Wilmington - Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience  
**Plans for the future:** I plan to obtain my Ph.D. in psychology with a concentration in neuroscience and work in research or academia.  
**Activities:** JV Girls Lacrosse, captain; Healthcare Academy; Math Honor Society; Science Honor Society; English Honor Society; Ski Club; Lancaster Lady Monsters Lacrosse Team; Elks Club; Ismailia Shriners, volunteer; West Seneca Masonic Lodge, volunteer; WNY Foster Closet, volunteer; Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, volunteer at the spring sweeps; Williamsville Summer Lacrosse Team; Salvatore's Italian Prime, employee.  
**Honors:** Marie R. Ignatz Award For Quality Service to the School and Community; West Seneca Masonic Lodge Scholarship; Second Place, 2023 Frank M. Totton Essay Contest, Grand Masonic Lodge of the State of New York; UNC Wilmington Honors Program.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** My experience in AP psychology and in the Healthcare Academy had the most significant impact on my life. These courses expanded my passion for psychology and neuroscience and have prepared me for my future academic endeavors. Between the amazing teachers like Mr. Rossi, Ms. Brooder, and Dr. Soukup, who made each class the highlight of my day, or the field trips, course material, and the class environment, I just couldn't be more grateful.



# LHS Class of 2023 - Top 10 (continued)



**Parents:** Tracy & Alan Lumb  
**College:** University at Buffalo or Rochester Institute of Technology - Undecided major with a minor in music.  
**Plans for the future:** My major in college will most likely be in the field of engineering with a minor in music. I plan to keep music as a hobby through college and beyond by joining music groups on both drum set and bass.  
**Activities:** National Honor Society; Science Honor Society; Math Honor Society; New York State Band Directors Association: Honor Jazz Ensemble for Upright Bass; Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA) Jazz A Band Drum Set; ECMEA Orchestra Upright Bass; New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Area All-State Orchestra Upright Bass; Ski Club; Symphony Orchestra; Jazz Ensemble; Pit Orchestra; Swingin’ Strings; Lancaster Summer Orchestra program; St. John’s West Seneca Community Dinner, volunteer; St John’s Depew Church Band; Lancaster Historical Society, intern and volunteer; Prairie Pavement rock band, founder and member.  
**Honors:** LHS Student of the Month for Music; Varsity Letter in Music; NYSBDA 2023 High School Honor Jazz Ensemble; 2022 Music is Art Battle winner, Prairie Pavement rock band.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** The entire Lancaster High School Music Department has had a huge impact on me. Through this department, I have had the opportunity to play and learn under the direction of wonderful teachers as well as guest artists, in multiple music groups. All this experience has greatly improved my musicianship and my confidence. It also afforded me the opportunity to play in All-County, Area All-State and NYSBDA honor bands under the leadership of highly regarded conductors who told their stories of playing with the greats. Lancaster music has also been a great way to relax and have fun as well as to make friends. Additionally, I enjoyed the opportunity to play at a variety of interesting venues around Western New York.



**Parents:** Kara & Bill Neidel  
**College:** Michigan State University - Finance  
**Plans for the future:** I plan to graduate MSU with a bachelor’s degree in Finance and pursue a career in Actuarial Science or become a Financial Advisor. I am also interested in possibly starting and owning my own business.  
**Activities:** Academy of Finance, vice president; National Honor Society; Math Honor Society; Science Honor Society; Varsity Volleyball, captain; Niagara Frontier Volleyball 18 Gold Team; Varsity Tennis, captain; LEO Club; Curling Club; Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster, volunteer; Wind Symphony, saxophone; Charlie the Butcher, employee.  
**Honors:** Broad College of Business and Residential Business Community at Michigan State University, direct admission; Michigan State Honors College admission; ECIC Volleyball Division 1AA First Team All-Star, All Western New York Scholar Athlete; NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete; Eagle Scout.  
**What experience at LHS had the most impact on you?** Being a member of the LHS Academy of Finance helped me discover that I wanted to pursue a career in business. I learned strategies to be successful and had an early introduction to all different types of business career paths. Junior year I served as AOF Junior Vice President and senior year I was part of the Executive Board. All of the learning experiences that I had through AOF truly made me future ready.



**KEEPING WATCH:** Meet Gary Hillman, one of the WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads of Great Students) at John A. Sciole (JAS). The national program, which has been in place at JAS since 2019, aims to provide positive male role models to students while providing an extra set of eyes and ears to improve safety and reduce bullying. “We’re always here for the kids,” he said. “They appreciate a friendly face and a male presence.” Recruitment efforts are underway to bring WATCH D.O.G.S.® to other LCSD buildings. Fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles, and other father figures can volunteer to be part of this respected and valuable program.

# Students, Staff Shine at Leadership Conference



The work of students and staff at Lancaster High School was celebrated as they took part in the New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities Conference, joining hundreds of aspiring student leaders from around the state.

Among the recognitions for the LHS students was being one of eight schools in New York presented a National Student Council Gold Council of Excellence. The award recognizes student councils that meet high standards and demonstrate evidence of student service, leadership, voice, and engagement.

More than 300 people came to the Niagara Falls Convention Center for days of speakers, collaborative events and student-led activities at the conference, in its 33rd year. The conference, moved to March after inclement weather in November, brought together students that may not otherwise have the chance to interact.

“It’s a life-changing experience, both as a student many years ago, and now as an advisor,” said Mark Skowron, LHS Coordinator of Student Affairs and Co-Director of Leadership Academy. “They learn, they exchange ideas and they make these connections all around the state.”

The conference has been eagerly awaited for students like Elizabeth Kamrowski, a senior and student board member for the organization. This year’s conference provided more interactions with fellow students, she said, after years of limited experiences related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It’s cool to be able to meet with other students who have the same mindset on leadership,” Elizabeth said. “We got to learn from each other as we shared ideas.”

The council offers students the opportunity to learn, share and network, and is led at the state level by a combination of students and advisors. The conference partners with a local charity, this year being Special Olympics NY, which led to a game for LHS’ Unified Basketball team, which brings people with and without intellectual disabilities together on the same team.

During the conference, Skowron was named Advisor of the Year, recognizing advisors who utilize leadership skills with students on a daily basis. Additionally, Terry Adamec, Assistant High School Principal, was awarded Administrator of the Year, which honors those who demonstrate creativity and resourcefulness to support student leadership development. The two said they have worked together for more than two decades, and were thrilled to be able to share the experience together.

“It was overwhelming to see our kids cheering,” Adamec said. “Everything we do is for them so they can have the best experience.”

Other awards presented during the conference include Distinguished Leader Designations for Elizabeth Kamrowski, Abigail Maw, and Delaney LeFauve, a NYS CLSA Outstanding Leader Award to Abigail Maw, a NYS CLSA Student Recognition Award and Dale Hawley Leadership Award for Elizabeth Kamrowski. Kelly Ambrose, Co-Director of Leadership Academy, was re-elected to the Adult NYSCLSA Board, a group of 24 advisors from around the state. Jenna Cwiklinski was also elected as a student member to the NYS CLSA Board.

More information about the LHS Leadership Academy can be found at [https://www.lancasterschools.org/leadership\\_academy](https://www.lancasterschools.org/leadership_academy). Additional information about CSLA can be found at <https://www.nysclsa.org/index.html>.



Top left: Kelly Ambrose, Co-Director of Leadership Academy, with students Elizabeth Kamrowski, Abigail Maw, and Delaney LeFauve, who were recognized during the recent NYS Council on Leadership and Student Activities Conference. Bottom right: Mark Skowron, LHS Coordinator of Student Affairs and Co-Director of Leadership Academy and Terry Adamec, LHS Assistant Principal.





## What is the Return on Your Investment?

**5,341** children educated in the Lancaster Central School District.

**983** Full- and part-time professional and support staff, many of whom are residents and support the local economy.

**693** Students enrolled in one of our seven distinctive and national award-winning academy programs.

**\$15,363** Spending per pupil in the Lancaster Central School District, compared to the countywide district average spending per pupil of \$18,119 and the statewide district average of \$23,471 per pupil.

Source: NYSED 2020-21 School Year Financial Transparency Report.

**Approximately 818** full-time employees are directly employed by the Lancaster Central School District. The district's purchase of goods and services as well as employee personal spending is responsible for over 753 additional spillover jobs in the Western Region. The school district is responsible for a total of about 1,571 local jobs. These jobs generate \$93.3 million in income. \$54.3 million is directly connected to Lancaster employees. Another \$39 million is generated by spillover spending that generates additional jobs. This income generates an estimated \$4.6 million in state income tax in total and \$2.8 million in sales tax.

Source: Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) School District Economic Impact Report 2022.

## Seventh Consecutive Year

The NAMM Foundation has once again recognized Lancaster with the Best Communities for Music Education Award. The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.

## Lancaster Legends

All varsity teams this fall and winter have been designated as **NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete teams** (cumulative average of entire team is over 90%).

Lancaster Central School District offers **29** different sports.

The districts varsity teams have won **five** Sectional championships so far in the 2022-23 school year (varsity cheerleading, girls varsity volleyball, girls varsity basketball, girls indoor track, varsity rifle).

The Legends sent **several individuals to states** to date for the sports of cross country/track and field, wrestling, mens swimming, and rifle.

**State Champion** - Aaron Gasiewicz of the boys swim team won the state championship in the 100 yard butterfly and 200 yard individual medley.

The Rifle Team **won state championships** in two events. Two student-athletes, Tyler DeKruger and Miranda Leach competed in the 2023 National Junior Olympic Championship.

**29** student-athletes to date will continue their athletic careers next year at the collegiate level.

## Academies

In the **Academy of Finance** during the 2022-23 school year, professionals and alumni provided 50+ hours of mentoring, 72 mock interviews were conducted, 220 hours of job shadowing took place, over 600 transferable college credits were earned, and more than 4000 internship hours were completed. The academy has achieved the national status of "Distinguished" for a 12th consecutive year.

**All seniors in the Leadership Academy** complete the Distinguished Student Leaders program. Lancaster has the second most students in the country out of all high schools who have earned this distinction - over 230 since 2012.

## Award Winning Student Union

For its exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that serve to improve the school and community, the **Lancaster High School Student Union** has once again received the National Gold Council of Excellence Award from the National Student Council. Lancaster is **one of six** schools nationwide to have received the award since its inception 18 years ago and **one of eight** schools to earn the distinction in New York State this year.

## Life After Lancaster

**99%** Class of 2022 graduation rate.

**Advanced Placement:**

**711** Total of exams taken (2021-2022)

**389** Total AP students

**36.3%** Seniors who scored 3 or higher on at least one AP exam

**33** Dual enrollment courses, where students can choose from a wide variety of courses that provide a pathway to earn college credit while concurrently earning high school credit. While individual cases may vary, students can often use the credits to reduce tuition costs upon enrolling in a college.

**30** Students receiving the New York State Seal of Biliteracy.

**154** Students slated to receive the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) credential AND a diploma this year.

**55** Students enrolled in Lancaster Alternative Program (LAP), one of two local programs created to serve our students who have not achieved success in the traditional school setting.

**\$12,100,000** Scholarship monies received by the Class of 2022.



# Budget for 2023-24 School Year

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	Total 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Dollar Difference	Percent Difference
Board of Education, District Clerk, and Annual Meeting	\$43,165	\$44,775	\$1,610	3.73%
Chief School Administrator	\$340,004	\$350,056	\$10,052	2.96%
Business Administration, Auditing, Tax Collection, and Fiscal Agent Fees	\$883,233	\$909,093	\$25,860	2.93%
Legal Services	\$257,510	\$283,894	\$26,384	10.25%
Personnel	\$373,386	\$389,094	\$15,708	4.21%
Community Relations	\$192,555	\$197,151	\$4,596	2.39%
Central Printing, Mailing, and Data Processing	\$1,708,666	\$1,681,110	-\$27,556	-1.61%
Insurance, Dues, Assessments on Property, BOCES Administrative and Capital Charges, Prior Year Refunds	\$1,342,743	\$1,343,032	\$289	0.02%
Admin/Supervision of Curriculum, Schools, Pupil Personnel and Continuing Education, Research, Planning, and Evaluation	\$4,486,504	\$4,720,138	\$233,634	5.21%
Benefits for Administrative Functions	\$2,597,541	\$2,703,537	\$105,996	4.08%
TOTAL	\$12,225,307	\$12,621,880	\$396,573	3.24%

PROGRAM BUDGET	Total 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Dollar Difference	Percent Difference
Inservice Training	\$318,786	\$390,766	\$71,980	22.58%
Teaching-Regular School, Alternative School, Enrichment, and Academy Programs	\$33,383,836	\$35,246,078	\$1,862,242	5.58%
Special Education	\$13,875,928	\$14,998,928	\$1,123,000	8.09%
Programs for English Language Learners	\$400,103	\$251,227	-\$148,876	- 37.21%
Occupational Education	\$1,587,600	\$1,925,424	\$337,824	21.28%
Continuing Education and Summer School	\$213,000	\$213,000	\$0	0.00%
School Library and Audio Visual	\$1,172,963	\$1,247,883	\$74,920	6.39%
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$2,203,047	\$2,360,240	\$157,193	7.14%
Attendance Services	\$257,141	\$266,338	\$9,197	3.58%
Guidance Services	\$1,536,191	\$1,594,640	\$58,449	3.80%
Health Services	\$1,796,533	\$1,858,508	\$61,975	3.45%
Psychological Services	\$366,196	\$380,506	\$14,310	3.91%
Social Work Services	\$704,486	\$727,480	\$22,994	3.26%
Co-Curricular Activities	\$731,224	\$801,611	\$70,387	9.63%
Interscholastic Athletics	\$1,235,780	\$1,338,965	\$103,185	8.35%
Transportation-District Program	\$6,419,753	\$6,210,258	-\$209,495	- 3.26%
Transportation-Garage Building	\$231,533	\$203,800	-\$27,733	-11.98%
Contract Transportation	\$1,633,770	\$2,393,576	\$759,806	46.51%
Census	\$12,150	\$12,150	\$0	0.00%
Benefits for Program Functions	\$22,728,267	\$23,772,981	\$1,044,714	4.60%
TOTAL	\$90,808,287	\$96,194,359	\$5,386,072	5.93%

CAPITAL BUDGET	Total 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Dollar Difference	Percent Difference
Operation of Plant	\$5,960,900	\$6,073,334	\$112,434	1.89%
Maintenance of Plant	\$2,268,873	\$2,644,721	\$375,848	16.57%
Judgments & Claims	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Refund Real Property Taxes	\$148,500	\$148,500	\$0	0.00%
Principal and Interest on Serial Bonds	\$6,250,807	\$6,257,457	\$6,650	0.11%
Principal and Interest on Bond Anticipation Notes	\$942,200	\$3,225,000	\$2,282,800	242.28%
Principal and Interest on BOCES Construction	\$610,018	\$472,218	- \$137,800	- 22.59%
Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	0.00%
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
Transfer to Capital Fund - Capital Outlay Project	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
Transfer to Capital Fund - Annex Accessible Entrance	\$100,000	\$0	- \$100,000	- 100.00%
Benefits for Capital Functions	\$2,532,843	\$2,645,549	\$112,706	4.45%
TOTAL	\$19,235,141	\$21,887,779	\$2,652,638	13.79%

TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET	\$122,268,735	\$130,704,018	\$8,435,283	6.90%
---------------------------	---------------	---------------	-------------	-------

## HOW WOULD THE BUDGET AFFECT YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

In each township the estimate for how homeowners would be assessed is as follows:

Township	Current Tax Rate 2022-23	Estimated Rate Change	Estimated Tax Rate 2023-24
Lancaster	\$14.32	\$0.64	\$14.96
Cheektowaga	\$12.45	(\$1.24)	\$11.21
Elma	\$391.33	(\$38.89)	\$352.44

Sample Tax Bill\* Based on Property Values (Lancaster):

Assessment Value	Current Tax Rate 2022-23	Estimated Tax Rate 2023-24	Estimated Bill Change
\$100,000	\$1,432	\$1,496	\$64
\$200,000	\$2,864	\$2,992	\$128
\$300,000	\$4,296	\$4,488	\$192

\*Sample bills are estimated prior to any exemptions the homeowner may qualify for.

## BUDGET AND TAX RATE HISTORY

Year	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget Percent Increase	Tax Rate Impact
2023-24	\$130,704,018	6.90%	\$0.64*
2022-23	\$122,268,735	3.69%	\$0.34
2021-22	\$117,920,921	2.99%	(\$0.17)
2020-21	\$114,492,104	4.54%	(\$3.77)
2019-20	\$109,519,879	1.90%	\$0.64
2018-19	\$107,482,223	3.48%	\$0.29
2017-18	\$103,867,519	2.31%	\$0.03

\*Estimated for the 2023-24 school year.

## Transfers to Capital Explained

The proposed budget includes an expenditure of \$100,000 in the Transfer to Capital Fund for Capital Outlay Project budget line. Since this expenditure is included in the proposed budget, voter approval of the budget authorizes the work to be completed. The project will consist of the replacement of existing lighting fixtures with LED fixtures and lighting controls in and around William Street School. Characteristics of a capital outlay project are small, or a series of small, maintenance projects; cost more than \$10,000 to complete but less than \$100,000; completed within one school year; eligible for state building aid to be paid in the school year following completion; these types of projects allow the district to complete costly building and system repairs and replacements in a timely and efficient manner, while receiving state building aid in return.



# Board of Education Candidates



## Glenn Jackson

Mr. Glenn Jackson resides in Lancaster with his wife, Amy, an alumna and two daughters, Kaylie and Jayda, who attend Lancaster High School and Middle School, respectively. His daughter, Kaylie, is in the Academy of Finance, CCI (Culture, Climate, Inclusivity), volunteers for Unified basketball, and plays volleyball for the Legends while his daughter, Jayda, is a member of the Student Council, participated in the Random Acts of Kindness club, and plays basketball and lacrosse for the Legends. Mr. Jackson said he “possesses a deep-rooted belief that education is the universal key that can help each of us unlock our talents and live to our full potential.”

Glenn Jackson is currently the Chief Diversity Officer at M&T Bank. As Chief Diversity Officer, Glenn is responsible for advancing M&T’s efforts in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging for all colleagues across the company. Glenn joined M&T in 1999 as a participant in the Management Development Program. He held positions in Finance, Treasury and Retail divisions before joining Buffalo Promise Neighborhood as the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Director of Programs, a comprehensive school-based initiative led by M&T Bank.

Glenn earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics from Harvard University. He is a board member of The John R. Oishei Foundation, WNY Impact Investment Fund, and is an advisor for the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and Project Play WNY.

Glenn is supporting fellow board member Michael Sage as well as Tim Talbot who is beginning his journey with his young family here in Lancaster. Glenn is finishing up his first term as Vice President of the Lancaster Board of Education and said he “would be honored and privileged to serve another term helping to support a district and represent a community that shows each day what truly is important.”



## Dan Romig

Hello, my name is Dan Romig and I have lived in the Lancaster Central School District since 2008. I moved to Lancaster to start a new job at a local aerospace/defense company and have been a Senior Program Manager there for the past 5 years. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Penn State University and a Masters of Engineering Management from Southern Methodist University. Going from Engineering to Program Management over my 20 plus years of work I’ve been able to witness, experience, and overcome many different types of problems. If elected, I believe my background in both the technical and programmatic side of business will give me insights and experience to help the School Board navigate difficult decisions and generate positive outcomes for all.

I have two daughters, Emily age 17 and Isabella, whom I call Pepper, is 14. Both are excited to be attending Lancaster High School this year and next. Emily is looking forward to continuing her Arts

Academy classes and Pepper will be entering the Harkness Program. Lancaster has provided my girls with an exceptional education and I want to help ensure that continues going forward.

When my younger daughter was at William Street School, I was a PTO Committee Board member and co-facilitated the movie night and family fun night. I dare say I had about as much fun as the kids during those events and I miss being active in the community. If elected to the School Board, I would be able to give back to the community that has given me and my family so much, albeit in a much more serious endeavor than the PTO activities.



## Tara Romig

Hello, my name is Tara Romig, and as a mother of four children who attend schools in the Lancaster School District, I am deeply invested in our community’s education system. My children, Emily (17), Isabella (14), Abby (12), and Ethan (10), have always attended Lancaster schools so I have seen firsthand the impact of high-quality education on their growth and development.

I have been living in Lancaster since 2008 and currently work at a local insurance agency. In my role, I have refined my communication and assessment skills, which I believe will be beneficial as a member of the school board. I hold a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Penn State.

Over the years, I have served in various leadership roles for the Lancaster MOMs Club of Lancaster/Depew, including Events Coordinator, Membership Vice President, and Administration Vice President. These experiences have allowed me to develop strong leadership skills and build meaningful relationships with community members. I have also learned how to work collaboratively with others to achieve common goals.

As a potential member of the school board, I believe in parental medical choice when it comes to the health of our children, and I will advocate for this on the board. I also recognize the importance of fiscal transparency in our district and will work to ensure that it is a priority. Finally, I strongly believe in the importance of providing age-appropriate content and literature in our school libraries and curriculum.

I look forward to meeting with you and learning more about your priorities for our community as well as working with other board members. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to earn your vote for the Lancaster School Board. Together, we can make a positive impact on the future of our children and our community.



## Michael Sage

Mr. Michael Sage has been a Lancaster Central School District resident for 18 years. “I am the proud father of two children,” Mr. Sage said. His daughter, Kaylie is 19, attends SUNY Geneseo, where she is majoring in elementary education. His son, Cooper is 18, attends Lancaster High School, and plays tennis for the varsity Legends.

Mr. Sage earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Old Dominion University in 2005, where he majored in finance and minored in economics. As an assistant vice president at a Western New York bank, Mr. Sage is a software engineer in robotic process automation.

Mr. Sage served as the treasurer of the Court Street Elementary PTO for three years and also served as the organization’s president for one year. Mr. Sage also served as a parent representative on the Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP) Committee. The CDEP committee is tasked with guiding

the district’s education plan for a five-year period. Mr. Sage currently serves on the district’s audit committee. Mr. Sage is the current President of the Board of Education, a position he has held for 3 years.

Mr. Sage said he is very proud to have served as the vice president of the Lancaster Education and Alumni Foundation (LEAF) during its formation. He said LEAF is an outstanding organization whose goal is to benefit the students of the Lancaster Central School District and community.

Mr. Sage said he loves going to art, music, and athletic events to support the students, in addition to enjoying watching his son’s tennis matches.

Mr. Sage said he looks forward to continuing as a board member, where he wants to keep focusing on supporting students, teachers, and administrators while taking very seriously his fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers. “I am also supporting Glenn Jackson and Tim Talbot this year and I ask you to vote for all three of us to keep our school district moving in the right direction. I want the voters to know how important this particular election is. Please take a look at our FaceBook page at [www.facebook.com/ForLancaster](https://www.facebook.com/ForLancaster)”, said Mr. Sage.



## About the Ballot

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 1**  
2023-24 Budget Total:  
\$130,704,018

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 2**  
Authorizes the Board of Education to expend \$1,104,832 from the district’s existing School Bus Reserve Fund to purchase six (6) 65-passenger school buses and one (1) 42-passenger school bus.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES**  
One seat - Beginning immediately upon filing the oath of office through 6/30/26.  
Two seats - Three (3) term, 7/1/23 - 6/30/26

**POSITION ON THE BALLOT**  
(Vote for 3 Candidates):  
1-A: Michael Sage      1-D: Timothy Talbot  
1-B: Tara Romig      1-E: Laura Sproull  
1-C: Glenn Jackson      1-F: Dan Romig





# Board of Education Candidates (continued)



## Laura Sproull

Greetings!

I'm Laura Sproull, the proud mom of four children, ages 1, 5, 11, and 13 who attend Lancaster Schools. I believe we need to have fresh and optimistic voices on the Lancaster School Board in order to promote the kind of educational system we all desire. One that gives our children the best opportunity for success. This is why I want to represent the parents, students, teachers, and taxpayers in this district.

I am a graduate of Houghton College. In 2002 I received my degree in English with a minor in piano performance. After completing my degree, I worked in sales at WGRZ-TV and WDCX-FM respectively. Discovering my passion for teaching, I then completed my master's degree in English Education from UB. From there, I taught middle and high school English in the Williamsville School District. Now, I produce my own gardening website at [www.raiseyourgarden.com](http://www.raiseyourgarden.com).

My greatest focus, however, is being a mom to my four kids. This is possible, in part, because my husband and I employ realistic and frugal budget practices. I, also, love being the helping hand in my kids' classrooms and volunteering to be the parent chaperone on school field trips. I have had the pleasure of substitute teaching in the Lancaster School District. I find it enjoyable to interact with the many outstanding students in our district. Our family attends Centerpointe Community Church here in Lancaster/Depew. In my spare time, I enjoy walking my dogs, baking, playing piano, and feeding the hummingbirds that frequent our yard.

My number one goal is to increase communication between the BOE and the parents and teachers of our district. As an example, I would propose a monthly google survey asking for input on various topics that would give the board insight into parent/teacher concerns.

I would appreciate your support this election season.



## Timothy Talbot

Mr. Timothy Talbot resides in Lancaster with his wife, Jaimie, an alumna, and his son Oliver (5) and daughter Eleanor (2). Oliver is currently attending Pre-K at Carousel Academy and will be moving up to kindergarten next fall. Tim is excited to become more involved in the Lancaster school district and believes that an investment in knowledge provides the best interest.

Tim Talbot currently owns his own business, Custom Retirement Solutions, located in Depew, NY. Tim has been involved in the financial services industry since 2009. He spent his first three years specializing in investments and retirement planning for his clients at a well-known insurance company before opening his own firm. He then founded Custom Retirement Solutions LLC. with his trusted business partner in 2017. Tim believes in the importance of using the "planning first strategy" to ensure his clients can make educated and sound financial decisions when transitioning to retirement.

Mr. Talbot's main goal with joining the Lancaster School Board is to support the Lancaster Central School District and provide each student with the best opportunity and with the tools that allow them to succeed. He plans on doing this by collaborating with the board and administration in order to make sound and educated decisions on what is best for the district, community, and students.

Timothy Talbot holds his degree in Business Administration and maintains multiple professional licenses in the finance industry. Tim enjoys spending his free time with his family, playing sports, and watching the Bills and Sabres. He also is involved with WNY Make-A-Wish and is active in providing help to those in need.

Timothy Talbot is looking forward to running with Michael Sage and Glenn Jackson for the School Board and is planning on using them as a resource to provide additional value to the district, community and students. He believes that his background in finance and planning will be an asset to the Lancaster School Board.

The candidates for the Board of Education receiving the three highest vote totals will each be elected to a three-year term; one seat beginning immediately upon filing the oath of office through 6/30/26, two seats beginning on 7/1/23 through 6/30/26. Please note that statements from candidates have been reprinted as submitted and were not edited in any manner.

# Capital Improvement Project Progress

Progress continues in the renovations happening all around the district. As part of Phase 4 and 5 of our Capital Improvement Project, some highlights of current updates and renovations include:

- Lancaster High School**
- Turf Field Fabric Installation - Aerial View (below top)
  - Turf Field Stone Base Layer (below bottom)
  - Remaining windowsill installations throughout building
  - Magnetic door holds at new doors behind auditorium
  - Touchscreen TV installations in rooms 126, 128 & 130
- Hillview Elementary**
- Begin topsoil work around addition
  - Install tile inside addition bathrooms
  - Electrical wire pulls for fire alarm system
  - Ceiling grid installation in addition classroom (top right)
- Como Park Elementary**
- Hanger install and water lines installation throughout boiler room and crawlspace
  - Excavate to support new 12" storm piping and catch basin (bottom right)







**Lancaster Central School District**  
177 Central Avenue  
Lancaster, NY 14086

## Meet the Candidates Forum and Annual Budget Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.  
Lancaster High School Auditorium

### ABOUT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- The Lancaster Central School District Board of Education consists of seven members, elected at-large by voters at the annual meeting. Each member is elected for a three-year term. The term of office of at least one board member expires annually.
- The powers of the board are derived from the state constitution, laws of New York State, and rulings of the Commissioner of Education.
- The general duties of the board are to adopt policies for the school system, provide adequate means for executing them, and ensure they are executed efficiently.
- A candidate must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a legal resident of the Lancaster Central School District for one year prior to the election.



## Budget Vote and Election

Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Lancaster High School  
New Java Gym

### VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- Citizen of the United States
  - At least 18 years old
- District resident for at least 30 days prior to vote
  - No pre-registration required