

The Valley INSIDER

Cassadaga Valley Central School District Newsletter

On behalf of the Cassadaga Valley Central School District Board of Education, I am presenting the District's proposed 2026–2027 school budget in the amount of $28,745,237.

Each year, the development of the school budget is one of the most important responsibilities we undertake, as it reflects our collective priorities for students, staff, and the broader community. This year's process included eight public work sessions held between December 10, 2025 and April 21, 2026. These sessions provided the Board of Education and administration the opportunity to carefully review programs, consider student needs, and evaluate the financial landscape facing our district.

The 2026–2027 budget was developed during a time of significant financial challenge. Like many school districts across New York State, Cassadaga Valley is experiencing increased costs driven by inflation, unfunded mandates, the rising costs of meeting the needs of all students to ensure individualized growth and success, and higher BOCES expenses. These factors, largely outside of local control, have created a budget shortfall that required thoughtful decision-making and difficult conversations.

Despite these pressures, our commitment remains unchanged: to provide a high-quality educational experience that supports the academic success, well-being, and future readiness of every student. Throughout this process, we worked to preserve student opportunities, maintain strong programming, and be responsible stewards of taxpayer resources.

On April 21, 2026, the Board of Education adopted the proposed budget with an overall increase of 4.99% in the amount of $1,365,601. **The proposed tax levy increase is $125,271 or 2.04%, remaining within the allowable tax cap**. We recognize the trust our community places in us and do not take lightly the balance between educational excellence and fiscal responsibility. Thank you for your continued support of Cassadaga Valley Central School District and the students we serve.

With this budget, our goal is to continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities to our students while being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

On Tuesday, May 19 eligible voters will have four propositions for their consideration:

Proposition #1: Authorization of the 2026-2027 proposed budget

Proposition #1 on the ballot will be asking voters to approve the District's proposed general fund budget in the amount of $28,745,237 and the necessary real property taxes required shall be levied and collected

Proposition #2: Purchase of school buses and similar vehicles

Proposition #2 on the ballot will be asking voters to authorize the District to purchase school buses and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program, at an estimated amount of $1,010,206, and shall be funded directly from monies already available in the District's Transportation Reserve Fund, 2019

Proposition #3: Establish a Capital Improvement Reserve Fund

Proposition #3 on the ballot will be asking voters to authorize the creation of the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, 2026, the amount shall not be greater than $8,000,000 and the probable term shall not be longer than ten (10) Years

Proposition #4: Authorization of Local Library Funding Request

Proposition #4 on the ballot will be asking voters to authorize the District to levy and collect an annual tax, in the amount of $139,340 for the purpose of funding the Mary E. Seymour Memorial Library and the Sinclairville Free Library, as requested by each respective library. The library funding request, separate and apart from the annual District budget, is an increase of $9,340 when originally approved by voters May 2024

Please review the contents of this newsletter or visit the budget page on our website at cvcougars.org to access presentations and information related to the 2026-2027 school budget development process. Thank you for your continued support of our students and educational programs. Should you have any questions about the budget or anything else that you would like to discuss, I welcome your call. Thank you! Like all of you, I know it's always a great day to be in The Valley.

Tammy Mangus
Superintendent

Celebrating Our Staff: A Week of Appreciation and Connection

This year, our district proudly dedicated a full week to celebrating the incredible individuals who make our schools such special places. While there are many appreciation days throughout the year that recognize specific roles, this initiative was designed to honor *everyone*—because it truly takes every role, every title, and every personality working together to support our students and community.

This special week in March was thoughtfully planned and sponsored by our administrative team, whose efforts created meaningful opportunities to recognize and uplift staff across the district.

The week began with a cozy and welcoming “Pajamas and Pancakes” kickoff. Staff members were invited to wear their favorite pajamas and start the day together over fresh pancakes, coffee, cocoa, tea, and juice. It was a simple but meaningful opportunity to connect, relax, and enjoy time with colleagues before the school day began.

The celebration continued with a “Lucky to Have You” theme, on St. Patrick’s Day, where faculty and staff were reminded just how valued they are. Personalized shamrocks and homemade treats were delivered throughout the district, offering a small but sincere token of appreciation and brightening the day for many.

Midweek brought a focus on wellness, with “Wellness Wednesday” encouraging staff to recharge during a typically busy time of year. Faculty rooms and the bus garage were stocked with healthy snacks, including infused water, fresh fruit, and homemade protein balls. Opportunities for movement and connection were also provided, along with a few lighthearted activities to bring laughter into the day.

On Thursday, staff took a trip down memory lane with “Throwback Thursday.” Participants shared photos from their school days or early careers, along with current pictures and words of advice for their younger selves. These reflections were compiled into a slideshow that highlighted not only personal growth, but also the shared experiences that connect our school community.

The week concluded in style with a red carpet-themed celebration inspired by the Academy Awards. Staff embraced the opportunity to dress up, have fun, and celebrate one another. The event was filled with energy, creativity, and well-deserved recognition, serving as a reminder that the people who support our students each day are truly stars in their own right.

Throughout the week, one message remained clear: our district thrives because of the dedication, compassion, and teamwork of our staff. This celebration was a meaningful way to recognize the tremendous impact they have every single day.









Spring Thing is Back!

The Return of Spring Thing!

written by Student Influencer, Catie Russell

Cassadaga Valley is proud to announce the return of Spring Thing! Newly hired student event planners, Mia Fanara, Emma Daigle, and Mya Cusimano, have worked hard throughout the school year to put together a fun-filled weekend for the entire community. The event will be held at the Middle High School and Sinclairville Elementary School, May 8 and 9, with all parking at the Cassadaga MHS and constant shuttles throughout the day, Saturday. Attendance is completely free but be sure to come prepared to support local businesses!

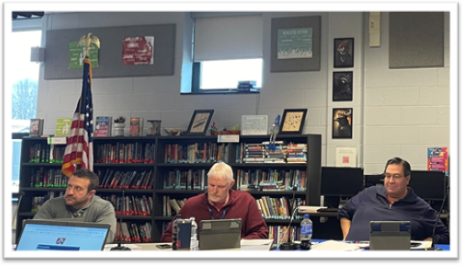
Seniors, Emma Daigle and Mya Cusimano, have been working hard to organize the “Spotlight on the Valley” Talent Show, which will kick off the weekend festivities on Friday, May 8th, in the MHS Auditorium. Students from grades 6-12, along with teachers from the MHS, will be performing dance routines, singing, comedy acts, and more! There will also be a basket raffle and 50/50 drawing following the show. Cassadaga Valley and the student workers are proud and very excited to be able to bring back Spring Thing and encourage everyone to come out and show their support and school spirit!

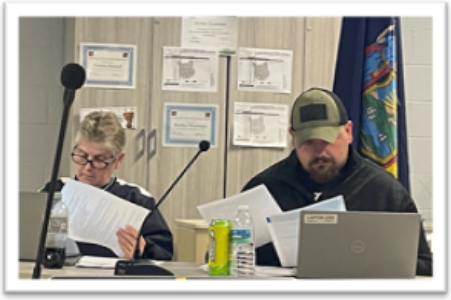
Junior, Mia Fanara, has also worked very hard throughout the school year to plan the second and final day of Spring Thing, on May 9th. The day will be split into two sessions, the morning events running from 8:30am-12:30pm and the evening events running from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Throughout the day there will be multiple events, at Sinclairville Elementary School, including FFA demos and petting zoo, K-9 and fire dept demos, a kickball tournament, family pictures by Danielle Sullivan, movies, the annual SES Color Run, food and craft vendors, and performances by the local band, Ion Sky, and Cassadaga Valley’s very own Cameron Katilus. Mia Fanara encourages all community members to support the school event and join us to help make the return of Spring Thing memorable!



THE BOARD AT WORK!











Budget Information

2026-2027 Estimated Tax Levy

- Proposed School Tax Levy $6,266,422
  - •Increase of $125,271 - 2.04%
- Estimated School Tax Rate based on 2025 assessments and equalization rates is $10.74 per 1,000
- Estimated Tax Bill increase based on 2025 assessments and equalization rates:
  - •Increase of $0.22 per 1,000 of assessed value
  - •100,000 home with no STAR exemption = $21.47
  - •100,000 home with Basic STAR exemption = $15.03
  - •100,000 home with Enhanced STAR exemption = $7.41

Proposed Library Tax Levy $139,340

- Estimated Tax Rate $0.24 an increase of $0.02

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

- Proposed Expenditures - $28,745,237

Increase of $1,365,601 - 4.99%

2026-2027 Anticipated Revenue

- $ 6,266,422 - Property Tax Levy
- $ 19,706,971 - State Aid
- $ 2,179,961 - Committed Fund Balance comprised of:

$1,450,223 Cash on Hand

$ 133,294 Unemployment Reserve

$ 258,873 Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve "EBALR"

$ 284,520 Retirement Contribution Reserve, ERS

$ 53,051 Retirement Contribution Reserve Subfund, TR S

- Other Revenues - $591,883

Annual District Budget Vote and School Board Election

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
CVCS MHS Gym
1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Budget Detail Explanation

General Support

The General Support section of the budget covers managerial functions for the entire District including funding for the Board of Education, School Superintendent and Financial Operations of the District; operations and maintenance of school buildings and grounds, fire and liability insurance coverage. Also included are personnel management, legal expenses, public information expenses including related BOCES administrative charges.

Instruction

Instruction is the core area of the school budget generally covering salaries for administrators, teachers, aides, clerical staff, school nurses, psychologists, guidance counselors, social workers, library media specialist and other essential staff members. This section also covers all materials, supplies and equipment necessary to support the educational needs of our students. Co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities are also included in the Instruction section of the budget.

Transportation

The district utilizes its own employees to provide transportation services to students for regular transportation within and outside of District boundaries for instructional purposes, co- curricular and interscholastic athletic activities.

Employee Benefits

This category consists of a variety of employee benefits including required contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, New York State and Local Retirement System, Social Security, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance benefits and other employee benefits.

Long Term Debt

This category contains District-wide costs associated with bond anticipation notes and serial bonds for school construction and costs related to debt for school bus purchases.



Budget Information

BUDGET DETAIL	2026-2027 Proposed Budget	2025-2026 Voter Approved Budget
General Support		
Board of Education	$ 27,780	$ 14,800
Central Administration	$ 273,258	$ 236,677
Finance (Business Office, District Treasurer, Tax Collector and Auditing)	$ 446,004	$ 432,268
Legal and Public Relations	$ 88,890	$ 83,580
Central Services (Operation & Maintenance of Plant, Central Print, Postage, Data Processing)	$ 2,079,832	$ 1,979,207
Special Items (General Insurance, Association Dues, Refund Real Property Taxes, BOCES Admin. & Capital)	$ 326,793	$ 320,480
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	***$ 3,242,557***	***$ 3,067,012***
Instruction		
Curriculum Development & Supervision	$ 891,211	$ 853,765
Teaching (Regular, Special Education, Occupational and Special Schools)	$ 11,201,358	$ 10,809,453
Instructional Media (Library, AV, Educational Television, Computer Assisted Instruction)	$ 536,558	$ 590,381
Pupil Services (Guidance, Health, Psychological, Social Work, Co-Curricular, Athletics)	$ 1,388,760	$ 1,410,954
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	***$ 14,017,887***	***$ 13,664,553***
Transportation		
Pupil Transportation (Transportation Services, Garage Building Operations)	$ 1,900,317	$ 1,693,173
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	***$ 1,900,317***	***$ 1,693,173***
Employee Benefits		
New York State Employees' Retirement System	$ 659,572	$ 456,500
New York State Teachers' Retirement System	$ 679,793	$ 812,568
Social Security	$ 930,292	$ 912,036
Workers' Compensation	$ 115,794	$ 116,667
Life Insurance	$ 19,425	$ 19,425
Unemployment Insurance	$ 133,294	$ 15,000
Hospital, Medical, Dental, Vision Insurance	$ 3,811,162	$ 3,473,636
Employee Contractual Benefits	$ 690,165	$ 632,769
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	***$ 7,039,497***	***$ 6,438,601***
Long Term Debt		
Serial Bonds - School Construction	$ 2,406,953	$ 1,331,613
Bond Anticipation Notes - School Construction	$	$ 1,062,684
Bond Anticipation Notes - Bus Purchases	$ -	$ -
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	***$ 2,406,953***	***$ 2,394,297***
Interfund Transfers		
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	$ -	$ -
Transfer to Federal Fund	$ 38,026	$ 22,000
Transfer to Capital Fund	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS	***$ 138,026***	***$ 122,000***
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	***$ 28,745,237***	***$ 27,379,636***
BUDGET PERCENTAGE	***4.99%***	

Voting Information

Absentee & Early Mail Ballot Information

Applications for absentee and early ballots may be obtained at the office of the District Clerk at the Middle/High School building, 5935 Route 60, Sinclairville, New York 14782 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:45 PM. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the District Vote (May 13), if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on the day before the District Vote (May 18), if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

A list of all persons to whom absentee and early mail ballots have been issued will be available for inspection in the office of the District Clerk, where it shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:45 PM, on each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the District Vote (except for Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays), said list will be posted at the polling place at the election. No absentee or early mail ballot will be canvassed and counted unless it is received in the office of the District Clerk prior to 5:00 PM on May 19, 2026.

Once an application is received by the District Clerk, an official ballot will be mailed to the applicant.

The 2026-2027 Annual Budget Hearing will be held Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR). The Annual District Meeting (Budget Vote and Board Election) will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Cassadaga MHS Gymnasium from 1:00 PM—8:00 PM. All absentee and early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

A "qualified voter" is defined as:

- a citizen of the United States
- at least eighteen (18) years of age as of the date of the vote (5/19/26)
- has been a resident of the District for at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the vote (5/19/26)

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program offers property tax relief to eligible New York State homeowners.

If you are eligible and enrolled in the STAR program, you'll receive your benefit each year in one of two ways:

STAR credit: If you are registered for the STAR credit, the Tax Department will issue your STAR benefit via check or direct deposit. You can use your STAR benefit to pay your school taxes. You can receive the STAR credit if you own your home and it's your primary residence and the combined income of the owners and the owners' spouse is $500,000 or less.

STAR exemption: A reduction on your school tax bill. If you've been receiving the STAR exemption since 2015, you can continue to receive it for the same primary residence. As long as you remain eligible, you'll see a reduction on your school tax bill for the amount of your STAR exemption. Note: The STAR exemption is no longer available to new homeowners.

Voting Information - BOE Candidate Info

BOE Candidate: Marcus Clark

Name: Marcus Clark
Occupation: Technology Teacher
Education: B.S. in Education - The Ohio State University
Masters in Technology Education - SUNY Buffalo State

Community Involvement: My community involvement shapes my perspective in several key ways:

- Fostering Athletic Success and Teamwork: Earlier, I mentioned my hope for our district to achieve success in sports, and that is something I actively work toward as a modified football coach for The Herd. Coaching allows me to connect with students outside of an academic setting, helping them build the discipline, teamwork, and school pride that are essential to a thriving school culture.
- Deep Family and Economic Roots: My family lives here, and I have family members who work directly for the district. This means the decisions we make on the board regarding staff culture and compensation aren't abstract to me—they affect my own family. Additionally, I am a staunch supporter of our local businesses, because a strong local economy and a strong public school system are entirely dependent on one another.
- Building Character Through Youth Mentorship: I have dedicated countless hours to Boy Scouts Troop 219, and served as an Eagle Scout mentor. As the proud father of an Eagle Scout myself, I know firsthand the immense value of programs that teach our young people leadership, civic duty, and resilience.

When I reflect on what makes Cassadaga Valley so special, I don't just look at our facilities or our programs; I look at the character of our community. Having lived, taught, and served here for so long, I believe our district's greatest strengths are rooted in our shared values and our deep sense of place.

bio continued on next page

Voting Information - BOE Candidate Info

In your opinion, what are three of the most important challenges facing the Cassadaga Valley Central School District and why do you feel those are important for our school community at this time? If selected to serve a 3rd term on the Board, my focus will be centered on three core priorities:

- Academic Excellence and Targeted Board Goals: Our primary job as a board is to set clear, measurable objectives for student success. I am committed to working collaboratively to establish and execute rigorous board goals, with a specific, urgent focus on raising our reading and math scores. We need to ensure that our foundational curriculum is strong, data-driven, and accessible to every student, actively working to close achievement gaps so that all students perform at or above grade level.
- Empowering Educators Through Professional Development: A school system is only as strong as its teachers and support staff. To elevate our classrooms, we must invest heavily in high-quality training. I will strongly advocate for sending our educators to premier professional development events, such as the Model Schools Conference and specialized literacy conferences. By exposing our teachers to the latest research and proven instructional strategies, we equip them with the innovative tools they need to inspire our students and thrive in their careers.
- Fiscal Transparency Amidst Economic Challenges: We must be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, especially in today's economic climate. School districts are facing severe financial pressures from persistent inflation—which drives up the cost of everything from transportation to facility maintenance—and skyrocketing health insurance premiums for our staff. Balancing the budget under these constraints requires rigorous oversight and difficult decisions. I am committed to open, two-way communication with the community to navigate these hurdles together, ensuring that even in tight fiscal times, we protect the classroom and direct funds where they impact student outcomes the most.

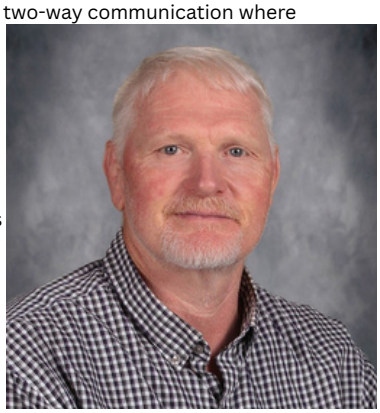
What positions have you held or experiences do you have that will help you serve as part of the team that provides fiscal oversight for our school district? When it comes to fiscal oversight, I bring a unique, 360-degree perspective grounded in both long-term governance and nearly three decades of direct classroom experience. My ability to serve effectively on the team providing fiscal oversight is rooted in three key areas of my background:

- A Decade of Direct Board Experience: Having served on this board for 10 years, I already deeply understand our district's financial architecture. I do not need a learning curve to comprehend our budget cycle, tax levies, or state funding formulas. I have a proven track record of scrutinizing line items, asking tough questions, and navigating complex economic challenges, such as the recent spikes in inflation and health insurance costs.
- 29 Years as a Public and Private Educator: Looking at a budget spreadsheet is one thing, but knowing how those numbers translate to a classroom is another. My experience in private education taught me the necessity of maximizing every single dollar and operating efficiently. Meanwhile, my decades in public education allow me to look at proposed cuts or investments and immediately understand the operational impact they will have on our staff and students.
- Strategic Allocation for School Culture: True fiscal oversight is not just about balancing the books; it is about ensuring our spending aligns with our district's values. A budget is essentially a moral document. I have extensive experience identifying exactly how and where to direct resources to improve school culture. Whether it is funding the right professional development—like the Model Schools conference—or supporting staff retention initiatives, I know how to evaluate whether a financial decision will yield a high return on investment for our school's environment.

Ultimately, I bring the institutional knowledge to manage the macro-level budget, combined with the educator's insight to ensure those funds are effectively supporting the micro-level realities of our classrooms.

What are your hopes for our school district as we move forward? When I look to the future of our district, my hopes are centered on creating a well-rounded, high-achieving environment where every stakeholder feels valued. Based on my 29 years in the classroom and a decade on this board, my vision for moving forward is focused on three key areas:

- Measurable Growth in Math and ELA: Our foundational mandate is academic success. My primary hope is to see consistent, upward momentum in our reading and math scores. This ties directly back to our board goals. I want us to move beyond just focusing on the final test scores and instead look at individual student growth. By utilizing data effectively and supporting our teachers with the right resources, we can ensure that every student is progressing, closing the achievement gaps, and mastering the foundational skills they need for life.
- Deepening Parent and Community Involvement: Education is a partnership. We simply cannot reach our maximum potential as a district without our parents. My hope is to cultivate a culture of true, two-way communication where parents feel genuinely welcomed, informed, and involved in the educational process. When we build strong bridges between the home and the classroom, student attendance, behavior, and academic outcomes all improve dramatically.
- Celebrating Success in Athletics and Extracurriculars: While academics are our core mission, a thriving school district is also defined by its spirit and community pride. I want to see our district achieve great success in our sports programs. Athletics are a vital extension of the classroom where students learn leadership, resilience, and teamwork. Winning programs build incredible morale, keep students engaged in their overall school experience, and bring our entire community together under the Friday night lights or in the gymnasium.



My hope is for a district that perfectly balances rigorous academic growth with robust extracurriculars, all supported by an engaged and active community. That is the kind of vibrant school culture I want to continue building with this team.

Budget Information

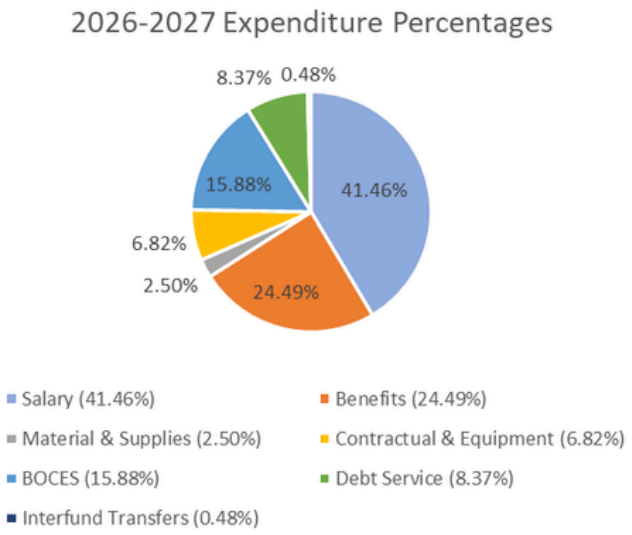
2026-2027 Three-Part Budget

Program:
$21,014,825
Includes expenditures related to materials, supplies and equipment used for instructional purposes along with salary and benefits for teachers and teacher aides. This category also includes transportation related operating expenses.

Capital:
$4,602,190
Includes materials and supply costs, service contracts, utility costs, repairs of school facilities, custodial and cleaner salaries and benefits, annual debt service payments for bond anticipation notes, and serial bonds for school construction along with bond anticipation notes for school bus purchases.

Administrative:
$3,128,222
Includes costs related to supplies and contractual expenses for the board of education, office of the superintendent, finance department and certified school administrators as well as any consulting costs not directly related to student services and other administrative costs. It also includes salaries and benefits for certified school administrators, supervisors and non-teaching personnel.

2026-2027 Proposed Budget



Capital Outlay Project

At the regular monthly meeting, held April 15, 2026, the CVCS Board of Education approved a motion declaring a proposed Capital Outlay Project involving modest upgrades and improvements at the Middle/High School building, and directing the inclusion of funding for this project in the proposed 2026-27 budget.

This project is anticipated to include, but may not necessarily be limited to, the replacement of sidewalks and heated sidewalks including all associated mechanical systems, as well as general trades work including flooring replacement, along with any related work required in connection therewith. The estimated maximum cost of the project (inclusive of all preliminary and incidental costs) has been determined by Young and Wright Architectural, to be $100,000. The District reserves the right to expand, contract or modify the anticipated scope and nature of the Project in light of the level of future bids to be received, with the understanding that the estimated maximum cost of the Project will not exceed $100,000.

The District is proposing that the project be financed by the application of $100,000 of funds to be earmarked for such purpose as a "Transfer to Capital Fund" in the proposed budget, with the actual work on the project expected to occur and be completed during the 2027-28 school year. The proposed project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Voting Information

BALLOT PROPOSITION #1
PROPOSED BUDGET

Proposition #1 on the ballot will be asking voters to approve the District's proposed general fund budget in the amount of $28,745,237 and the necessary real property taxes required shall be levied and collected

BALLOT PROPOSITION #2
PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES AND SIMILAR VEHICLES

Proposition #2 on the ballot will be asking voters to authorize the District to purchase school buses and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program, at an estimated amount of $1,010,206, and shall be funded directly from monies already available in the District's Transportation Reserve Fund, 2019

BALLOT PROPOSITION #3
ESTABLISH A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND

Proposition #3 on the ballot will be asking voters to authorize the creation of the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, 2026, the amount shall not be greater than $8,000,000 and the probable term shall not be longer than ten (10) Years

BALLOT PROPOSITION #4
LOCAL LIBRARY FUNDING

Proposition #4 on the ballot will be asking voters to authorize the District to levy and collect an annual tax, in the amount of $139,340 for the purpose of funding the Mary E. Seymour Memorial Library and the Sinclairville Free Library, as requested by each respective library. The library funding request, separate and apart from the annual District budget, is an increase of $9,340 when originally approved by voters May 2024

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Marcus Clark

Students at Sinclairville Elementary had an amazing Career Day on November 13! Students could dress up as their "Future Me" and complete career exploration activities within the classroom. Parents and community members provided an opportunity to interact, explore and learn about the various occupations in our local area during our Career Fair for students in grades 3 through 5.







In mid-January, our Foods 1 and Career and Financial Management classes had the opportunity to visit 3 Lakes Café in Cassadaga! A big thank you to 3 Lakes Café for sharing insights about your business, menu, and social media presence. Our students loved the experience, and we hope to collaborate again soon!



Honoring Cassadaga Valley Outstanding Educators

Cassadaga Valley is proud to recognize two exceptional educators whose dedication, leadership, and passion have earned them prestigious honors at the regional and state levels. These recognitions reflect not only their individual achievements, but also the strength and commitment of our entire school community.

Cassadaga Valley proudly celebrates Tina Richir, who has been named the 2026 Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor by the New York State Council of Social Studies (NYSCSS). This prestigious award recognizes her exceptional leadership, dedication to education, and lasting impact on social studies programs throughout Chautauqua County. She was honored at the President's Reception and Awards Ceremony held at the Phelps Mansion in Binghamton on March 5, 2026.

Ms. Richir's career reflects a deep commitment to helping students understand history, civics, and the social sciences. Through innovative teaching practices, curriculum development, and mentorship of fellow educators, she has strengthened social studies education across the region. Her work ensures that students not only gain knowledge, but also develop the critical thinking skills necessary to become informed and engaged citizens.

In reflecting on this recognition, Ms. Richir shared her appreciation for the Cassadaga Valley community, noting that the support of colleagues, staff, administration, and students makes her proud to represent the district. She emphasized the importance of social studies as a foundation for fostering thoughtful, well-informed individuals.

The Valley is also proud to congratulate Mr. Reggie Cole, who has been named the Regional Teacher of the Year for Chautauqua County by the New York State Technology and Engineering Educators' Association (NYSTEEA). This honor highlights his outstanding contributions to technology education and his commitment to preparing students with the skills they need to be life-ready.

Technology education plays a critical role in helping students develop problem-solving abilities, creativity, and real-world skills. In addition to his work in the classroom, Mr. Cole has served as President of the Chautauqua County Technology Educators' Association, where he has collaborated with fellow educators to organize events such as STEM Wars. These experiences give students the opportunity to showcase their learning in exciting, hands-on ways. Mr. Cole accepted his award at the NYSTEEA annual conference in Utica on March 18, where he also participated in professional development to continue enhancing opportunities for his students.

These honors are a testament to the dedication, talent, and leadership of both Ms. Richir and Mr. Cole. Their achievements exemplify the excellence found throughout Cassadaga Valley and serve as an inspiration to students, colleagues, and the broader community.





Learning in Action!

Our Earth Science, Physics, and Topics in Science students had an exciting opportunity to explore the planetarium in late November! After completing their constellation projects, they were able to see their stars come to life on the dome.



Mid-January kicked off the first day of Reading Buddies with PreK students and Mrs. Nowicki's class at SES! They will be in every other Wednesday afternoon to read with the Buddies they've been paired with for the year! In early February, Reading Buddies continued with PreK students and Mrs. Hale's third grade class!





Student, Katie Pattison, tought a lesson in Cassadaga's duel-enrollment course, JCC Graphic Design! Students had to analyze the business cards of various brands and organizations, then properly organize the cards into categories based on the design quality, effectiveness, readability, and information given. Katie plans to continue her passion through a career in Graphic Design in the upcoming future. Students at the Valley continue to rise into leadership roles!





This summary is adapted from an article written by one of our very own student employees, Catie Russell, during the previous school year.

A school district's budget supports every aspect of education, from classroom materials and staff salaries to extracurricular programs, athletics, and facility maintenance. Because the budget shapes daily experiences for students and staff alike, it plays a critical role in determining the quality of education and opportunities available across the district. Strong schools contribute directly to a strong community, making it important for all residents, not just those with children in school, to stay informed.

Community involvement is essential, yet participation in budget votes has historically been low compared to the number of eligible voters. School leaders encourage residents to ask questions, attend meetings, and learn about how funds are allocated.

Voting on the budget gives taxpayers a direct voice in shaping educational priorities and the district's future. An informed and engaged community helps ensure continued growth and opportunity for students, staff, and the broader community alike.

Cassadaga Valley Central School District
PO Box 540
5935 Route 60
Sinclairville NY 14782

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Upcoming Dates

Make sure to keep an eye on our website/Facebook page for details about our upcoming events:

- May 12th Budget Hearing - 6:00 PM
- May 19th Budget Vote/BOE Election - 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM (M/HS Gym)
- May 20th Regular Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM (day after budget vote/BOE
- election)
- June 10th Regular Monthly Meeting - 5:30 PM

June 26th Graduation - 7:00 PM



Please check our "Budget Information" page on the District website for the most up-to-date information:
https://www.cvcougars.org/page/budget-vote-and-board-election