



Albion Central School District

Budget Newsletter

May 2026

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Purple Eagle families:

On behalf of the Albion Central School District Board of Education, I'm pleased to present the proposed budget for the 2026–2027 school year.

This budget represents more than numbers as it reflects our continued commitment to providing a high-quality, well-rounded education for every student while remaining mindful of the financial realities of our community. Our priorities include maintaining small class sizes, strengthening student support services, enhancing technology, and ensuring our facilities remain safe, functional, and well-maintained.

As in previous years, we have taken a thoughtful and conservative approach to financial planning. We are proud to once again propose a tax levy with no increase, continuing our long-standing effort to either reduce or maintain the levy whenever possible. While rising operational costs and uncertainty in state and federal funding continue to present challenges, we remain committed to balancing fiscal responsibility with meaningful investment in our students and programs.

Our District relies heavily on State Aid, which accounts for a significant portion of our budget. We continue to prioritize maintaining a strong financial foundation that allows us to remain stable through fluctuations in funding while supporting the continuity and growth of instruction and programming. We are proud to be debt free and to maintain reserves that allow us to respond to unexpected needs without disrupting student services.

In addition to supporting daily operations, this year's plan continues our focus on long-term sustainability. We remain committed to maintaining and improving our facilities so they can serve future generations. Strategic use of reserves and voter-approved funds allows us to address capital, and equipment needs responsibly without placing additional burden on taxpayers.

We encourage all community members to stay informed and engaged in the budget process. The annual budget hearing will be held in the High School LGI on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 where district staff will provide an overview of the proposed budget and answer questions. The budget vote will take place at the Hoag Library on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 with polls open from 12:00 p.m. (noon) until 8:00 p.m. Additional details regarding specific dates, propositions, and the number of Board of Education candidates are available in this year's budget materials.

Your awareness, feedback, and participation are essential to our continued success. Together, we can ensure our schools remain places where students thrive and our community continues to grow stronger.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Weller
Board of Education President



BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

@ THE HOAG LIBRARY
12 - 8 p.m.

134 S Main St.
Albion, NY 14411



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What's on the ballot?

Residents will vote on the following three propositions:

PROPOSITION NUMBER 1 2026-2027 BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Albion Central School District, Orleans County and Genesee County, New York (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

PROPOSITION NUMBER 2 PURCHASE OF BUSES

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education be authorized to appropriate an amount of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) from the Albion Central School Bus Purchase Reserve Fund to purchase buses for the 2027-2028 school year.

PROPOSITION NUMBER 3 LOCAL LIBRARY APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED, pursuant to the provisions of Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Education of the Albion Central School District of Orleans and Genesee Counties, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual District budget, in the amount of \$687,760 during the 2026-2027 fiscal year of which shall be paid to the Hoag Library for the support and maintenance of that library; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the District.

Frequently asked questions

- Q How will the 2026-27 proposed budget impact the tax levy?** The proposed tax levy remains unchanged from the current year. There is no increase to the tax levy.
- Q How is the District able to propose a budget with no tax levy increase?** Due to controlling expenses and prudent spending, the District has been able to build and fully fund reserves. The District is able to use these reserves to offset increased expenses and still maintain education programs.
- Q Were programs or services cut to keep the tax levy unchanged?** No, programs and services offered this year are budgeted for next year, as are anticipated increases for those programs including salary and benefit increases.
- Q How will the property reassessment currently underway impact my tax bill?** With the reassessment taking place this year and the tax levy staying the same, the tax rate per thousand should go down. The STAR savings amount should also be lower since it is based on the exemption amount times the tax rate. The tax rate of each particular municipality may vary depending on the assessed equalization rates of the particular town and village. Assessed equalization rates are controlled by the state.
- Q What impact does the bus purchase have on my 2026-27 tax bill?** The bus purchase will have no impact on this budget or the tax levy. Voters previously created and funded the bus reserve for future needs. This vote is required in order to spend funds from this reserve.
- Q Why are we voting to purchase buses when the money is in a reserve account?** Although the district has funds allocated to bus purchases in a reserve account, the state education law requires that taxpayers authorize the money to be spent. If the vote is negative on the use of the reserve, the money stays in the account for buses, however, no new buses will be purchased. The bus reserve fund can only be used to purchase buses.
- Q Why is the Budget Vote happening at the Hoag Library this year?** As the budget vote occurs while school is in session, we are partnering with the Hoag Library to preserve and promote a safe learning/working environment for all our Purple Eagles.
- Q Does the Board of Education give money to the Hoag Library?** The Board does not give District money to the library or participate in the development of the library budget. The District vote is merely the location of the library vote and the District, as directed by law, collects the funds library voters approve and turns those funds over to the library.
- Q If I have questions about the Hoag Library budget, who do I ask?** You may contact the Hoag Library directly at (585) 589-4246 with questions.

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$44,750,485	\$45,615,036	\$45,615,036
Increase/ Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$864,551	\$864,551
Percentage Increase/ Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.93%	1.93%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,449,039	\$8,449,039	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Available **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Yr. Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$8,449,039	\$8,449,039	\$8,449,039
F. Total Permissible Exclusions			
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,767,624	\$8,808,945	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/ or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$8,449,039	\$8,449,039	
I. Difference: (G-H) ; (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$318,585	\$359,906	
Administrative Component	\$3,859,791	\$3,947,878	\$3,947,878
Program Component	\$37,086,518	\$37,609,912	\$37,609,912
Capital Component	\$3,804,176	\$4,057,246	\$4,057,246

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The capital component of the budget includes a capital outlay project of \$100,000. The building aid is anticipated to be received as revenue in the following year. This is a \$100,000 project that is paid out of our General Fund Budget (A) and then reimbursed at our current building aid ratio the following year by the State. For the 2026-27 school year, we are proposing a project at our Middle School that will be largely focused on interior and exterior door/hardware replacements.

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

Description	Amount
Bus purchase from reserve funds	\$1,500,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings*	\$315.00

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

STAR Exemption

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program provides eligible homeowners in New York State with relief on their property taxes. Whether you receive the STAR exemption or the credit, there are two types of STAR benefits:

Basic STAR

- Available for owner-occupied, primary residences;
- The income limit for the Basic STAR credit is \$500,000 (the income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is \$250,000);
- Based on the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home

Enhanced STAR

- Provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes: \$110,750 or less for the 2026-2027 school year
- Based on the first \$88,500 of the full value of a home for the 2026-2027 school year.

For more information about the STAR exemptions and credits, go to: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/types.htm>

Where does the money come from?

REVENUE SUMMARY

Revenue Sources	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$683,996	\$287,020
Tax Levy/ STAR Payments	\$8,449,039	\$8,449,039
PILOT Agreement	\$500	\$1,500
Sale of Equipment, Material & Other	\$98,900	\$70,660
Tuition and Fees	\$8,000	\$5,520
Interest Earnings	\$793,153	\$524,019
State Aid	\$34,716,897	\$36,277,278
Total	\$44,750,485	\$45,615,036

Where does the money go?

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Budget Category	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget
Administrative Components		
Board of Education	\$108,248	\$79,828
District Administration	\$255,162	\$261,850
Business Office	\$333,618	\$342,131
Auditing	\$51,500	\$49,275
Legal	\$151,555	\$128,395
Insurance	\$206,495	\$240,571
BOCES Administrative Charges	\$239,903	\$279,982
Data Processing	\$361,955	\$396,245
Personnel & Public Information	\$147,892	\$143,642
Central Printing & Mailing	\$133,948	\$133,948
Curriculum Development & Supervision	\$18,600	\$28,190
School Supervision	\$927,726	\$962,181
Instruction	\$230,797	\$203,105
Employee Benefits	\$692,392	\$698,535
Administrative Budget	\$3,859,791	\$3,947,878
Capital Components		
Maintenance/ Custodial	\$1,753,278	\$1,816,407
Energy/ Utilities	\$809,991	\$974,945
Major Maintenance	\$458,491	\$448,007
Employee Benefits	\$682,416	\$717,887
Capital Outlay Project	\$100,000	\$100,000
Capital Budget	\$3,804,176	\$4,057,246
Program Components		
Instruction	\$13,460,716	\$13,686,709
Special Needs Program	\$6,694,814	\$7,026,114
Library & Computer Assisted Instruction	\$1,381,351	\$1,425,187
Pupil Services	\$1,379,933	\$1,455,698
Co-Curricular/ Interscholastic Athletics	\$830,169	\$951,541
Community Service	\$143,628	\$155,944
District Transportation Fuel & Supplies	\$394,174	\$402,729
Garage Building	\$48,304	\$49,057
Contract Transportation	\$4,345,796	\$4,067,153
Employee Benefits	\$8,407,633	\$8,389,780
Program Budget	\$37,086,518	\$37,609,912
Total Budget	\$44,750,485	\$45,615,036

2026-27 BUDGET GOALS

Your support paves the way for our Purple Eagles and sets them up for success within the District and beyond. With your continued investment, we are able to focus on developing our students into future-ready leaders and productive and responsible citizens.

In this year's edition of the Budget Newsletter, you'll find examples of how students are taking advantage of opportunities and excelling in their endeavors, all made possible through your support. As always, ACSD is committed to its students, staff, and the Albion community and is dedicated to:

- Prioritizing each student and addressing their unique needs
- Acting with kindness and compassion
- Upholding integrity
- Pursuing continuous growth and improvement
- Collaborating with all stakeholders



Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories – Administrative, Program and Capital.

<u>Administrative</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Amount	\$3,859,791	\$3,947,878
Percent of Budget	8.8%	8.6%

Provides overall general support and management services including employee benefits for administrative and clerical support staff, costs for administration and supervision of each of the three schools, staff development, business operations and central administration.

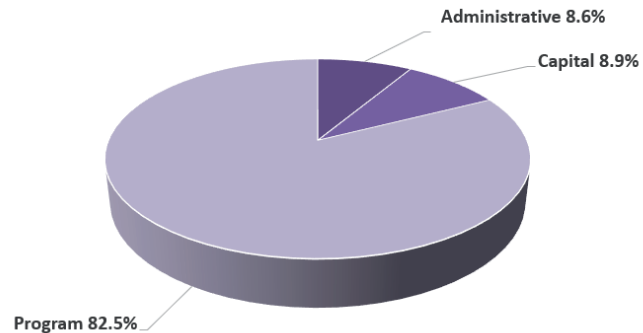
<u>Capital</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Amount	\$3,804,176	\$4,057,246
Percent of Budget	8.9%	8.9%

Provides maintenance and custodial services for four bus garage buildings, the surrounding property, utility services, debt service payments and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

<u>Program</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Amount	\$37,086,518	\$37,609,912
Percent of Budget	82.3%	82.5%

Provides instruction and educational support services for the District's students. This includes the transportation costs, special education services and benefits for the instructional and non-instructional program staff.

Total Budget: \$45,615,036



TOTALS:	
2025-26 Budget	\$44,750,485
2026-27 Proposed Budget	\$45,615,036
Difference	1.93%



PROPOSED BUDGET INFORMATION

Facts about your Tax

The District's allowable tax levy limit is 4.26% for a simple majority vote. Due to our strong fiscal planning, increase in foundation aid and our fully funded reserves, **Albion is proposing a 0% tax levy increase.**

What is an "allowable tax levy limit?"

The "tax levy limit" is the highest allowable tax levy (before exemptions) that a district can propose without requiring 60% of voters to pass it. According to NYS law, under the current tax cap calculation, Albion CSD is able to increase the tax levy by **\$359,906 (4.26%)**.

Why is this significant?

It has been our long-term goal to keep the tax levy increases as minimal as possible, if not neutral. We are proud to say that for the 2026-27 school year we have achieved this goal yet again. **This will save our taxpayers a total of \$359,906 in the 2026-27 school year.**

Tax Collection Method

Once again, the Orleans County Treasurer's Office will be assisting Albion CSD by processing our school tax collection. All payments must be made with the Orleans County Treasurer and can no longer be made at or with the school. Orleans County will accept tax payments in person or by US mail; cash payments may be made in-person only.

They are located at:
156 South Main Street Albion, NY 14411

The tax collection period will end on October 31. We do accept US postmark for the deadline. Any questions regarding these payments may be made by contacting the Orleans County Treasurer at (585) 589-5353. Tax information prior to 2022 is available online through Systems East, Inc. at:
<http://totalcollectionsolution.com/site/login>

Username: albion
Password: albion (all lowercase)

Board of Education Candidates

Two candidates will be elected to serve a five-year term beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031. One candidate will be elected to serve a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.



Kaitlyn Panek

My name is Kaitlyn Panek and I am seeking a seat on the Albion School Board of Education. I have resided in Albion my entire life and am a proud alumna. As the office manager on our family farm and district parent, I would offer organizational and financial expertise and personal commitment to the Board. My top priority is maintaining a high-quality, safe environment where every student has the resources to succeed. I am invested in having transparency between the community and district to ensure budgets are clear and accountable. I would be honored to serve the Albion community.

Occupation:
Farm Office Manager
Education:
Albion High School
St. John Fisher College



Jaime Allport

My name is Jaime Allport, and I will bring deep commitment and local insight to the Albion Central School District Board of Education. As a lifelong resident, I understand the community's values, strengths and challenges. Through years of volunteering in local programs, I've demonstrated a strong dedication to supporting students, families, and neighbors. This hands-on involvement reflects a genuine investment in the district's success. My perspective, combined with a proven record of service, will help guide thoughtful decisions that benefit both current students and future generations.

Occupation:
Court Clerk
Education:
Albion High School
Genesee Community College



Michelle Waters

I am running for the Albion School Board because I care deeply about the experiences of students, families, and staff in our community. I believe strong schools are built through open communication, thoughtful decision-making, and a willingness to listen. Through my work at The Tree House, I am grounded daily in the real experiences of children and families, and that perspective is what I want to bring to the table. My goal is to help shape schools that keep students at the center, while supporting teachers and staff who show up for them every day.

Occupation:
Owner, The Tree House
School of Play
Education:
Monroe Community College

Current Board of Education members and term year end

- Linda Weller, President, 2029
- John Kast, Vice President, 2030
- Christopher Kinter, 2027
- Kelly Kirby, 2029
- Trellis Pore, **2026**
- Kurt Schmitt, **2026**
- David Sidari, **2026**
- Lauren Stirk, 2030
- Porsche Taylor, 2028

Albion FFA Chicken BBQ

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Tickets: \$15
Pick-up: 4 - 7 p.m.
from behind the High School.

Purchase tickets from any FFA member or by contacting Mr. O at soldenburg@albionk12.org.

The last day to purchase tickets is Friday, May 8, 2026.

Limited availability for same-day purchases.

Register your Purple Eagle



Are you interested in enrolling your child in kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year? Kindergarten Registration Packets are available in either the Registrar's Office, in the Elementary School Main Office, or can be printed from our registration webpage and returned to the office. If you have any questions, please contact our Registrar at (585) 589-2051 for more information.

Connect with ACSD Online YouTube @AlbionCSD

Eagle-Eye view

Earlier this school year, Kamie Feder's middle school art classes spruced up the school's courtyard with a string art installation. Students worked together to map out the design, insert stakes in the mulch, and weave yarn together to create a giant 36 by 24 foot purple eagle. The drone photo, courtesy of the Orleans County Sheriff's Office, captures just how impressive the project turned out.



More student creativity will be on display at the **Districtwide Art Show** happening on Tuesday, May 19 at the Hoag Library from 12-8 p.m. during the District Budget Vote. Thank you for supporting our student artists.

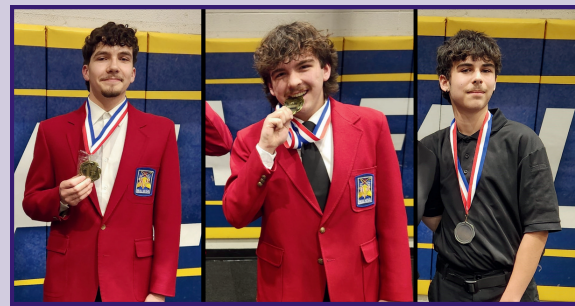
Students excel in CTE programs

Six Albion students were inducted into the Orleans/Niagara (O/N) BOCES National Technical Honor Society this school year. This is a prestigious accomplishment signifying a commitment to scholarship, leadership, service and character. Listed are each inductee and their respective Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs they are enrolled in: **Jenna Barnard** (Early Childhood Education), **Elliot Beyrle** (Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering), **Abigail Kincaid** (Allied Health), **Madison Muckle** (Allied Health), **William Plummer** (Welding), and **Joshua Zayac** (Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering).



Albion has nearly 100 high schoolers currently enrolled in a CTE program through O/N BOCES. CTE programs integrate academic and technical skills and are designed to prepare students for college or the work force. Students spend part of their school day at the Orleans CTE Center where there are over 20 CTE programs to choose from. The newest offerings include HVAC and EMS/Fire Science.

Albion students Josh Zayac, Elliot Beyrle and Coby Billingsley were among 100 local students to represent the O/N BOCES' CTE Centers at the Area 1 SkillsUSA Regional Conference at Alfred State College. Josh (pictured left) competed in the Related Technical Math competition where he earned first place. Elliot (center) competed in the CNC 3 - Axis Milling Programmer competition where he also earned first place. Coby (right), enrolled in the Security & Law Enforcement program, earned 2nd place with his team in the Crime Scene Investigation competition.



Both Josh and Elliot were also among seven O/N BOCES Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering students accepted into the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program where they will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience locally while connecting to future manufacturing career opportunities.

Albion seniors Hunter Zambito (below left) and Bradyn Whittier (right), who are enrolled in the Culinary Arts program, were part of the Orleans CTE Center's Culinary Arts team who took home 1st place at the New York State Restaurant Association's (NYSRA) ProStart Invitational.

Albion senior Renzo Tomasi (right), enrolled in the welding CTE program, placed 3rd at the American Welding Society's Weld-Off Competition. His performance earned him a \$100 prize and a \$1,000 scholarship.



Embodying the Leader in Me

Districtwide school improvement model takes flight

Albion CSD has proudly assumed the new title of a Leader in Me (LiM) school. This title is not one to be taken lightly or considered easily attainable, it requires an incredible level of commitment and collaboration.

Leader in Me is a school improvement model designed to build life-ready leaders. It is being thoughtfully and strategically implemented in order to make a foundational impact on the day-to-day learning experience. The goal is to help harness a culture of schoolwide leadership, centered around a growth and future-focused mindset.

The structure varies from school-to-school, but foundationally there are both an Adult Lighthouse Team (ALT) and Student Lighthouse Team (SLT) integrated in each building to help lead the way. Staff and students regularly participate in training to ensure the program continues to develop with purpose and is able to nurture well-rounded learners who are prepared to lead with confidence, character, and compassion.

The ALT helps to guide the vision and direction of the program. They work to create new leadership opportunities for students, and ensure teachers are equipped with tools to effectively and regularly integrate program messaging when communicating with students and families.

The SLT empowers their peers to take ownership of making the school a safe, welcoming, and engaging place to learn



and lead. This allows for students to be at the center of leadership, service, and school improvement.

At the elementary school, students on the SLT help lead eight different student action teams, each making their own unique difference in the building. The teams generally meet once a week. During this time, action teams focus on skill building, responsibility, building healthy habits, creating welcoming environments, and much more. The dedication of the elementary school's SLT has already earned them recognition from the Genesee Valley School Boards Association for Excellence in Student Service.

"The program has been very well-received and that is thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication from staff and students," said Rebecca Manfreda, Albion CSD assistant superintendent for instruction. "We are going to be able to see a measurable impact on school culture which will demonstrate that this program is not only innovative but transformative."

Each building has dedicated Eagle Time, an advisement period that allows for all students to focus on skill building. At the

middle school, students on the SLT help lead three action teams focused on leadership, academics and culture. During Eagle Time, students prioritize goal setting and ways to achieve their goals. Each classroom has 2-3 student leaders who help students master success-centered habits through student-produced educational videos and leading classroom activities and discussions. With student leaders rotating each quarter, the middle school will have over 100 trained student leaders by the end of the school year.

"I definitely feel a stronger connection to my school," said sixth grader Oak Daniels, who is a middle school SLT member involved in video creation. "I get to have fun and I don't have to put on a personality, I just get to be my best self."

At the high school, the SLT is engaging with the ALT and exploring ways to restructure norms to best benefit students, while simultaneously creating an environment for school pride to flourish. By next school year, there will be adjustments to daily advisement periods that directly reflect student needs.

"Leader in Me is becoming a way of life here at Albion. It's really exciting," said Manfreda.



CHECK IT OUT:
NEWS FROM THE NEST

Scan the QR code to access the latest installments of the District's video series: *News from the Nest* and hear from Student Lighthouse Team representatives as they discuss the impactful work they are involved in.



Welcome new district leadership



Lauren Kinard
Athletic Director /
Middle School Assistant Principal
Joined: May 2025



Bradley Lehman
Director of Student Services
Joined: July 2025



Deputy Ashleigh Stornelli
School Resource Officer
Joined: August 2025

District calendar

The 2026-27 year at-a-glance district calendar was approved by the Board of Education at the April 13 meeting. You can access a PDF of the calendar on the ACSD website under the calendar icon or scan the QR code using your camera app on your mobile device.



First student board member appointed

ACSD is pleased to share that 11th grader Phoebe Allen was sworn in on July 7, 2025 to serve as an ex-officio student board member on the Albion Board of Education for the 2025-26 school year. Phoebe was selected for this role due to her strong leadership potential and practice. She currently serves as the High School Student Council President, representing the interests of all students in the building.



Phoebe Allen
Ex-officio student
board member
2025-26

At the beginning of this school year, every school district in New York State was required to have at least one ex-officio student representative appointed to their Board. This opportunity allows for students to build skills and habits of civic engagement while bringing student voice and valuable perspective to district leadership. Student board members serve a 1-year term. They do not have the power to vote or attend executive sessions, nor are they able to attend any meeting or hearing that is not open to the public.

Athletics Update



An exciting new era is set to begin on the football field this fall. Both the Albion and Medina school boards recently agreed to move forward with plans to merge football programs. This decision came after an ongoing challenge to maintain a safe, competitive, and developmentally appropriate program for student-athletes due to declining student enrollment and extracurricular participation.

Approximately 90 High Schools in Section V and VI currently participate in merged football programs, prompted by similar challenges. School leadership is optimistic that this decision will help ensure long-term program sustainability and higher-calibre opportunities for athletes. Both schools had already been forced to eliminate their junior varsity programs, and collaborate in order to field varsity practices. This merger will allow for all three team levels; modified, junior varsity and varsity.

The merged program will take on a new identity, the Orleans County (OC) Rivals, acknowledging the long-standing, historic rivalry between the neighboring schools, dating back to the 1890s. Forgoing the school's Purple Eagle and Mustang mascots, their symbol will be two crossed shovels and a pickaxe, alluding to how both communities similarly grew from the digging of the Erie Canal, completed in 1825. The team colors will be maroon, black and white. Players, parents and coaches gathered for meetings where questions and concerns were addressed, and feedback was welcomed.

Both schools, athletes and coaches look forward to bringing both communities together to work toward the same goal, on a united front. They hope to harness an unprecedented level of team spirit and community support for the OC Rivals' debut season. More information regarding the merger, and any updates ahead of the season, can be found on the ACSD athletics webpage.

ACSD IS HIRING

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Athletic Coaches | Food Service Workers |
| Building Cleaners | Substitutes (all positions) |
| Cafe Monitors | Teachers |
| Custodian | Teacher Aides |

Visit <https://www.albionk12.org/page/employment-opportunities> to learn more.



Senior Keira Sidari was named Niagara-Orleans Girls Swimmer of the Year for her performance during the 2025-26 winter season. She captured the N-O league championship in both the 200 Individual Medley and 100 Freestyle.



Varsity wrestling coach Mike Sanders was named Niagara-Orleans Coach of the Year for the 2025-26 winter season. Voted by fellow coaches, his high standards and player expectations, accomplishments, as well as his dedication to the Purple Eagle Wrestling Academy set him apart.

More athletic news and accomplishments can be found on the ACSD website and social media, which is updated regularly.

Albion Honor Societies induct new members



Congratulations to Albion’s newest Honor Society inductees. In order to be eligible, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 90% or higher, be recommended by a faculty member, and exhibit all four pillars that NHS is built upon; scholarship, service, leadership and character.

National Honor Society 2025-26 class (pictured): Olivia Andrews, Lily Brigham, Adam Burgio, Maddison Button, Dejeanna Conner, Shayla Cruz, Brooke Doty, Yaritza Fernandez Perez, Heidi Franco-Lopez, Lorelei Gailie, Anna Grillo, Logan Kast, Jillian LeBaron, Nicholas Luft, Jaxon Lynch, Madison Muckle, Bradley Pierce, Carley Smith, Jackson Snook, Mason Snook and Ava Woolston.

National Junior Honor Society 2025-26 class: Kyler Bennett, Oliver Beyrle, Lily Bringenberg, Blake Brown, Olivia Bruski, Elizabeth Colmenero, Maci Conn, Avery DiMatteo, Lilah Dix, Ellady Fisher, Korey Ginger, Julianna Grier, Emma Hammons, Kaydence Haylett, Addisyn Jaczynski, Giuliana Liuzzi, Colton Moreland, Gavin O’Brocta, Peyton Palone, Elliott Pettit, Zylia Rolon, Mason Rotthoff, Jenna Snook, Julianna Wilson and Kelbie Woodard.

High school musicians selected for All-State



Albion High School musicians Gideon Pask and Phoebe Allen were selected to perform in the Senior High Mixed Choir at the New York State School Music Association’s (NYSSMA) Zone 2 Area All-State Festival in November. They were among seven students chosen to represent Orleans County at the festival. To be selected, they are judged based on their solo performance, application and teacher recommendation.

Did you know? For the last 18 consecutive years, the NAMM Foundation has named Albion one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the Nation.

Strategic planning update

ACSD is currently engaging in a strategic planning process in collaboration with the University of Rochester’s Warner Center for Professional Development and Education Reform. A strategic plan outlines a school’s long-term goals and the actions needed to achieve them. It acts as a roadmap, providing direction and clarity for decision-making, resource allocation, and performance evaluation over a set period of time.

ACSD’s next strategic plan will serve as a three-year plan and is on track to be finalized and put into action ahead of the 2026-27 school year. We received over 300 community survey responses which provided valuable insight. We thank the Albion community for its continued support and look forward to sharing the 2026-29 Strategic Plan with you via ParentSquare and on the ACSD website.

Introducing Albion’s first therapy dog

If you have visited Albion’s District Office recently, you may have had the pleasure of meeting its newest team member, Brooklyn. Brooklyn is Albion’s first resident therapy dog. She is a two-year-old, hypoallergenic mini goldendoodle. As part of the district’s new Therapy Dog Program, Brooklyn began serving students in November following board approval. Her owner and handler at all times is Brad Lehman, Albion CSD’s Director of Student Services. She accompanies Mr. Lehman to campus 1-2 days per week and is available to help provide emotional support for classrooms or individual students as needed. They are both trained and certified through RocDog. Many surrounding schools have introduced therapy dogs in their buildings. The use of therapy dogs in schools can allow for personal growth and an overall improved learning experience. Their presence provides comfort and companionship to those who may be feeling isolated, they can help foster social interactions, regulate emotions, reduce anxiety, alleviate stress, decrease feelings of depression, and improve overall well-being.

"The smiles I see from students are infectious, regardless if they are in UPK or at the high school," said Lehman. "It reminds me how important this program is. I’m excited to see it develop."



Service Learning: Students preserve local history through Revolutionary War research project



Albion eighth graders Luci Borello (left) and Sutton Sanders (right) have been hard at work on a year-long, multifaceted Revolutionary War research project in partnership with Orleans County. Through this service project, students were able to expand their knowledge of local history and familiarize themselves with interconnectivity of county and state-run organizations. As a result of their research, they've been able to obtain multiple roadside markers, gravestone flag markers and replace a damaged gravestone.

NYS roadside markers indicate areas of historical significance in the county. To be granted these markers, valued at \$2,050 each, they had to submit an application to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, a nonprofit committed to preserving community history. The application process is lengthy, requiring detailed primary source documentation and proofs. This did not intimidate Luci and Sutton. They began their research in the summer, which entailed collecting data of all Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Orleans County using state, federal, military and census data. Their research was not confined to the library, it also relied heavily on field work.

"There are not many eighth graders that can say they have worked on a project quite like this," said middle school teacher and project advisor Tim Archer. "The girls have done the legwork by going out to the cemeteries, cross referencing the name lists and finding the graves. They've had a hand in preserving local history. It's really impressive."

There are 80 cemeteries in Orleans County, with revolutionary war soldiers buried in more than half. They visited a dozen cemeteries and referenced historical data and gravesite maps to compile their findings in order to submit the application in September. Once approved, the new markers went

into production so they could be ready for installation in the spring. There were four roadside markers granted; one indicating that Revolutionary War veterans and other notable citizens are buried there, and three indicating a Revolutionary War soldier is buried there. Two of them have a special insignia on them indicating partnership with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

“It feels really good to help the community,” said Luci. “We have even been able to figure out where some soldiers are buried and inform families that didn't know.”

While researching, students discovered 14 graves in the county of soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War that were not currently marked. Students presented their findings to the Orleans Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), who generously provided a donation of 14 new bronze flag markers, one for each soldier's grave. In total, the students discovered 65 Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Orleans County. Many headstones are gone or indecipherable, making the findings approximate. The data was shared with the county, DAR, SAR, local historians and Hoag Library for their records.

The markers were installed ahead of a spring community ceremony, which the students helped to facilitate. The event featured Revolutionary and Civil War reenactors, honored local veterans, and served as a celebration, as this year marks the 250th anniversary of the United States.

“I'm just glad that we were able to help identify some of the soldiers' graves and get the markers for them,” said Sutton. “It feels like we are doing something for them, after all they did for us.”





ALBION CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
324 East Ave.
Albion, NY 14411
585.589.2056
www.albionk12.org

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

@ THE HOAG LIBRARY

12 - 8 P.M.

134 S Main St.
Albion, NY 14411

Districtwide Art Show
Tuesday, May 19 | 12-8 p.m.
Hoag Library

Elementary Spring Concert
Tuesday, May 19 | 6 p.m.
Albion Middle School Auditorium

FFA Chicken BBQ
Tuesday, May 19 | 4-7 p.m.
Albion High School

Absentee Ballots

Residents unable to vote because of disabilities, illness, travel or other reasons listed as valid under election law, may obtain an application for an absentee ballot up to thirty (30) days before the election. This application can be picked up at the District Office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. They may also be obtained by calling the District Clerk (Cindy Ishmael) at 585-589-2055. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at 324 East Avenue, Albion, New York 14411 at least seven (7) days before the election, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Applications must be received on the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Voter Eligibility

Anyone who is at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Albion Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 is eligible.

Military Voters

Military voters who are qualified voters of the District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk. For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 5 p.m. on April 22, 2026. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate a preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Early Mail Ballots

Applications for an Early Mail Ballot may be applied for at the District Office and will be accepted beginning April 20, 2026 through May 12, 2026, if returned by regular mail, and no later than May 18, 2026, if returned in person. A list of those issued an Early Mail Ballot will be available to the public in the District Office five (5) days prior to the vote. The list will also be posted at the voting place during the election. Any qualified voter may challenge the District's acceptance of the Early Voter's Ballot of any person on the list, by making their challenge, and their reasons, known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.