



# Tiger TRADITIONS

**BUDGET EDITION**

*Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!*

May/June 2017: 2017-2018 Budget Edition - Volume 18 • Issue 3

## Mexico High School's Top Ten Students



Congratulations to MACS Top Ten for 2017. These students rank academically as the top ten in the senior class.

**Pictured:**

**1st row:** Victoria Ross and Caitlin Spurling.

**2nd row:** Emily Blunt, Abigale Weber (Valedictorian), and Hannah Henderson.

**3rd row:** Austin Whitaker and John Baldwin.

**4th row:** Benjamin Pelow (Salutatorian), Ashton McCormack, and Sean Heagerty.

*Coming Soon.*

Grand Re-Opening Celebration of the Avery Skinner Auditorium in the Mexico High School!

*Stay tuned for details!*



**BUDGET**  **OTE**

**Tuesday, May 16**

**Noon - 9 pm**

**Mexico, New Haven, and  
Palermo Elementary Schools**

**SCHOOL BUDGET**

Special Budget Section Inside (Pages 5-8)

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](http://www.Mexicocsd.org)



# A Message from the Superintendent



I hope our 2017-2018 school budget edition finds you as excited about our current school year as well as our future as I am!

Before writing this article, I was reflecting on our financial outlook last year at this time. While we were able to create a 2016-2017 school year budget that continued our great tradition of providing incredible opportunities for students, staff, and our community,

our financial outlook was less than desirable. This time last year, we were facing the loss of over \$10.8 million in school district revenue due to Entergy's intention to close FitzPatrick.

Due to everyone's hard work, dedication, and collaboration, we were able to achieve what was thought to be impossible – we saved FitzPatrick! I want to thank everyone, including our partners in the town of Scriba, the county of Oswego, the Upstate Energy Jobs Coalition, Assemblyman Barclay, Senator Ritchie, Governor Cuomo, and everyone that worked hard in supporting this huge success! I especially want to thank our current and former Mexico Board of Education members for their vision, stewardship, and support in ensuring that through all of our challenges, we are well positioned to provide the best for students, staff, and community!

While we may not be seeing the revenue we once enjoyed, I am happy to report to you that we are able to create a proposed 2017-2018 school year budget, which continues to increase opportunities for our students, staff, and community with no increase to the tax levy for the second year in a row. That's right, no increase to the tax levy again this year!

Our due diligence in ensuring fiscal efficiency with every single penny of taxpayer money that we receive has resulted in the following proposed 2017-2018 budget highlights:

- **Increases student programming**
  - Increased number of college courses and degree programs
  - Support teacher & student needs as outlined in strategic plans
  - Continue updating math 5-8
  - Continue increases embedded instructional technology
- **Increases staffing to maintain low class size**
  - Palermo & New Haven
- **Continues to make improvements to all of our 5 schools**
- **Continues to make improvements to our transportation facility**
- **NO INCREASE TO TAX LEVY FOR 2nd YEAR IN A ROW**

I am happy to inform you that in addition to these highlights, our proposed 2017-2018 school year budget aligns resources to achieve our goals, honors our rich history and traditions, and protects our identity. The proposed 2017-2018 school year budget also continues to provide many of the wonderful opportunities for our students such as:

- **Leader in Me:** teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.
- **Blended Learning:** delivery of content and instruction via digital and online media with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.
- **Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID):** closes the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

- **Advanced Placement:** a program created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.
- **Project Lead the Way:** provides transformative learning experiences through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. Students learn problem-solving strategies, critical thinking skills, creative thinking skills, and they learn how to communicate and collaborate.
- **Community Programs:** All community programs will continue for the 2017-2018 school year.
- **Onondaga Community College Credit Now Partnership Program**
  - All Mexico High School students eligible to earn an Associate's Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences, all within their four years of high school for free!
  - All Mexico High School students eligible to earn a minimum of 12 college credits.
  - All credits guaranteed transferable throughout the SUNY and CUNY system as well as additional agreements with private colleges.
- **Oswego County P-Tech High School**
  - Re-invents high school as a unique partnership between local industry, higher education and public high school.
  - A 5 to 6-year program resulting in a Regents diploma AND an Associate's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology or Mechanical Technology through Onondaga Community College.
- **Summer Instruction**
  - For K-8 students not meeting grade level benchmarks in reading, writing, and math.

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

## MACS Alumni Banquet

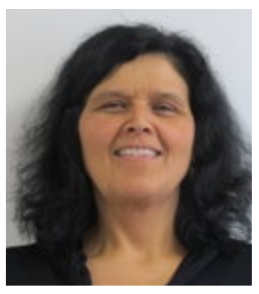
The 2017 MACS Alumni Banquet will be held on **Saturday, June 10, 2017, at 4pm, at the Eis House**, 144 Academy Street, Mexico, NY.

The banquet includes a full buffet, awards, and presentations. The 2017 MACS Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees are Carolyn Jeanette LaClair and Lois Beyer.

**The price to attend is \$17.50 per person, plus \$4.00 for alumni dues**

Reservations can be made by making a check payable to MACS Alumni Association and mailing it to Karen Brown, 213 Fort Leazier Road, Mexico, NY 13114, by June 3, 2017.

## Proud to be MACS



### March Proud to be MACS Honoree

**Cindy Kotwas**, MACS Bus Driver, was chosen as the March 2017 Proud to be MACS honoree. Cindy grew up in Mexico and attended the Mexico Schools. She began her career with the MACS Transportation Department in 1991 as a school bus monitor. She moved up to driving the MACS station wagon, then to a small bus. By the mid-1990's Cindy was driving the full-sized school bus. Cindy has driven a Palermo route in the past and is currently driving Mexico and New Haven routes. Her

day begins at the bus garage at 6:30am and ends at 4pm. Throughout the day she transports students of all grade levels – from pre-K to high school. All total, Cindy has worked in the MACS Transportation Department for 26 years.

How does she feel about her job? “I absolutely love this job and I love our district.”

Asked what her favorite part of her job is, she is quick to answer, “The kids. I enjoy the differences of each child. I enjoy just making the kid's day: changing the radio station for them, listening, showing them that I care - going that extra mile so they know.”

Cindy went more than the extra mile in the fall of 2007, while she was transporting a seven year old student from Palermo. The young child, named Eric, was in foster care and having recently experienced his sister's move to a different home, got on the bus one day and asked several questions. His final question was, “I was just wondering Bus Driver, if you would adopt me.” Within hours Cindy answered yes, and the adoption process was soon in motion.

Considering the Proud to be MACS Award, Cindy says, “I'm just in awe. I cannot believe it. I'm excited.” Cindy makes her home in New Haven with her husband, Dave, and her two children: Dannielle, who is grown and also works for MACS Transportation as a bus monitor, and Eric, who is a junior at Mexico High School.



### April Proud to be MACS Honoree

**Adam Metcalf**, Mexico Middle School 7th Grade History Teacher, was chosen as the Proud to be MACS honoree for April 2017. Adam grew up in Oswego and was a member of the last graduating class of Bishop Cunningham High School in 1992. He attended St. John Fisher College in Rochester and earned a bachelor's degree in history in 1996. By 1998 he had earned his master's degree in education, and student taught at Mexico Middle School

with Terry Rossman the same year.

Adam began his teaching career with one year in Front Royal, Virginia and one year in Oswego. In the fall of 2001, he began teaching at Mexico Middle School. Speaking about his role as a teacher Adam says, “The best part of my job is the kids who laugh and work hard. I work with good people and have great students so it ends up being an easy job. If anyone is going to consider me a good teacher it is because I've had colleagues [that] I've gone to for help and ideas.”

Beyond the classroom, Adam remains after school every day as an After School Activities Program (ASAP) leader, a position he has held for the past five years. “I like it,” he says about ASAP. “It gives me a chance to see kids that are playing and having fun. Also, I get to know 5th and 6th graders before they come to my class.”

Considering the Proud to be MACS award, Adam says, “It's a great honor. It makes me reflect on all the people that have helped me out through the years. And it also makes me appreciate how good I've got it.”

Adam lives in Oswego in the house that has been in his family for nearly 80 years. He is married to Helene, a speech pathologist, and they are parents of four children: Sam is 15 years old, Sean is 12, Josie is 9, and Wilson is 7.

## MACS Varsity Baseball Player Signs with Division II University

On February 16, 2017, Mexico High School Senior Brian Dufrane signed a Letter of Intent committing to Point Park University, a Division II school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The event was held at the school, in the Hungerford Library, with relatives, friends, administration, faculty and staff, as well as members of the MACS Board of Education present for the celebration. In the fall of this year, Brian will study criminal justice at the university and become a player on the school's baseball team. His goal is to become either an Alcohol, Tobacco, and Fire Arms Agent (ATF), or a state trooper.



*Brian is pictured here with his parents, Tom and Sarah Dufrane, standing behind him, and two of his longtime MACS Baseball Coaches: Joe Meyer, left, and John Hansen, right.*

## Mexico High School Jazz Choir Performs in Albany



In celebration of Music In Our Schools Month, which is spotlighted annually during the month of March, the Mexico High School Jazz Choir traveled to Albany to perform on March 28, 2017. The choir is directed by Hope M. Greco-Gaham, Mexico High Director of Vocal Music. The group is pictured here with New York State Senator Patty Ritchie, left, and New York State Assemblyman William Barclay, right.

## New Haven Elementary Leadership Meeting



The kindergarten classes at New Haven Elementary School entertained students and parents during the school-wide assembly at the close of the school day on March 24, 2017. The students recited Old King Cole and sang Sing a Song of Sixpence.

## French Club Semi-Formal 2017 ~ Nuit Blanche in Paris

The Mexico High School 26th Annual French Club Semi-Formal 'Nuit Blanche in Paris' was held on March 3, 2017.

Nuit Blanche translated in English as White Night, is the annual 24 hour arts festival held in Paris over the first weekend in October. Replicating the 'White Night in Paris,' 15 MACS French Club members, under the leadership of MACS French Teacher Kim Harter, transformed the Mexico High School gymnasium into a 'White Night' with elaborate decorations, sparkling lights, and works of art, including the famed Eiffel Tower.



*Rachel Rose and Nick Hartmann paused for a photo during the Annual French Club Semi-Formal that was attended by over 280 students.*

## MACS 2017 French Honor Society Inductees

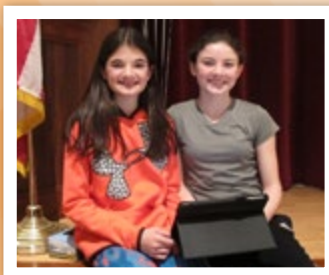
On April 6, 2017, La Société Honoraire de Français held its annual induction ceremony recognizing the many achievements of various Mexico Academy and Central School students enrolled in the French program at Mexico Middle and High Schools. A formal ceremony followed by a French-style dinner was held at Greenside Restaurant in Pulaski, NY, and included students with their parents, instructors and administration.



One sophomore, and seven freshmen were inducted into the Mexico Chapter this year, having maintained an average of 90 or greater for six consecutive quarters. MACS French Instructor Kimberley Harter presented the new inductees: Trinity Burton, Brody McCarthy, Emma McCarthy, Kathryn Morgane, Kiara Richer, Taylor Sova, Hanna Wells, and Kierra Webster with Les Certificates d'Honneur and the national pin of the SHF.

## Tiger Eye News at Mexico Middle School

The Tiger Eye News Crew at Mexico Middle School has grown to 19 students who work through the school year to bring the news of the school to the public via the MACS website. Under the guidance of Tiger Eye News Crew Club Advisers Julie Osborn and Rick Lenahan, the crew collects, edits, and creates news reports during 10th block. Most recently the club acquired a new tool for news collection - a GoPro.



*Mexico Middle School Tiger Crew Members Emma Lawler, left, and Ella Blunt are ready to record the news of the school.*



*Mexico Middle School Tiger Eye News Crew members were recognized during the MACS Board of Education meeting on April 13. Pictured, from left to right, are Aidan Davis, Ainsley Bigelow, Samantha Buckley, Mexico Middle School Principal Kim Holliday, and Cheyenne Ketcham.*

## Mexico Elementary School Carnival Night



Carnival Night was held at Mexico Elementary School on March 24, 2017. A total of 275 attended the event that was sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). A wide variety of games and craft stations filled the gymnasium and cafeteria, including, but not limited to: face painting, hair braiding, thumbprint art, a duck pond, bowling, basketball, seed planting, cork boats, pizza and popcorn. In addition, the students were encouraged to select books that were donated through a children's used book drive. Families attending also donated pet food for a local animal shelter. The event was completely free of charge.

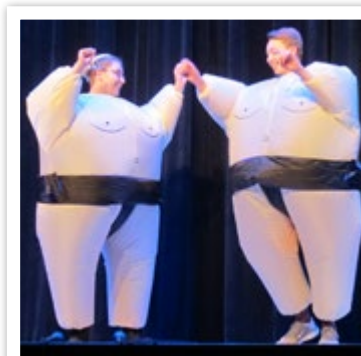
## Mexico High 2017 Variety Show

The Mexico High School Annual Variety Show was held on March 23-24, 2017, and was a grand success! The event, sponsored by MACS Spanish and German Clubs, opened the stage up for 23 performances by high school students.

From vocal numbers to dance, from poetry to piano, guitar, speed painting and more, the students amazed and entertained the audiences with their many varied talents.



*Kyle Miller ~ "Brown Eyed Woman"*



*Rachel Rose and Nick Hartmann ~ "Hips Don't Lie"*

**Mexico Academy & Central School**

**2017-2018  
SCHOOL BUDGET  
SPECIAL SECTION**

**BUDGET VOTE and  
SCHOOL BOARD  
ELECTIONS**

**Tuesday, May 16 • 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, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and to elect three Board of Education members.

**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 2017-18 School Year, in the total amount of \$53,748,377 (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) small vehicles for student transportation, and two (2) maintenance vehicles at an estimated cost not to exceed \$683,637 including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$683,637, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$683,637, 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 \$683,637 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due..

**School Board Candidates.**

There are three seats open, each for a term of three years. The candidates are:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maureen Kays
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dennis Brooks, Jr.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Russell Partrick
- \_\_\_\_\_ James Emery
- \_\_\_\_\_ Darlene Upcraft
- \_\_\_\_\_ Susan Teifke

**A Message from the Board President**

**What a difference a year makes!**

*Last year, at this time, the MACS District was still dealing with the unclear status of its largest taxpayer, The Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant.*

*Through the efforts of many, this potential economic calamity for the District has stabilized. Though details still remain to be negotiated, the continued operation of that facility seems assured and that is great news for our District.*

*Also, during the summer of 2016, a committee met several times to establish a Strategic Plan for our District that included a Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Measurements. All involved in this process came away energized and excited.*

*All of this has made for a noteworthy 2016-2017 school year. But, the work continues. Consequently, at our April 13, 2017 monthly business meeting, the MACS Board of Education adopted a \$53,748,377 budget for the 2017-2018 school year.*

*This budget is the result of months of efforts by Superintendent Sean Bruno, his staff, and the budget committee. It includes several key highlights.*

*First, student programming is not only maintained but enhanced. Established programs like The Leader in Me, which teaches Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to our elementary students; Blended Learning, a more intense use of technology by classroom teachers and students; AVID, a college preparation class for students; Advanced Placement classes for those students wanting the extra challenge; and Project Lead the Way, a program utilizing the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic) curriculum will continue.*

*In addition we will continue to offer the P-Tech High school program, which partners with local industry, higher education and public high school education that can result in a Regents diploma and an Associate's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology or Mechanical Technology through Onondaga Community College.*

*Also, the District has created a partnership with Onondaga Community College that could result in our students earning an Associate's Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences for free!*

*Our students will also be eligible to earn college credits that will be transferrable to any of the State University of New York or City of New York colleges.*

*Second, the staff is maintained. In fact, additions may be necessary to meet our student needs particularly at two of our elementary schools - New Haven and Palermo.*

*Finally, facility enhancements will continue. In particular, our transportation center needs some updating and this budget will ensure that those updates are made.*

*The budget accomplishes all of the above and much more but the best news is that these accomplishments are made with no increase to the tax levy!*

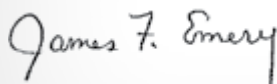
*Realizing the economics of our area, the Superintendent and the Board made it a priority to not burden the taxpayers. We think that this budget accomplishes that priority.*

*However, 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 on Tuesday, May 9th, 2017 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Mexico Middle School Auditorium.*

*Should anyone have 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 Board of Education member and we will try our best to address your questions or concerns.*

*Finally, I urge all of you to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from noon until 9:00 pm at the Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo Elementary Schools.*

*Thank you for your consideration and I hope to see you for the budget presentation on May 9th.*



James F. Emery, President  
**Mexico Academy and Central School Board of Education**

# 2017 - 2018 School Budget Vote and School Board Elections

## Proposed Budget

	2016-2017 Final Budget	2017-2018 Proposed Budget
<b>General Support</b>		
Board of Education	\$19,555	\$27,150
Central Administration	\$227,645	\$243,087
Finance	\$421,395	\$465,531
Staff	\$1,109,781	\$1,207,234
Central Services	\$4,734,187	\$4,594,497
Special Items	\$971,060	\$1,103,513
Total General Support	\$7,483,623	\$7,641,012
Share of Total	14.6%	14.22%
<b>Instruction</b>		
Administration & Improvement	\$1,313,563	1,521,711
Teaching	\$20,937,065	20,841,562
Instructional Media	\$1,963,886	1,973,402
Pupil Services	\$1,270,607	2,210,590
Total Instruction	\$25,485,121	\$26,547,265
Share of Total	49.7%	49.39%
<b>Pupil Transportation</b>		
Total Pupil Transportation	\$2,599,689	\$2,760,752
Share of Total	5.1%	5.14%
<b>Community Service</b>		
Recreation	\$93,279	\$121,000
Other Community Service		
Total Community Service	\$93,279	\$121,000
Share of Total	.20%	.23%
<b>Undistributed</b>		
Employee Benefits	\$11,066,255	\$11,335,593
Debt Service	\$4,589,323	\$5,342,755
Interfund Transfer		
Total Undistributed	\$15,655,578	\$16,678,348
Share of Total	30.4%	31.03%
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$51,317,290</b>	<b>\$53,748,377</b>

## Revenue

	2016-2017 Revenue	2017-2018 Revenue
State Aid	\$27,477,621	\$30,254,996
Local Non-Tax	\$595,788	\$2,399,500
PILOT	\$7,860,000	\$7,860,000
Tax Levy	\$13,233,881	\$13,233,881
Fund Balance	\$2,150,000	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$51,317,290</b>	<b>\$53,748,377</b>

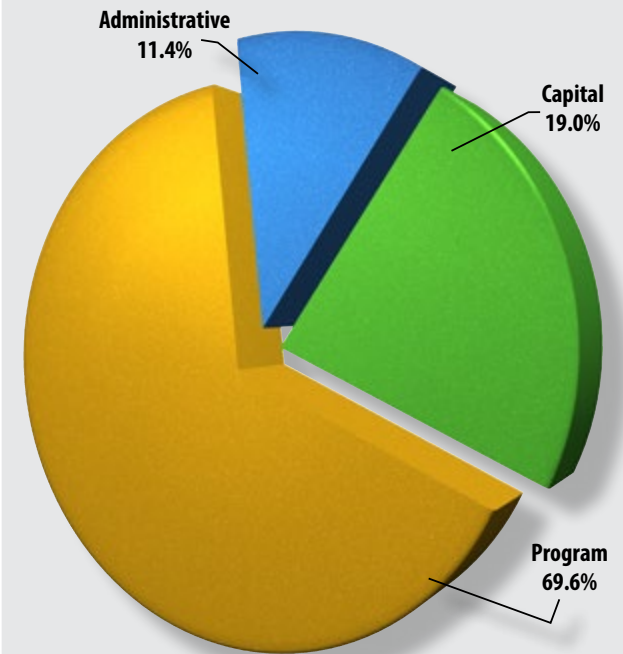
## The Three-Component Budget

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 on next page)

**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.

**Administrative 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, and other administrative activities.



## BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday

May 9 at 6:00 pm

Mexico Middle School Auditorium

Tuesday, May 16 from Noon to 9:00 pm • Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo Elementary Schools

## Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2016-2017 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-2018 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-2018 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount (not including separate propositions)	\$51,317,290	\$ 53,748,377	\$52,714,741
Increase/decrease for the 2017-2018 school year		\$ 2,431,087	\$ 1,397,451
Percentage increase (decrease) in proposed budget		4.74 %	2.72 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
<b>A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>	\$13,233,881	\$13,233,881	
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	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	\$13,233,881	\$ 13,233,881	\$ 13,233,881
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 362,780	\$ 518,631	
G. School Tax Levy Limit - <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 17,046,370	\$ 13,438,931	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$ 12,871,101	\$ 12,715,250	
I. Difference: (G-H) (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 4,175,269	\$ 723,681	
Administrative component	\$ 5,284,954	\$ 6,126,813	\$ 5,446,714
Program component	\$ 36,060,321	\$ 37,403,691	\$ 37,167,689
Capital component	\$ 9,972,015	\$ 10,217,873	\$ 10,100,338

\* 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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## Maximum Allowable School Tax Levy

Understanding the tax levy limit and calculating, using the New York State formula, the maximum allowable tax levy for the Mexico Academy and Central School District for the 2017-2018 school year.

### Proposed Tax Levy for the 2017-2018 School Year

\$ 53,748,377	MACS 2017-2018 Proposed Budget
-\$ 30,254,996	Estimated State Aid
-\$ 1,830,000	Appropriated Fund Balance & Reserves
-\$ 8,429,500	Other Income (Including PILOT)

**\$ 13,233,881 MACS Proposed Levy for 2017-2018**

*Voter approval requires a simple majority vote (50% + 1).*

\$ 13,233,881	Prior Year Tax Levy (16-17 Warrant)
x 1.0038	Tax Base Growth Factor
\$ 7,860,000	Prior Year PILOT (FY 16-17)
-\$ 362,780	Prior Year Exemptions

**\$ 20,781,390 Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy**

x 1.0126	Allowable Growth Factor
-\$ 7,860,000	Coming Year PILOT (FY 17-18)
\$ 255,696	Carryover

**\$ 13,438,931 TAX LEVY LIMIT**

\$ 0	ERS & TRS Pension Exemptions
\$ 518,631	Capital Tax Levy

**\$ 13,957,562 TAX LEVY LIMIT PLUS EXCLUSIONS**

**5.47% Maximum Levy Change**

## Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Three factors that determine the tax rate on your home include: tax levy, equalization rates and property assessment. The tax levy is set by the school district in May; equalization rates are established by the New York State Office of Real Property Services in August and each respective town establishes assessments and equalization rates, but these are just estimates. Therefore, tax rates are not finalized until late August, at which time school tax bills are printed and mailed.

	<i>Budget Proposed for the 2017-2018 School Year</i>
<b>Estimated Basic STAR Tax Savings<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$573.00</b>

The Basic STAR exemption is available for owner-occupied, primary residences regardless of the owners' ages or incomes. Basic STAR works by exempting the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home from school taxes.

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

*\*Beginning with 2011-12 school levies, increases in STAR savings are capped at 2% of the prior year savings. The cap is not on the exemption amount – but on the savings amount.*

## 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 11, 2017. 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 2017 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 16, the date of the budget vote.

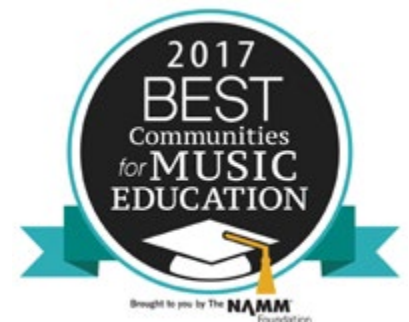
## Voter Qualifications

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.

**MACS is  
Proud to be  
a 2017 Best  
Communities for  
Music Education  
Recipient**





# Music in our Schools Month

## Mexico High School Annual Pops Concert

The Mexico High School Music Department presented the Annual Pops Concert on March 21, 2017. The concert was three-part, including: the Mexico High School Jazz Ensemble, the Mexico High School Concert Choir, and the Mexico High School Cover Band. The concert was directed by MACS Director of Choral Studies Hope Greco-Gaham, and MACS High School Band Director, Brian Carnes.



Mexico High School Cover Band



Mexico High School Concert Choir

## Mexico Middle School 7/8 Grade Spring Band Concert

The Mexico Middle School 7/8 Grade Spring Band Concert was held on March 22, 2017, at the school. The concert included performances by three bands: the 7/8 Grade Jazz Ensemble, the 7th Grade Symphonic Band, and 8th Grade Symphonic Band. The 7th and 8th grade bands had corresponding videos playing on the screen behind them at the same time. The concert was directed by MACS Middle School Band Director, Kevin Upcraft.



## Mexico High Drama Club's "Cinderella" Fabulous!

On March 9-11, 2017, Mexico High School Drama Club presented a simply fabulous performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella."

Over fifty cast members, supporting cast, and crew presented a musical that elicited laughter and delightful surprise over and over again, all the while warming hearts through the timeless tale of "Cinderella."

The musical was directed by MACS Drama Club Director William Coughlin, MACS Vocal Director Hope Greco-Gaham, and MACS Pit Band Director Kevin Upcraft. MACS Music Teacher Gina Giufre accompanied on piano and Jay Rhinehart served as MACS Technical Director. Choreographer was Mexico High Senior Abigail Garrett.



## Elementary School Pre-K Visits to Mexico Public Library

Both the morning and the afternoon Pre-K classes from all three elementary schools in the Mexico School District took field trips to Mexico Public Library during the first week of March. The children visited the library in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday which fell on March 2. The visit included Dr. Seuss stories, 'Cat in the Hat' hats, bookmarks, and a cookie.

*Palermo Elementary School morning Pre-K class, taught by MACS Teacher Kim Christopher, right, and MACS Teacher Aide Jackie Blasier, left.*



## Students Earning Exceptional Recognition were Spotlighted at MACS BOE Meeting

Mexico Middle School Students Shane Kinter, center left, and Devin Kinikin, center right, were spotlighted at the MACS Board of Education meeting on April 13, for earning Exceptional Recognition for their academic progress.

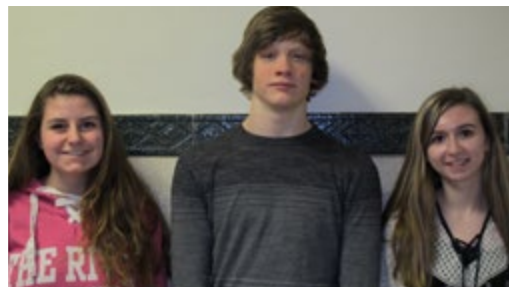
*Mexico Middle School Principal Kim Holliday stands left, and MACS District Superintendent Sean Bruno stands right.*



## Mexico Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Award Winners

The Annual Mexico Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Award Ceremony was held on March 5, 2017, at Mexico VFW Post 369.

*The Mexico High School Voice of Democracy winners are, from left to right: Kylene Fletcher, Daniel Dorr and Alyssa Dann.*



## Mexico Middle School 2016-17 Mexico VFW Patriot's Pen Contest Winners



Mexico Middle School 2016-17 Mexico VFW Patriot's Pen Contest Winners

*From left to right: Cameron Waugh (7th), Autumn*

*Parkhurst (7th), Marcus Turo (8th), and Abigail Hinmann (7th).*

## Mexico High School Battle of the Books Team takes 2nd



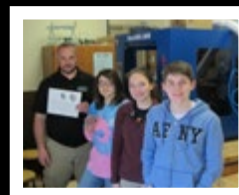
The Mexico High School Battle of the Books Team place 2nd at the Oswego County Battle of the Books competition at Oswego High School on February 28, 2017.

*The team members are pictured here*

*with Mexico High School Librarian Nicole Nicosia: Marrisa Ohmann, Nicole Miller, and Christine Weber.*

## CNC Mill Work Happening at Mexico High School

For the first time ever students in the Computer Integrated Manufacturing Class at Mexico High School are experiencing the use of a Computer Numeric Control Mill (CNC Mill). Under the tutelage of MACS Technology Education Teacher Dave von Holtz, 10th - 12th grade students created container designs using 3D AutoDesk Inventor modeling software. The class then voted on the favorite container design (created by Emma Teeter), and moved on to make the containers using the CNC Mill. A block of RenShape (similar to composite decking), was placed in the mill, the protective Plexiglas window was closed, and five milling processes took place to create the top and bottom pieces of the precisely designed container. The process was repeated again and again.



MACS Technology Education Teacher Dave von Holtz with Computer Integrated

*Manufacturing Class students, from left to right: Emma Teeter (container designer), Kennedy Cahill, and Evan Blunt. The CNC Mill stands behind.*



*Finished container piece in CNC Mill.*

## Agricultural Literacy at New Haven Elementary School



**New Haven Elementary School Library Teacher Kelly Culler, center, with Agricultural Literacy Weeks Volunteers Joleen Walthert, left, and Kathy Simpelaar, right. New Haven Elementary students pictured are: Elizabeth LaFleur and Robert Babcock.**

During Agricultural Literacy Weeks in Oswego County in March, farm volunteers visit 2nd grade classrooms within the county to teach about an agricultural product grown here or in the state of New York. The product highlighted this year was grapes, and the students at New Haven Elementary School learned about how grapes are grown and what they are used for. They also tasted both purple and white grape juice.

The program was sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the New York Farm Bureau, and Welch's. A

book, titled "The Grapes Grow Sweet" by Lynne Tuft and Tessa DeCarlo, was donated to the school library by the NY Farm Bureau.

## Mexico CTE Top 3

A large group of MACS high school students were recently honored by the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation for achieving academic success throughout the first half of the school year. The top three students from each Career & Technical Education (CTE) program were awarded for their hard work and commitment.



## Ryan's Story Presentation at Mexico High and Middle Schools

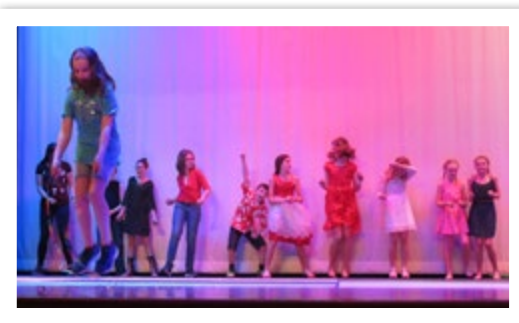


John Halligan, of Essex Junction, Vermont, gave five Ryan's Story presentations in the Mexico School District on April 11-12, 2017. John Halligan and his wife Kelly lost their son, Ryan, to suicide in 2003, when he was 13 years old. During the five presentations in the MACS District (an evening one for parents, two for middle school students, and two for high school students), Halligan

shared the story of his son Ryan's life and the lessons he, as a dad, learned about cyber-bullying, depression, and suicide. He also reviewed the work he did toward the passage of the Vermont Bully Prevention Law and the law pertaining to mandatory suicide prevention education in public schools. Halligan explained bullying, cyber-bullying, the dangers of social media, depression, and suicide. For parents, he encouraged checking in with their children on a mental health level, and he offered suggestions for youth internet use including, but not limited to: asking the child to show what they are doing online, not allowing secret passwords, discussing bullying, employing monitoring and filtering software, restricting apps, setting time limits, and considering both age and maturity levels. He also encouraged the use of flip-phones for preteens vs smart phones. One main message Halligan has for students in regard to bullying is, 'Don't be a bystander, be an up-stander..' For more information please go to: [RyansStory.org](http://RyansStory.org).

## Mexico Middle School Variety Show

The Mexico Middle School Variety Show was held on April 13, at the school. The show was presented in the morning for the entire student body, while parents were invited to watch a performance



the previous night. During the show, students performed 22 acts with a wide variety of talent displayed including, but not limited to: dancing, jump roping, singing/cups, comedy, speed art, clarinet, and more. The Variety Show is a Mexico Middle School Student Council event with MACS Teacher Kim Julian and MACS Teacher Aide Lisa Brooks serving as advisers.

## Autism Awareness Month Spotlighted at Palermo Elementary School

The staff at Palermo Elementary School paused for a group photo one afternoon in April in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. Students in grades 2-4 learned about autism throughout the month, and many colored ribbons and puzzle pieces, symbols of Autism Awareness Month, to decorate the school. Staff throughout the district bought coordinating t-shirts as well. This awareness endeavor was led by Palermo Teacher Aide Mariah Shannon, pictured standing left, who's autistic son is a 2016 MACS graduate. MACS Teacher Aide Sarah Herrington and Americorps Worker Danielle Sperato assisted in the Autism Awareness Month activities



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 3** HS Spring Band/Chorus Concert, 7pm
- May 4** German Honor Society Inductions, 6pm
- May 9** Budget Hearing followed by  
MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- May 10** MS Celebration of Learning
- May 11** Spanish Honor Society Inductions, 7pm
- May 12** Muffins w/ Mom at New Haven, 8:15am
- May 16** MACS Budget Vote: Vote at any of the  
District's Elementary Schools  
New Haven Elementary 3/4 Grade Concert at MS, 6pm
- May 17** Grade 5 Grandparent Luncheon  
New Haven Elementary Celebration of Learning, 6pm
- May 18** Grade 6 Grandparent Luncheon  
Mexico Elementary Celebration of Learning  
Palermo Elementary Celebration of Learning/Leadership Day  
Palermo Elementary 3/4 Chorus Concert
- May 19** Elementary School Cardboard Regatta, HS, 6pm
- May 24** Grade 5/6 Band/Chorus Concert, MS, 6:30pm
- May 29** Memorial Day, No School
- May 25** JROTC Awards, 5pm
- June 1** Mexico Elementary 3/4 Chorus Concert,  
at Middle School, 6pm
- June 2** Palermo Elementary Mother/Son Olympics, 6pm
- June 5** Top 100 Dinner, High School, 6:30pm
- June 6** 7/8 Band/Chorus Concert, Middle School, 7pm
- June 7** Block "M" Sports Awards, High School, 6pm
- June 8** MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- June 9** 8th Grade Memories Dance, Middle School, 6:30pm
- June 13** High School Senior Awards, 6pm
- June 15** 4th Grade Band Concert, Middle School, 6pm
- June 16** New Haven Donuts with Dads, 8:15am
- June 20** High School Baccalaureate, 7pm
- June 23** Last Day of School
- June 23** High School Graduation, 7pm

## Mexico High School's OCAY team clinches the overall championship!



Mexico High School's OCAY team clinched the overall championship, April 12, 2017!

It was the second straight championship for the team led by captains Caitlin Spurling and Ben Pelow.

The team placed in each of the four events this year including three first place finishes.

The OCAY League is made up of each of the county schools who compete in different academic-related competitions that stress reasoning, team work and presentation skills.

## Author Visits Mexico Elementary School

In mid-March, author and illustrator, Daniel Jude Miller of Binghamton, NY, visited Mexico Elementary School and wowed the students with both his writing and drawing talents as he shared his path to becoming the inspiration he is today. Miller read his books "Everybody Wake Up!" and "Monsters in Manhattan" to the students. He is pictured here, standing back, with Mexico Elementary School 3rd grade students from MACS Teacher Lynn Rathbun's class.



**BUDGET**  **OTE**

**Tuesday, May 16**  
**Noon - 9 pm**  
**Mexico, New Haven, and**  
**Palermo Elementary Schools**