

# Middleburgh

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Budget NEWSLETTER

2024-2025

### Voters to consider \$24.9 million budget proposal

On Tuesday, May 21, Middleburgh Central School District residents will be asked to consider a \$24,900,000 budget for the 2024-25 school year that maintains all current programs and supports the mission to be a productive and responsible learning community, where all are inspired to achieve excellence.

This proposed budget increases spending by 2.42%, or \$587,510 from the current year, and includes a tax levy increase of 1.50% or \$153,836. Since the tax levy increase (the total amount of money to be raised through property taxes) is less than the district's maximum allowable levy limit of 2.01%, the proposed budget needs a simple majority vote to be approved.

#### State Aid

New York State Foundation Aid is the primary source of funding for the district's general fund budget. The decades-old "Save Harmless" policy connected to Foundation Aid guarantees that no

district would receive less than they did in the prior year. Although Governor Kathy Hochul initially removed the "Save Harmless" policy from the 2024-25 state budget proposal, (a change that would have resulted in a 9% reduction



in Foundation Aid for MCS), the Legislature rejected Hochul's proposal, and Foundation Aid was restored.

The 2024-25 budget is based on the district's current expectation that the same amount of Foundation Aid as was received in the 2023-24 school year will be available in the upcoming school year.

#### Fund Balance Use

Middleburgh is using \$921,815 of fund balance to balance the budget. The fund balance utilizes end-of-year surplus from the general fund.



**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**  
12-9 p.m.

Jr./Sr. High School Gym Lobby

NOTE: All absentee and early mail ballots must be received by the district by 5 p.m. on May 21.



PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-25  
**\$24,900,000**

PROPOSED TAX LEVY INCREASE  
**1.50%**

PROPOSED SPENDING INCREASE  
**\$587,510 or 2.42%**

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE

Two seats are available for three-year terms expiring June 30, 2027. Candidates will appear in this order on the ballot:

Pamela Standhart  
Becky S. Binder

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Community Partnerships

### A Message from the Superintendent

Dear MCS Community,

Middleburgh is a great place to live, work, and learn! We are proud to share that in the 2023-24 school year, MCS maintained the highest rating possible in the New York State Education Department's Accountability System – "In Good Standing," and our high school was ranked as one of the Top 10 High Schools in the Capital Area by U.S. News and World Report. Additionally, our very own high school principal, Mr. Matthew Sloane, has been named the 2024 New York State Secondary Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State.

MCS is a community partner supporting First Fridays, the Fall Festival, Miracle on Main Street, and countless other activities in the village and beyond. We are proud of our partnerships and the collective work we do to support our students, families, and community.

The 2024-25 proposed MCS budget includes a 2.42% increase in expenditures with a 1.50% proposed tax levy increase. The proposed budget reflects support for our highly successful Middleburgh Advantage After-School Program that serves 80 elementary students daily, an emphasis on College in the High School Courses, and our continued commitment to field trips as a way for our students to explore "The World Beyond Middleburgh."

This year, we will also ask residents to vote on the creation of a capital reserve fund for future transportation costs, including the conversion to a zero-emission bus fleet by the New York State Legislature's 2035 deadline. Our intent in creating this reserve is to minimize any future impact to taxpayers.

Because of our community, MCS is a vibrant school district. Please take the time to vote on May 21!

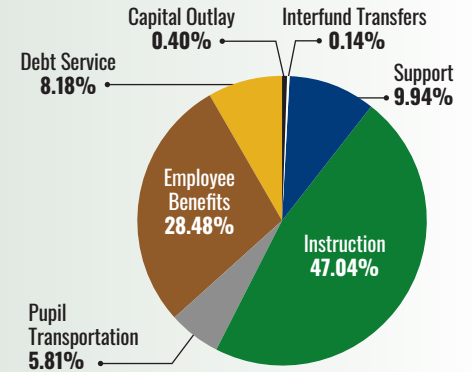
#### Mark Place

*Superintendent of Schools*



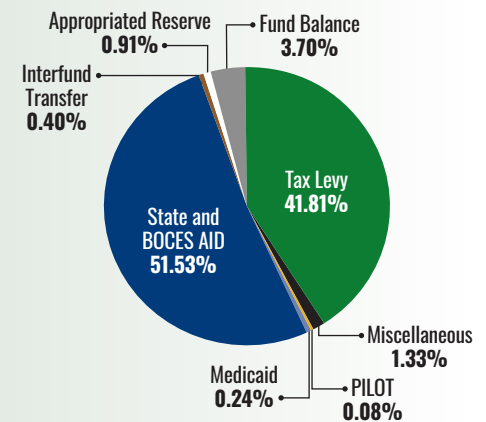
For more information: [middleburghcsd.org](http://middleburghcsd.org)

Expenditures Summary	2023-24	2024-25	\$ Change	% Change
Support	\$2,403,621	\$2,476,258	\$72,637	3.02%
Instruction Support	\$10,823,743	\$11,712,865	\$889,122	8.21%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,409,866	\$1,445,758	\$35,892	2.55%
Employee Benefits	\$7,500,555	\$7,092,472	-\$408,083	-5.44%
Debt Service	\$2,034,705	\$2,037,647	\$2,942	0.14%
Capital Outlay	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
Interfund Transfers	\$40,000	\$35,000	-\$5,000	-12.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,312,490</b>	<b>\$24,900,000</b>	<b>\$587,510</b>	<b>2.42%</b>



Percent of total budget. Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Revenues Summary	2023-24	2024-25	\$ Change	% Change
State and BOCES Aid	\$12,730,034	\$12,830,707	\$100,673	0.79%
Medicaid	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	0.00%
Tax Levy	\$10,255,762	\$10,409,598	\$153,836	1.50%
PILOT	\$14,879	\$20,066	\$5,187	34.86%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$0	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$921,815	\$921,815	\$0	0.00%
Appropriated Reserve	\$0	\$227,814	\$227,814	100.00%
Interfund Transfer from Debt Service Fund	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	100.00%
<b>Revenue in Budget</b>	<b>\$24,312,490</b>	<b>\$24,900,000</b>	<b>\$587,510</b>	<b>2.42%</b>



Percent of total budget.



## BUS PURCHASE PROPOSITION AND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

When Middleburgh residents go to the polls on May 21, they will vote on three propositions in addition to the 2024-25 proposed budget.

One proposition will be for the purchase of three, 65-passenger diesel buses not to exceed \$488,000. New buses replace old buses based on the bus's mileage, age, repair history, and condition and coincides with the district's long-range bus replacement plan to keep the bus fleet in safe, working order. State aid would fund \$371,360 (76.1%) of the total purchase cost.

The second proposition will ask voters to consider a 10-year Bus and Vehicle Reserve Fund not to exceed \$2 million. This reserve would allow the district to prepare for the purchase or acquisition of school buses and charging stations that meet the NY State Legislature's goal of having a zero-emission bus fleet by 2035. By creating this reserve, the district would be able to offset future transportation costs and minimize any impact to the tax levy. Once created, the funds in the reserve can only be spent with additional voter approval.

In 2023, voters approved the creation of a Repair Reserve Fund to be used for facility or equipment repairs that do not recur annually or at shorter intervals. A repair reserve allows the district to fund unanticipated expenditures without reducing funding for programs or asking taxpayers for additional funds. On May 21, voters will consider allocating up to \$200,000 from the 2023-24 unappropriated fund balance to this reserve.



Read more about the May 21 propositions at [MiddleburghCSD.org](http://MiddleburghCSD.org).

# School District Budget Notice



Tuesday, May 21, 2024

## VOTER INFORMATION

### Voter Eligibility

By law, all voters must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old and residents of the Middleburgh Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Voters must have a valid I.D.

### Absentee & Early Ballots

You must complete an application to receive a ballot.

Absentee and early ballot applications are available on the district website or by contacting District Clerk Kim Lawyer at 518-827-3625.

If a voter requests to receive a ballot by mail, the application must be received by the district clerk by **5 p.m. on May 14**. If the voter is going to pick up the ballot in person in the district office, it must be picked up by **5 p.m. on May 20**. All ballots must be received by **5 p.m. on May 21**.

### Questions?

A list of frequently asked questions is on the district website or call District Clerk Kim Lawyer at 518-827-3625.

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$24,312,490	\$24,900,000	\$24,746,164
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$587,510	\$433,674
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.42%	1.78%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,255,762	\$10,409,598	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$10,255,762	\$10,409,598	\$10,255,762
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$420,937	\$379,658	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,033,142	\$10,082,206	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$9,834,825	\$10,029,940	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$198,317	\$52,266	
Administrative Component	\$2,347,524	\$2,216,513	\$2,198,677
Program Component	\$17,990,347	\$18,489,168	\$18,361,168
Capital Component	\$3,974,619	\$4,194,319	\$4,186,319

\*Under NYS law, a school may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated, the Board of Education may adopt a contingent budget or put a budget before the voters a second time. If the budget is defeated twice, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget and cannot increase the current year tax levy amount. As a result, the Board would be required to reduce the proposed budget by \$153,863. In this event the district would be subject to restrictions and limitations in areas where money can be spent. For example, the purchase of new equipment would not be permitted and there would be mandated charges for the use of school facilities by outside organizations (Section 2023 Education Law).

\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Purchase of 3 school buses (not to exceed)	\$488,000
Transfer to Repair Reserve from available fund balance (not to exceed)	\$200,000
Establish 10-year Capital (Bus & Vehicle) Reserve from available fund balance	

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$551
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Middleburgh Central School District, Schoharie County, New York, will be held at the Middleburgh Junior/Senior High School at 291 Main Street, in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. (noon) and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Middleburgh Junior/Senior High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

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

## 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY

New York state law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year’s costs. Middleburgh’s three-part budget breaks down as follows:

Program	2023-24	2024-25
Amount	\$17,990,347	\$18,489,168
<b>74.25% of Proposed Budget</b>		

*Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media etc.), textbooks, equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics and transportation costs.*

Administration	2023-24	2024-25
Amount	\$2,347,524	\$2,216,513
<b>8.90% of Proposed Budget</b>		

*Includes the salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.*

Capital	2023-24	2024-25
Amount	\$3,974,619	\$4,194,319
<b>16.84% of Proposed Budget</b>		

*Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.*

# Middleburgh



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 606  
291 Main Street  
Middleburgh, NY 12122

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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MIDDLEBURGH, NY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Debra A. Bechtold, *President*  
Pamela Standhart, *Vice President*  
Becky Binder  
Vicki Hoerz  
Bonnie Snyder

## DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Superintendent of Schools: Mark Place  
School Business Manager: Robyn Bhend

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Elementary School: Amy Irwin  
Jr. / Sr. High School: Matthew Sloane  
Pupil Services: Stella Ritter

## CONTACT

Phone: (518) 827-3600 x3625

*Newsletter produced by the  
Middleburgh Central School District,  
in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES  
Engagement & Development Services.*

POSTAL PATRON

For more information: [middleburghcsd.org](http://middleburghcsd.org)



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## Extended Learning and Community Partnerships

Learning never stops at Middleburgh. Throughout the year, students participate in 41 after-school clubs and athletics.

The Middleburgh Advantage Program (a partnership with the Schoharie River Center) provides academic assistance, experiential learning, physical development, and creative arts opportunities while parents and guardians are at work.

Each summer, MCS provides additional student opportunities and partners with the Joshua Project and the Joint Youth Commission to host additional community services.



Schoharie River Center Summer Enrichment



Future Business Leaders of America Club



MAP After-School Program



Joshua Project Summer Meals Program