



AN INVITATION TO APPLY...

Superintendent of Schools



Taconic Hills

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Message from the BOE

March 2023

The Taconic Hills Central School District is seeking a highly qualified leader to become our next superintendent of schools. Dr. Neil Howard is retiring at the end of June after 11 years of service.



The Board of Education is seeking a leader with a proven record of success as an educator and school administrator. The new superintendent must be a team builder willing to engage our community in the academic, fiscal, and operational decisions facing our school district.

Questar III BOCES is assisting the Board of Education with its search process, which is designed to recruit highly qualified candidates. Our search process will engage all stakeholder groups in our community.

The Board of Education will offer a competitive salary with an attractive benefits package based on professional qualifications and a record of accomplishment.

Please visit our website at www.taconichills.k12.ny.us to learn more about our school district. Thank you for your interest.



About the Community

The Taconic Hills Central School District serves nearly 9,000 residents in the northern section of the Hudson Valley, with the city of Hudson and the Hudson River to the west, the Massachusetts border to the east, Dutchess County to the south, and Rensselaer County and the Capital Region to the north. Our rural setting provides a relaxed quality of life for residents, while our proximity to New York's capital, Albany (45 miles north), Hartford (100 miles southeast), New York City (120 miles south) and Boston (155 miles east) provides easy access to metropolitan areas.

Our community offers a wide array of cultural, educational, recreational and entertainment activities, including some of the region's best fishing, hunting, skiing, biking, hiking, camping, and golf. Local attractions include Art Omi, Beebe Hill State Forest, Catamount Mountain Resort, Drowned Lands Swamp Public Conservation Area, Harvey Mountain State Forest, High Falls Public Conservation Area, Lake Taghkanic State Park, New Forge State Forest, Overmountain Public Conservation Area, Rheinstrom Hill Audubon Sanctuary and Center, and Taconic State Park.

Agriculture continues to be a key portion of local commerce, which includes several family-owned farms, orchards, and a farmers' market. Rather than one large, single employer, our county's economy is dominated by small and independent businesses, service organizations, and tourism. Many of our school district's citizens have a primary residence elsewhere.

Steeped in history, the community is home to many unique sites and groups such as the Austerlitz Historical Society, Austerlitz History Center, Copake Iron Works, Livingston History Barn, and the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society.

The region, particularly devoted to high educational achievement, is also home to many respected colleges and universities, including Bard College, Columbia-Greene Community College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, The Sage Colleges, Siena College, and the University at Albany.



Who Should Apply

QUALIFICATIONS

Taconic Hills CSD is seeking an exceptional leader with a vision for the future. Our superintendent works in partnership with the Board of Education to support programs and services that reflect the diverse needs of our school community. The preferred characteristics of the successful candidate will include:

- Experience as a teacher, building principal, central office administrator or superintendent (and is certified or eligible for certification as a NYS school district administrator).
- Experience working in a similar school system and familiarity with Columbia County.
- A demonstrated record of implementing best practices in school district leadership and operations, including raising student achievement and attracting and retaining staff.
- Outstanding communication skills and the ability to collaborate, and mediate and negotiate conflict when necessary
- A strategic thinker who is approachable, outgoing, visible, and vested in the school community.
- A collaborative leadership style built upon integrity, trust, and ethical decision-making.
- The ability to clearly articulate the school district's mission and goals and put students first.
- A commitment to approaching situations with an open-mind and creative and innovative problem-solving.

TIMELINE

April 16, 2023.....Deadline for applications
April to May 2023Interviews
May to June 2023Board appointment
July 1, 2023Start date

APPLICATION

Candidates should submit the following materials by April 16, 2023:

- Letter of interest
- Completed application with essay and current resume
- Academic transcripts
- Copies of administrative certification(s)

Please send all materials to:

Dr. Gladys I. Cruz, District Superintendent
Questar III BOCES, 10 Empire State Boulevard, Castleton, NY 12033
P. (518) 479-6882 • F. (518) 477-9833
Janet.Sawyer@questar.org



Recent Highlights

The Taconic Hills Central School District is a school district that values collaboration and sets high standards of excellence for students and staff. Highlights of our recent accomplishments include:

- To prepare students for post-graduation success, the High School curriculum is enriched with 20 college-level courses from Columbia-Greene Community College, the SUNY University in the High School Program, and Early College Senior Study. Advanced Placement courses are also available in Biology, Calculus (AB), Chemistry, English Literature & Composition, Physics, and U.S. History.
- The graduation rate for the Class of 2022 was 83 percent. Approximately 72 percent of the graduating seniors pursued higher education.
- All schools in good standing according to the State Education Department.
- Taconic Hills' athletic program participates in Class B of Section 2. Most of our 39 modified, JV and varsity teams compete as a member of the Patroon Conference. Our sport offerings include football, boys soccer, girls soccer, girls field hockey, girls volleyball, golf, boys and girls cross country, football cheerleading, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys volleyball, bowling, swimming, wrestling, boys baseball, girls softball, boys track, girls track, tennis, unified basketball, and clay shooting.
- The district has earned numerous league, section, regional, and state championships. Our clay shooting team has advanced to states the past two years and finished 79th out of 230 teams in the national finals last July.
- Residents have consistently supported the school budget. In May 2022, 66 percent of voters supported the budget proposal. All budget materials are posted online.
- In each year of the tax cap legislation, Taconic Hills has developed a budget that stayed within the district's allowable tax levy limit.
- The school district has renovated its facilities, including miscellaneous site work and improvements, and the purchase of new equipment and machinery. This includes the replacement of field lights and entrance doors (currently in progress).
- In November 2022, the school district hosted an active shooter drill with the New York State Police, Columbia County's Sheriff's Department, and local agencies.
- Last year, the school district implemented a cost-savings plan to mitigate the rising cost of prescription drugs for staff.



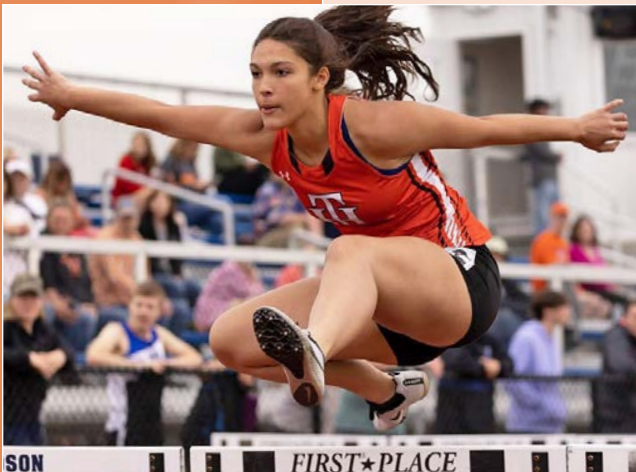


About the District

The Taconic Hills Central School District is a single campus formed in 1970 after the unification of two smaller school districts, Roeliff Jansen and Ockawamick. In 1999, students and staff relocated to a 350,000 square foot building in Craryville.

The school district educates approximately 1,040 students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 on a single campus. Nearly 60 percent of our students qualify for free and reduced breakfast/lunch programs.

The elementary school offers Universal Prekindergarten classes (UPK), and grades K to 6. We utilize a balanced literacy program that focuses on shared, independent, and guided reading. The school also offers 10 extracurricular activities including animal club, art club, band, choir, drama club, harvest club, ski club, student council, TV news, and yearbook.



The junior high school offers a wide range of courses and extracurricular activities. It includes 13 extracurricular activities (animal club, art club, band, choir, chess club, drama club, fencing, foreign language club, robotics, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), yearbook, and young adult readers club).

High school students can also participate in 15 extracurricular activities including amnesty club, art club, band, choir, drama club, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Gay-Straight Alliance/Diversity club, Key Club, Model UN, National Honor Society, newspaper club, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), student government, yearbook, and young adult readers club.

Taconic Hills CSD serves as a hub for the surrounding community. The district offers many services and programs for parents, community members, and guests. This includes the state-of-the-art Lyle G. Hamm Performing Arts Center, a 1,000-seat facility that opens to an outdoor amphitheater, two media centers, an aquatic/fitness center, and a three subdividable gymnasium with stadium-style seating.



District Facts

SCHOOLS

- 1 Building
- 2 Schools (Pre-K-6 Elementary, 7-12 Junior/Senior High School)

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

1,040 students (43 percent are economically disadvantaged)

STAFF

- 144 teachers
- 114 full and part-time support staff, including transportation, buildings and grounds, communications, confidential office staff, clerical, food service and teacher aides
- 15 teaching assistants
- 12 administrators including central office administrators and departmental directors

DISTRICT SIZE

The school district covers 201.9 square miles. It includes the Village of Philmont and the towns of Ancram, Austerlitz, Claverack, Copake, Gallatin, Ghent, Hillsdale, Livingston, and Taghkanic in Columbia County and the town of Northeast in Dutchess County.

FINANCES

2022-2023 School Budget . . . \$39,684,157

ACADEMICS

Taconic Hill's school report card can be viewed online at <http://data.nysed.gov>





Amazing Students. Amazing Success.

MISSION STATEMENT

“To be a center of learning for students and community alike, by using 21st century tools and providing opportunities to motivate, engage, and encourage individuals to rise to their full potential as contributing members of society.”



BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Bonnie Torchia, *President*
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- Heidi Beneke-Main
- Diane Burfeind
- Joseph Costa
- Molly Delaney
- Ronald Morales
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www.taconichills.k12.ny.us

Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement

The Taconic Hills Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Compliance Officer Dr. Sandra Gardner and Section 504 Compliance Officer Henry Pollinger, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, at 518-325-2800, Taconic Hills CSD, 73 County Route 11A Craryville, New York 12521. A copy of the “In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)” is available in the Superintendent’s Office.