



Tiger TRADITIONS

BUDGET EDITION

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

May/June 2018: 2018-2019 Budget Edition - Volume 23 • Issue 3

Mexico Elementary announces Student Lighthouse Team

A lighthouse keeper cares for a lighthouse, which serves as an important navigation tool for people traveling via water.

At Mexico Elementary School, that water is the educational path of students in grades pre-kindergarten through four; the lighthouse is the school and its keepers are the newly formed Student Lighthouse Team. The group of 11 dignified second-, third- and fourth-grade students proved to be successful in a total of five interview rounds.



In the photo above, newly named Mexico Elementary School Student Lighthouse Team members proudly show off their SLT certificates. Standing alongside them are advisors Laurel von Holtz and Dolores Brooks.

Team members: Ally Rando, Jaelyn Mykiety, Rocket Van Campen, Jaxson Ellis, Colton Kapas, Lily Taylor, Emma Belfield, Katelynn Horzempa, Gracie Wilson, Kacey Killam and Olivia DeStevens were selected because they demonstrated dependability, completion of class work, a strong work ethic, exemplary school citizenship, excellent attendance, good judgement, a comfortability with public speaking and the ability to demonstrate the 7 Habits to other students.

Mexico Elementary Student Lighthouse Team members are now tasked with planning the school's annual Leadership Day, a Celebration of Learning Day and a plethora of additional happenings to improve the school's sense of community. The students will be guided by the Staff Lighthouse Team while using their personal leadership strengths to serve as role models for their peers. Their advisors will be teachers Laurel von Holtz and Dolores Brooks.

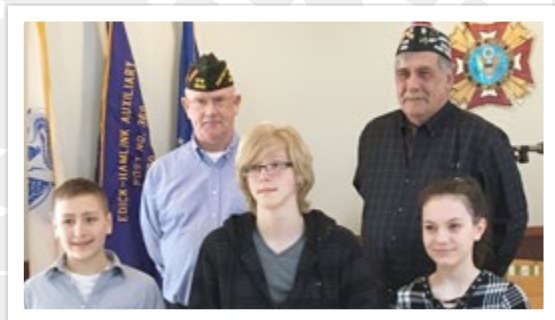
MMS Students Write About America's Gift To Their Generation For National Essay Contest

Several Mexico Middle School students took home top honors for the local portion of the annual Patriot's Pen national writing contest.

Collin Hatch took home a first-place finish at the local level, while Matthew Purchas came in second, Matthew Morrel came in third and Kaylee Drake came in fourth. Drake also received a third-place finish at the county-level. All students submitted their work with the help of the Edick-Hamlink Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 369 in Mexico.

Nationally, about 120,000 students in grades six through eight were asked to write 400 words about America's gift to their generation. Students whose essays placed locally in the top three advanced to the county level. From there, essays advance to the district level and then onward to states and national level. National winners receive monetary awards from \$500 up to \$5,000.

All students were judged on how well they understood, developed and presented the contest theme. Mexico Middle School English Teacher Shannon Hogan said she couldn't have been more proud of the talent the students presented in their work.



Patriot's Pen essay contest winners, from left, Collin Hatch, Matthew Purchas and Kaylee Drake were awarded certificates for their writing on America's gift to their generation. Pictured with them are

representatives from the Edick-Hamlink Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 369 in Mexico. Absent from the photo is Matthew Morrel.

BUDGET **VOTE**

Tuesday, May 15
Noon - 9 pm
Mexico, New Haven, and
Palermo Elementary Schools

SCHOOL BUDGET

Special Budget Section Inside (Pages 3-6)

For district information including a calendar of events, MACS Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the district web site at

www.Mexicocsd.org



A Message from the Superintendent



No tax levy increase for 3rd year in a row! I am happy to report that our proposed 2018-19 school year budget more closely targets improved student success while maintaining the current tax levy.

As I have stated in the past, creating a school district budget is an exercise in aligning resources to achieve goals in a fiscally efficient manner that respects our taxpayers.

This year, we have instituted a new, more inclusive budget process that has increased our effectiveness in aligning resources to achieve our goals. All buildings and departments are annually required to set goals for continuous improvement and develop strategic plans to attain these goals. This year, we have aligned the budget creation process to support successful plans and goal achievement. This new budget process successfully resulted in an unprecedented opportunity for increased staff input. The input was incredibly thoughtful and insightful. While it was not possible to fund all requests without raising taxes, we have prioritized and recommended funding requests that will result in the maximum student successes. All remaining requests will be the focus of future budget cycles.

As written in Mr. Emery's column, the 18-19 budget targets specific areas at all levels to increase student success. These highlights can also be found below:

New Budget Process

More informed, increased transparency, & greater alignment to student achievement goals

Increases Student Programming

- **Creation of a "Transitional Kindergarten Program"**
 - directly targets increasing literacy & numeracy achievement at "starting line"

• 1:1 Student Technology

- aligns with State testing requirement, prepares students for future, & increases students achievement.

• Intervention Program

- Increased targeting of improving low performance

• Additional Vocational, Advanced Placement, and College Course Offerings

General Improvements

• Enhanced Building Safety

- Building enhancements
- MS school resource officer

Increased Support to Ensure Student Health and Wellness

• HS social worker

• Athletic trainer

Again, I am happy to report that we are able to provide all of this for our students and community with no tax levy increase for the 3rd consecutive year!

As always, please contact me at your earliest convenience with any questions, concerns or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Sean C. Bruno

MMS Students Performing at the Annual Variety Show



A Message from the Board President

Dear Members of the MACS Community:

At our April 12, 2018 monthly meeting, the MACS District Board of Education approved a \$56,805,732 budget for the 2018-2019 school year.

This budget represents a 5.69% increase in appropriations from the 2017-2018 school budget. I am happy to report, however, that our tax levy (the amount of the budget raised from the local school tax bills) will remain the same for the third consecutive year.

Also, because we are not increasing our tax levy, we will not exceed our tax cap limit. Consequently, a simple majority vote is only required to pass this budget.

This budget is the result of months of focused efforts by Superintendent Sean Bruno and his staff. Working with an emphasis on transparency and greater alignment to student achievement goals, the highlights of this budget are as follows:

- Initiating a “Transitional Kindergarten Program” in an attempt to ensure that all of our students have an equal starting point.
- Moving toward a 1:1 ratio of devices to students in student technology which will assist in meeting the 2020 State testing requirement of Computer Based Testing as well as preparing students for the future and increasing our students’ achievements.
- Continuing efforts in improving the performance of all of our students.
- Adding Vocational, Advanced Placement, and College Course Offerings to our Student Course Guide.

Additionally, the budget includes money to enhance school building safety and hire a resource officer at the Mexico Middle School. Safety of students and staff has been and will continue to be a focus by the District as we try to navigate the challenges to that aspect of school life that were almost unheard of 25 years ago.

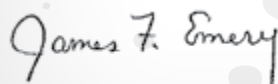
Finally, the budget provides additional emotional and physical support to our students by adding a high school social worker and an athletic trainer.

With every budget, there may be questions or concerns, so I extend an invitation for you to join us for the annual budget presentation and meet the candidates night on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Mexico Middle School Auditorium.

Should anyone have any questions or concerns regarding this budget prior to or following the budget presentation, please feel free to contact the MACS District Office or any MACS District Board of Education member and we will try our best to address your questions or concerns.

To conclude, I urge all of you to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 from noon until 9:00 pm at your designated polling site at the Mexico, New Haven, or Palermo Elementary Schools.

Thank you for your consideration,



James F. Emery, President

Mexico Academy and Central School Board of Education

Mexico Academy & Central School District

2018-2019 SCHOOL BUDGET SPECIAL SECTION

BUDGET VOTE and SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 15 • Noon - 9 pm
Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo Elementary Schools

Voters are asked to decide upon two (2) propositions, including the adoption of the proposed budget for the school year commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, and to elect three Board of Education members.

Proposition – THE BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of the Mexico Academy and Central School District, Mexico, New York, be authorized to expend the sums of money, which will be required for school district purposes for the 2018-19 School Year, in the total amount of \$56,805,732 (The Budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the School District.

PROPOSITION I

Shall the Board of Education purchase and finance four (4) 66- passenger school buses, four (4) 14-passenger vehicles for student transportation, and one (1) Suburban at an estimated cost not to exceed \$720,000 including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$720,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$720,000, which 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 \$720,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

School Board Candidates.

There are three seats open; Two 3-year terms and one 1-year term:

Dennis Brooks, Jr.

Chad Bigelow

LyndaAnne Wallis

Amy Shaw

Gerard Galluzzo

2018 - 2019 School Budget Vote and School Board Elections

Proposed Budget

	2017-2018 Final Budget	2018-2019 Proposed Budget
General Support		
Board of Education	\$27,150	\$30,150
Central Admin	\$243,087	\$253,996
Finance	\$465,531	\$504,302
Staff	\$1,207,234	\$651,818
Central Services	\$4,594,497	\$4,781,151
Special Items	\$1,103,513	\$1,117,121
Total General Support	\$7,641,012	\$7,338,538
Percent of Total	14.2%	12.9%
Instruction		
Administratrrion & Improvement	\$1,521,711	\$1,606,007
Teaching	\$20,841,562	\$22,643,165
Instructional Media	\$1,973,402	\$2,268,868
Pupil Services	\$2,210,590	\$2,149,096
Total Instruction	\$26,547,265	\$28,667,136
Percent of Total	49.4%	50.5%
Pupil Transportation		
Total Pupil Transportation	\$2,760,752	\$2,879,720
Percent of Total	5.1%	5.1%
Community Service		
Total Community Service	\$121,000	\$156,500
Percent of Total	0.23%	0.28%
Undistributed		
Employee Benefits	\$11,335,593	\$12,450,684
Debt Service	\$5,342,755	\$5,313,153
Total Undistributed	\$16,678,348	\$17,763,837
Percent of Total	31.0%	31.3%
Grand Total	\$53,748,377	\$56,805,732

Revenue

	2017-2018 Revenue	2018-2019 Revenue
State Aid	\$30,254,996	\$31,203,264
Other	\$10,259,500	\$10,625,000
Taxes	\$13,233,881	\$13,233,881
Fund Balance	\$-	\$1,743,587
Total	\$53,748,377	\$56,805,732

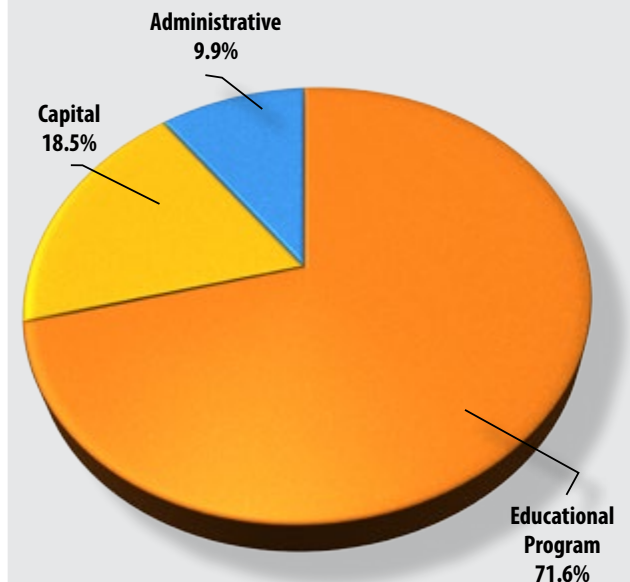
The Three-Component Budget

The State legislation which requires the state's school districts to have a public budget vote, includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three components: program, capital, and administration. (see chart below)

Administration Budget: This section includes central administration and school offices, along with clerical support, salaries and benefits, and related expenses of all school administrators, board of education expenses for planning, legal expenses, and other administrative activities.

Educational Program Budget: This portion covers teacher salaries, school supplies, and all related educational costs.

Capital Budget: Refers to all facilities costs such as leases, annual debt service, custodial salaries and benefits, service contracts, custodial supplies, maintenance and repair of facilities, and utilities.



BUDGET HEARING

**Tuesday May 8
at 6:00 pm**

Mexico Middle School Auditorium

Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-19 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 53,748,377	\$ 56,805,732	\$ 56,196,247
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$ 3,057,355	\$ 2,447,870
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.69 %	4.55 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 13,233,881	\$ 13,223,881	
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)	\$ 13,233,881	\$ 13,233,881	\$ 13,233,881
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 518,631	\$ 991,228	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 13,438,931	\$ 13,386,382	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 12,715,250	\$ 12,242,653	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 723,681	\$ 1,143,729	
Administrative Component	\$ 6,126,813	\$ 5,641,401	\$ 5,641,401
Program Component	\$ 37,403,691	\$ 40,669,924	\$ 40,060,439
Capital Component	\$ 10,217,873	\$ 10,494,408	\$ 10,494,408

* Should the proposed budget be defeated twice, pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget. The following items are excluded from a contingent budget: equipment purchases, student supplies, non-essential maintenance, transportation of students under mileage limits set by state law, and public use of school building and grounds, except where there is no cost to the District. In light of the Property Tax Cap, under contingency the school district can levy no more taxes than the amount of taxes levied in the prior school year by the district.

List of 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)

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NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year \$ 584
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Mexico Academy & Central School District, Oswego County, New York, will be held at the District Elementary school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of Noon and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the District Elementary school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Tax Levy and Cap

Tax Levy 2017-18	\$ 13,233,881
Tax Base Growth Factor (Provided by Tax and Finance)	1.0043
sub-total	\$ 13,290,787
PILOTS	\$ 7,860,000
sub-total	\$ 21,150,787
Local share after aid of current (2017-18) allowable capital expenses	\$ 518,631
Adjusted 2017-18 Current Year Tax Levy	\$ 20,632,155
Calculate Projected Tax Levy Threshold 2018-19	
Allowable Levy Growth Factor (1 + inflation factor, up to 2%) Provided by Dept. of Labor	1.02
sub-total	\$ 21,044,798
PILOTS	\$ 7,860,000
Available Carryover (If any)	\$ 201,584
2018-19 TAX LEVY LIMIT	\$ 13,386,382
Local share after aid of 2018-19 allowable capital expenditures	\$ 991,228
Maximum Tax Levy for 2018-19	\$ 14,377,610
Actual 2018-2019 Tax Levy	\$13,233,881

How to Register to Vote

A qualified voter of the District shall vote only at the polling place for the election district in which such voter resides and no person shall be entitled to vote at such election whose name does not appear on the Register of the School District. Registration of otherwise unregistered voters shall take place at the District Office, 16 Fravor Rd. Suite A, Mexico, New York, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. on any day when school is in session up to but not later than 2:00 P.M. on May 10, 2018. Any resident whose name currently appears on said register or on the register of the Oswego County Board of Elections for permanent personal registration or who has voted in any annual or special election within the four calendar years preceding 2018 need not register.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available at the office of the District Clerk at the District Office, 16 Fravor Road, Mexico on school days from 9 am -3 pm. All ballots must be returned to the District Clerk by 5 pm on May 15, the date of the budget vote.

Voter Qualifications

1. Eighteen (18) years of age or older.
2. A citizen of the United States.
3. A legal resident of the Mexico Academy and Central School District for at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote.

Voters may be required to show proof of eligibility before casting their vote. The following forms of proof may be accepted (not limited to): birth certificate, driver's license, non-driver ID card, utility bill, voter registration card or passport.

Any person not qualified to register or vote under the provisions of Sections 5-100 and 5-106 of the Election Law shall not have the right to register for or vote in an election.

Proud to be **MACS**



April Proud to be MACS Honoree

Julie Osborn, a teacher assistant at Mexico Middle School, has been selected as the April Proud to be MACS recipient. A 1981 MACS graduate, Osborn continued her education at SUNY Oswego with a major in English/Writing Arts.

After a short stint in advertising and public relations, she joined the MACS family as a substitute teacher, primarily at Mexico

Elementary. In 2006, she moved to the Mexico Middle School as a teaching assistant in special education before becoming the fifth-grade digital literacy instructor. She currently heads up the school's news crew and works with the after-school program.

It is the combination of all of her efforts to improve the quality of education for MMS students that led colleague Shannon Bigelow to nominate Osborn for this honor. Not only has she trained students to write, direct, edit, produce and star in regular newscasts highlighting recent school events, Bigelow said Osborn is "a true advocate for kids. She goes above and beyond to serve as a cheerleader, encourager and supporter of her students."

When asked about her favorite part of her job, Osborn simply replied "the students." Her impeccable connection with them not only has improved their school environment, but for one student in particular, Osborn has found ways to help quell the student's anxiety. She is open to helping all students, all of the time.

Outside of her MACS duties, she finds time to work at the Ace Hardware Store in Volney and enjoys catching up with her adult sons, Easton, a doctor of Physical Therapy in Amherst, and Nolan, who works for Time Magazine in Stamford, Connecticut. Like mom, both were MACS graduates.

Palermo Elementary Students Learn About Dental Hygiene

Palermo Elementary School students recently learned there are just five simple steps to taking great care of their mouths.

Following a visit from dental hygienists Wendy Probst and Cammie Lyndaker, students in grades pre-kindergarten through four were able to share the following steps to a great smile: brush twice a day for two minutes, use fluoride toothpaste and mouthwash, floss, don't snack too often and visit the dentist every six months. The McCue Dental employees said those helpful hints will minimize the occurrence of cavities.

Lyndaker and Probst read a story to prekindergarten and kindergarten students before they discussed those key points, while the older students watched a video about plaque monsters and their quest to rot teeth. Ultimately, the monsters were unsuccessful because the main steps were closely followed.

As a reward for their attentiveness, students were given fun stickers and temporary tattoos, while their teachers collected dental hygiene goodie bags filled with a miniature tube of toothpaste, a full-size tooth brush and floss picks.



Cammie Lyndaker, dental hygienist with McCue Dental, discusses with a Palermo Elementary School fourth-grade class about the importance of brushing at least twice each day to avoid plaque build-up on teeth.

March Book Madness Excites New Haven Third-Graders

Just ask the third-graders at New Haven Elementary School who are helping to decide which story will win the March Book Madness. An open, online-based event, New Haven third-grade teachers Andrea Searles, Ashley Cobb and Andrea Barry combined a love of literacy with classroom lessons to really make students' votes count.

Much like the NCAA basketball tournament, two Central Ohio teachers initiated March Book Madness with a sweet 16 selection for both middle grades and young adult books. With the help of Searles, Cobb and Barry, the third-graders used a simple Google Form to cast their vote of which book they thought should make it to the next round. Reflective of the basketball tournaments, books make their way to top rounds, including the final four and championship match.

"Not Quite Narwhal is my favorite!" one student said.

With "Compelling Characters" as this year's March Book Madness theme, Searles, Cobb and Barry wove the literacy competition into their English language arts lessons. As a grade level, the teachers had their students complete character studies from the 16 books, read selections of their choice and compete in classroom-specific reading games. Searles said her students wrote an opinion piece on what book they thought should be named the ultimate March Book Madness winner before that work was transformed into a book talk video.

Cobb said it has been exciting for the New Haven students to be a part of something bigger and to realize their vote could have an impact on the final result. In her classroom, she utilized video clips about each book to help the students further engage in the process. Cobb said March Book Madness has brought joy to the entire third-grade.

In the photo to the left: New Haven Elementary School third-graders show off some of the book selections for March Book Madness, an online-based event which has aimed to spread the joy of literacy to students in classrooms throughout the country.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

James Emery – President
Darlene Upcraft – Vice President
Chad Bigelow
Connie Douglas
Merrilee Gorton
Amy Shaw
Susan Teifke
Annie McDowell – Student Representative

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Sean Bruno
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 1-2** NYS Math Tests
- May 2** HS Spring Concert 6 p.m.
- May 4** PAL PTC Royal Ball 7 p.m.
- May 4-5** HS NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble Fest
- May 5** SATs
- May 8** Teacher Appreciation Day
- May 8** BOE Meeting 6 p.m.
- May 9** MS Band Concert @ 7 p.m.
- May 10** PAL Gr 3&4 Musical @ 6 p.m.
- May 11** NH Family Olympics 6-8 p.m.
- May 14** NO SCHOOL, Superintendent's Conference Day
- May 15** School Budget Vote
- May 19** Junior Prom
- May 22-23** HS NYSSMA Majors @ Fulton
- May 23** MS Early Dismissal @ 1:55 p.m.
- May 28** NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day
- June 4** HS Top 100 Dinner
- June 4** Gr 4&5 science Written Ex
- June 6** HS Block M Awards
- June 9** Senior Dinner Dance River Vists
- June 12** HS Senior Awards Night 6 p.m.
- June 12-22** REGENTS Exams
- June 14** BOE MTG 6 p.m.
- June 15** Early Dismissal MS 10:45 a.m.,
Elementary 11:45 a.m.
- June 20** Graduation Rehearsal
- June 22 HS** Graduation 7 p.m.
- June 28** BOE Workshop 6 p.m.

Mexico High School's OCAY Team Takes Bronze



Mexico took home the bronze, third place medal with team members, in front left to right: Kevin Mason, Sheila Wallis, Kimberly Heagerty, Ashton Ariola and Joshua Washer. In back, left to right: Tyler Grasso, Angel Newcombe, Christine Weber, Madeline Higby and Daniel Scully.

BUDGET  **OTE**

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