



Inside HF-L



2026-27 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Proposed Budget	\$67,740,000
Proposed Budget Increase	\$3,007,104
Proposed Tax Rate	\$16.91
Proposed Tax Levy Increase	3.22%
Proposed Budget Increase w/o Debt Payments	2.81%
Levy Increase Below Tax Cap?	YES

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A Message from the Board President and Superintendent

The proposed budget for the 2026–27 academic year has been developed through an ongoing and thoughtful dialogue among the Board of Education, the Superintendent, district leadership and the Program Budget Advisory Council (PBAC). Throughout a series of public budget study sessions and board meetings, the focus has remained clear: balancing fiscal responsibility with continued investment in the professional staff and programs that support student learning and define the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District.

As these discussions have unfolded, the Board and administration have carefully considered the financial realities facing school districts across New York State. Rising costs associated with health insurance, employee benefits, technology, cyber safety, instructional software, supplies, and equipment continue to place pressure on school budgets. At the same time, economic uncertainty and questions about future federal funding reinforce the need for cautious, long-range planning.

Within this context, the proposed spending plan includes reductions in total staffing through a process of reassignment and position reductions, accomplished primarily by not filling positions as employees retire and through organizational efficiencies rather than layoffs. These reductions preserve the stability of our instructional program and minimize direct impact on students and classrooms.

Despite the fiscal challenges, the budget development process continues to prioritize student learning and well-being. The district remains deeply committed to the belief that a strong school system is built through collaboration among students, families, staff, and the broader community. That shared commitment guides each step of the budget conversation.

The proposed 2026–27 budget preserves essential programs and opportunities for students while responsibly managing costs to ensure long-term stability. It honors the community's investment by supporting student success and strengthening a school system that reflects our shared commitment to the future of the Honeoye Falls-Lima community.

Gene Mancuso, Superintendent

Caralyn Ross, Board President

From the Board of Education



The Role of the Board of Education

The Board of Education is instrumental in establishing strategic direction, upholding educational quality, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and maintaining accountability for the schools within our district.

Your HF-L Board consists of nine members, each with a unique background. Each year, three Board member seats are open for election. This position is voluntary and carries a three-year term. Board members serve on various committees within the district and represent the district at the Monroe County School Boards Association.

While the Board President acts as the chief fiscal officer of the district, it is important to note that the Board operates collectively. All authority is exercised through majority decisions, and can only take place at the Board table, emphasizing a collaborative approach to governance.

One of the Board's primary responsibilities is establishing the vision and priorities for the district. Board members work together to determine long-term goals that support student achievement, educational quality, and fiscal responsibility. These goals help guide decisions about curriculum, technology, facility improvements, and academic programs. By establishing a clear direction, the Board helps ensure that schools are focused on preparing students for college, careers, and life beyond HF-L.

A recent accomplishment by the Board is the implementation of a financial literacy graduation requirement. All students are now required to complete a one semester course dedicated to financial literacy. This change reflects the Board's commitment to equipping students with essential skills for managing their finances and making informed decisions in adulthood.

A current goal of the Board is actively exploring the changing landscape of post-secondary education. In addition to prioritizing college readiness, we are seeking ways to more effectively support students who pursue alternatives to the traditional four-year college path, ensuring their success in varied educational and career opportunities.

The Superintendent holds a unique position within the district as the sole employee directly hired by and accountable to the Board. In the HF-L district, Board leadership maintains regular meetings with the Superintendent. These meetings serve to ensure that district operations run smoothly, provide a forum for discussing ongoing initiatives, and allow for setting agendas for future Board meetings.

The Board is also responsible for annually evaluating the Superintendent's performance. This evaluation process includes a mid-year check-in, during which progress on previously established goals is reviewed, followed by a formal year-end evaluation to assess overall performance and achievement.

The HF-L Board of Education Presents

THE COUGAR PRIDE AWARD



The Cougar Pride Award program recognizes HF-L students, staff, faculty, administrators, and community members who enhance our school district by going above and beyond daily expectations. Anyone can nominate someone for this honor. Nominations will be sent to the Board of Education for review and recipients will be honored with a surprise presentation and later celebrated publicly during a board meeting.

Have you witnessed an HF-L student, staff, faculty, administrator, or community member going above and beyond the call of duty? Have you interacted with someone who you felt did something to give you cause for applause? If so, we want to know about it! The Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District's Board of Education values its many students, faculty, staff, families, and community members that the District helps to serve each day. The Cougar Pride Award nomination form can be found by visiting the Board of Education page on the District's website.

Proposed 2026-27 Expenditure Budget

	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Percent Change
I. General Support	\$6,729,622	\$7,052,669	4.80%
II. Instruction	\$30,787,311	\$30,862,920	0.25%
III. Transportation	\$3,102,821	\$3,135,230	1.04%
IV. Community Education	\$695,206	\$705,837	1.53%
V. Census	\$1,500	\$1,500	0.00%
VI. Employee Benefits	\$17,178,969	\$18,387,140	7.03%
VII. Debt Service	\$6,037,467	\$7,394,704	22.48%
VIII. Interfund Transfers	\$200,000	\$200,000	0.00%
TOTAL	\$64,732,896	\$67,740,000	4.65%

Proposed 2026-27 Revenue Budget

	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Percent Change
I. Property Tax	\$34,102,963	\$35,202,087	3.22%
II. State Aid - Program	\$15,807,250	\$16,306,589	3.16%
III. State Aid - Capital Projects	\$5,663,182	\$6,552,420	15.70%
IV. State Aid - Transportation	\$3,092,887	\$3,089,064	-0.12%
V. PILOT Payments	\$95,908	\$87,745	-8.51%
VI. County Sales Tax	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	0.00%
VII. Appropriated Fund Balance	\$840,000	\$1,141,545	35.90%
VIII. Reserve Funds	\$1,220,000	\$1,100,000	-9.84%
IX. Community Education	\$695,206	\$752,050	8.18%
X. Medicaid Revenue	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.00%
XI. Other Revenue	\$1,415,500	\$1,708,500	20.70%
TOTAL	\$64,732,896	\$67,740,000	4.65%



Capital Outlay Project

HF-L seeks to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the district's tax dollars. As part of the district's annual strategy, a mini-renovation project is included each year to take advantage of available capital project aid from the state. This year's project will include select interior and exterior door replacement at the Middle School. While the existing doors are not in poor condition, some do not include the window panels that support modern student and staff safety standards.

If this work were not performed as part of a capital project, the district would incur the full cost. By including the \$100,000 allocation within the proposed budget, the district will receive approximately \$76,500 in additional aid during the 2027-2028 school year. This reflects a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year helps fund future mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the district's budget.

2026-27 Projected Tax Rates by Town

Town	2025-26 Actual Tax Rate (Per \$1,000)	2026-27 Projected Tax Rate (Per \$1,000)
Mendon	\$26.43	\$27.28
Henrietta	\$16.12	\$16.64
Rush	\$16.12	\$16.64
Lima	\$20.02	\$20.67
Avon	\$20.51	\$21.17
Livonia	\$22.37	\$23.09
West Bloomfield	\$24.61	\$25.40
Victor	\$25.71	\$26.54
Richmond	\$17.22	\$17.78

The Proposed Budget includes a **proposed 3.22% increase in the tax levy**. The estimated average True Value Tax Rate is **\$16.91** dollars per thousand. Estimated rates are based on current tax roll data and do not include expected changes in assessments or equalization rates, which are not finalized until after July 1st.

Tax Levy Increase

Is the District staying within the property tax levy limit?

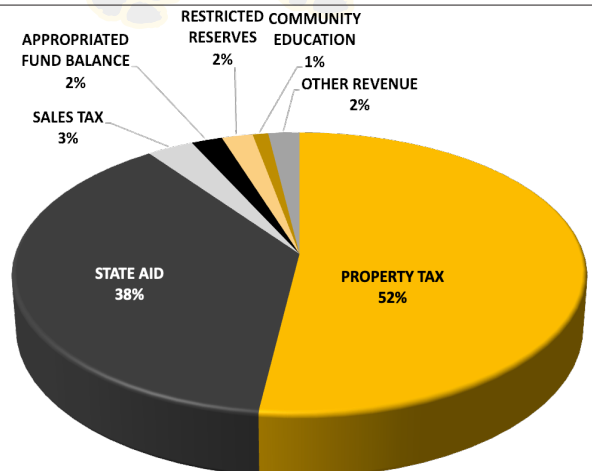
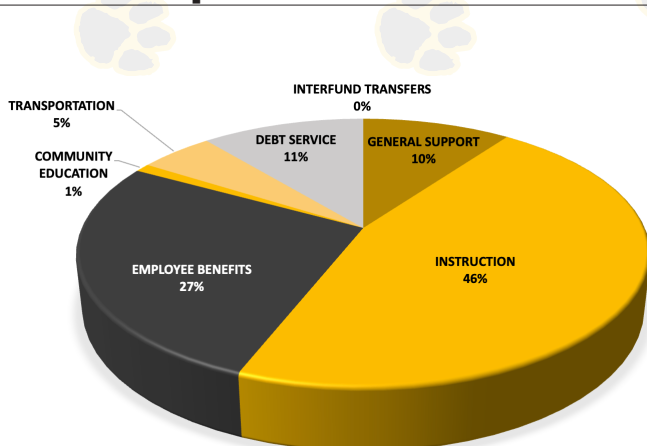
Yes. HF-L is again staying within the NYS property tax levy limit. This means the District needs a simple majority vote of 50%+1 on May 19, 2026, for the budget to pass.

The property tax cap formula is a complex, multi-step calculation with many variables. This year, the variables that had the largest impact on the tax levy calculation were:

- The Allowable Levy Growth Factor, sometimes referred to as the inflationary factor, which was 2.0%
- The Tax Base Growth Factor, which measures the growth of the local tax base, which was 1.17%

Despite the complexity of the formula, HF-L's careful planning ensures the proposed budget remains within the state's tax cap, helping maintain community trust and financial stability.

Overall Expenditure & Revenue Charts



2026-27 Estimated Expenditures

2026-27 Estimated Revenues

What the Budget Supports

Aligning the 2026–27 Proposed Budget to Our District Goals

The 2026–27 proposed school budget continues the Honeoye Falls–Lima Central School District’s commitment to student success, staff excellence, and community pride. In a time of economic uncertainty and rising costs, this budget reflects careful planning—continuing to invest in student and staff wellness, meeting contractual obligations to attract and retain exceptional employees, and addressing critical needs in our aging facilities.

Every dollar in the proposed budget is intentionally aligned to the District’s goals, ensuring resources are used responsibly and in direct support of high quality learning experiences, strong staffing, and a vibrant school community.

Prioritize Learning and Wellness

Ongoing professional growth and wellness are critical to sustaining excellence. The proposed budget continues to recognize that investing in people directly benefits students.

This budget:

- Sustains meaningful professional development opportunities for staff
- Supports more than 50 summer curriculum projects and professional learning events with broad participation
- Aligns professional learning to district goals, instructional initiatives, and the Portrait of a Graduate
- Reinforces a culture that values continuous improvement, balance, and well-being

Attract, Retain, and Support Exceptional Employees

Our staff are the foundation of student success. The 2026–27 proposed budget reflects the district’s responsibility to honor commitments while navigating significant cost pressures beyond our control.

This budget:

- Fully funds all collective bargaining agreements
- Maintains a comprehensive benefits package, including dental insurance
- Manages insurance premium increases ranging from 9.9% to over 75%
- Continues investments that support staff recruitment, retention, and wellness

These commitments are essential to maintaining a stable, high-quality workforce in a competitive labor market.

Strengthen and Maintain Our Facilities

Safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities are essential to learning and community pride. The 2026–27 proposed budget continues targeted investments in our buildings while maximizing state aid and long-term planning.

This budget:

- Supports planning and implementation of the voter approved Capital Building Project (Phase III)

- Maximizes New York State Building Aid to lessen the impact on local taxpayers
- Continues funding for critical capital improvement and infrastructure renewal
- Replaces outdated security camera systems to enhance building safety
- Maintains increased School Security Personnel (SSP) coverage during evening events and community use of facilities

The 2026–27 proposed budget reflects a thoughtful balance—maintaining high quality programs and services while addressing rising costs in health insurance, employee benefits, and facilities maintenance. Through strategic use of resources and careful planning, the district remains focused on stability, excellence, and long-term sustainability.

This proposal preserves what matters most: strong schools, supported staff, engaged learners, and community pride.



Voter Eligibility

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. Eighteen (18) years of age.
3. A resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the date of the vote.

Absentee Ballot

If you are unable to vote in person on May 19, 2026, you may request an absentee ballot application by contacting the District Clerk, Christina Amorese, at 624-7010 or on the district’s website.

For information on Early Mail Voting, please see page 16.

Debunking The Myths

Budget Misconceptions

In the world of school budgets, misinformation can often cloud understanding, leading to misconceptions that impact decision-making processes within our communities. It's crucial to separate fact from fiction when it comes to these financial matters, as they directly influence the resources allocated to education and ultimately shape the quality of our schools.

When it comes to school budgets in New York State, there are several common misconceptions.

Misconception #1: If my property assessment goes up, my school taxes will automatically increase.

Fact: Not necessarily. A property reassessment does not exist to raise taxes—it exists to fairly distribute the amount of taxes that must be collected.

A reassessment updates property values so each property pays its proportionate share of the total tax levy. Whether an individual tax bill goes up, down, or stays the same depends on several factors, including:

- The total school tax levy
 - The district first determines the total amount of revenue needed (the levy). Reassessment does not change this amount.
- How your assessment changes relative to others
 - If all properties increase by roughly the same percentage, the tax burden is redistributed evenly, and individual tax bills may change very little—or not at all.
 - If your assessment increases more than the community average, your share may increase.
 - If it increases less than average (or decreases), your share may go down.
- The tax rate adjusts after reassessment
 - When assessments rise overall, the tax rate typically decreases to generate the same levy.
- Exemptions and caps
 - STAR exemptions, senior exemptions, and assessment caps (where applicable) can reduce the impact on individual taxpayers.

A higher assessment does not automatically mean higher school taxes. Reassessment is about equity, not income generation—ensuring each property contributes fairly based on its current market value.

Misconception #2: The property tax cap is 2% so that's the most my taxes can go up.

Fact: The tax cap law requires schools to use a defined formula to determine the maximum allowable increase in their tax levy each year. This formula considers factors such as the rate of inflation, exemptions, and other adjustments. Two percent is only one number in that formula. In summary, the “2% tax cap” is a simplified way to describe the law, but the actual calculation considers various factors, leading to different outcomes for each school district.

Misconception #3: The district is purchasing electric school buses this year.

Fact: The district is not purchasing any electric school buses during this school year and currently has no electric school buses in its fleet. HF-L has applied for a waiver from New York State that delays the requirement to transition to electric buses until 2029.

Misconception #4: My taxes keep going up because the district is always doing construction projects.

Fact: Not quite. Most school construction projects are funded through voter-approved capital bonds and are partially reimbursed by New York State Building Aid, which covers a significant share of eligible costs. For example, if a project qualifies for 77% aid, the state reimburses 77 cents of every eligible dollar—so local taxpayers fund only a portion of the total cost. In some cases, voters also approve the use of capital reserve funds, which can reduce or eliminate borrowing. Capital costs are planned years in advance, spread over time, and often overlap with retiring debt or ongoing state aid, which helps limit their impact on taxes.

Ongoing renovations also reflect planned, proactive maintenance, not unnecessary spending. Addressing roofs, building systems, and infrastructure before they fail helps avoid costly emergency repairs that must be paid entirely from the general fund—the same fund that supports classrooms, staffing, and student programs. This forward-looking approach helps control costs over time and reduces pressure on future budgets and taxes.

Misconception #5: A contingency budget is just a slightly smaller version of the proposed budget.

Fact: The contingent budget is a last resort measure to keep schools open, and some staff employed when voters reject multiple budget proposals, without further tax increases. It prioritizes mandated costs and core operations while deferring or eliminating non-essential spending. Non-essential items — such as certain transportation beyond regular school-day routes, co-curricular clubs, sports, field trips, equipment, maintenance projects, and some staff benefits — are typically deferred or eliminated to meet the caps. In short, a contingent budget is a legally mandated, capped, no-tax-increase fallback plan that keeps schools open but at a reduced level of services compared to a fully approved budget.

Clearing up these misconceptions helps ensure a better understanding of the complexities surrounding school budgets, enabling informed decision-making within our communities.

For any questions relating to the 2026-27 budget or if you would like to join the Program Budget Advisory Council, contact Colin Pierce, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, at cpierce@hflcsd.org.

Understanding Health Care Costs in Budget Development

One of the most significant pressures in school budget planning is the rising cost of health care. These increases are mandatory, not optional, which means every additional dollar directed toward health care premiums is a dollar no longer available for classroom resources, academic programming, facilities improvements, or staffing. Managing this growth thoughtfully is essential to preserving educational quality while honoring our commitments to employees.

At HF-L, we remain dedicated to a balanced and responsible approach. As part of the Rochester Area School Health Plan Consortium, the district works collaboratively to negotiate health care benefits and monitor plan design options that protect employees while limiting the impact on taxpayers. We continue to explore long-term cost-containment strategies and plan conservatively to prevent mid-year disruptions that could affect students, staff, and families.

The goal is simple: support staff wellness and fair compensation while maintaining fiscal stability for our community.

The Key Takeaway:

Rising health care costs are a national challenge—not a local decision. But responding to them with care, transparency, and thoughtful planning is a local responsibility. HF-L's budget reflects realistic decision-making, empathy for staff and families, and strong stewardship of public dollars in a challenging economic landscape.



COUGAR CLUES

CROSSWORD

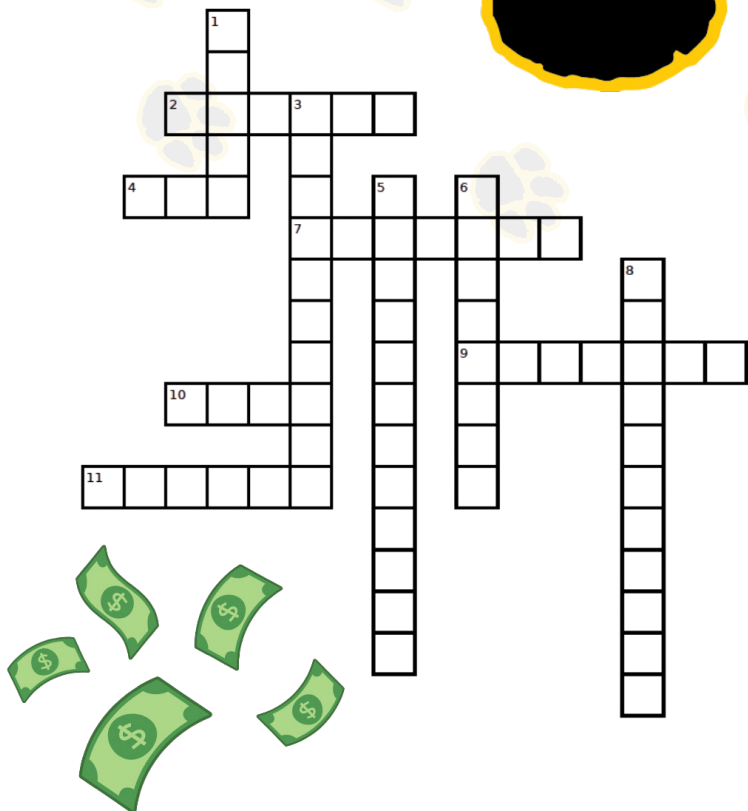


Down:

1. Governing body that approves the school budget before the public vote
3. Financial plan that takes effect if a budget is defeated
5. Money a school district spends to operate and maintain programs
6. Funds set aside for specific, legally defined purposes
8. What remains when revenues exceed expenses at the conclusion of the fiscal year

Across:

2. Limit on tax levy growth that can be exceeded with a supermajority vote
4. State support provided to school districts
7. Amount raised each year through local property taxes
9. Income received by a school district from all sources
10. Community decision on the school budget
11. Total amount of money a school district plans to spend in a year



ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 12

Student Spotlight

Be Curious: The Dartboard Story of Maci McFadden



Fans of Ted Lasso might recall that unforgettable pub scene: Lasso calmly steps up to a dartboard while a crowded room watches, his opponent assuming darts are just a casual game. Lasso smiles, recalls lessons from his father, takes aim—and wins.

Honeoye Falls-Lima sophomore Maci McFadden's story echoes that moment. Like Lasso, she didn't learn darts in a league or from a coach. She learned from her dad.

"My dad played, and I went to a small tournament with him," McFadden said. "I got to play too."

She was just seven years old. Her first opponent? A teenager about twice her age. For most kids, intimidating. For McFadden, it was the beginning. Soon, father and daughter were throwing darts together regularly. What began as shared time slowly became something more. By nine or ten, McFadden was competing—and winning—in adult tournaments.

"I played with my dad in an adult event and we won," McFadden said. "That's when people started telling me I was really good."

Today, McFadden competes in bracket-style tournaments that can stretch seven hours, often in bowling centers or hotel conference rooms, surrounded by dozens of players. And she's often the only teenager.

"Everyone knows my dad," she said, laughing. "Most people assume I'm 18." Competitive darts demands more than precision. Players calculate scores

instantly, strategize finishes, and adjust on the fly. And the throw itself?

Deceptively difficult.

"The hardest part is keeping the same motion every time," McFadden said. "You have to stay consistent."

Years of practice with her dad built that consistency. "We play against each other a lot," McFadden said. "I beat him about half the time."

Some of her proudest moments came alongside him—winning tournaments together or stepping up at eight years old against players nearly twice her age. Last year, she competed alongside one of the world's top steel-tip players.

But McFadden's life isn't all darts—she balances school, travel softball, and working as a server at Pinehurst. Managing it all takes focus, but what keeps her returning isn't just competition—it's community.

"As I've gotten older, everyone has kind of become like family," McFadden said.

Looking ahead, she hopes to continue playing but prioritizes school and college first. "After college, I'd love to travel and play darts more seriously," McFadden said.

Before every tournament, players walk to the line one by one. If darts had walk-on music, McFadden knows exactly what she'd choose: "Many Men" by 50 Cent. The song—about resilience and proving doubters wrong—perfectly fits someone who often steps into rooms where competitors underestimate her.

One word McFadden uses to describe herself as a competitor?

"Aggressive."

In that iconic Ted Lasso scene, Lasso reminds everyone about curiosity—about taking the time to understand someone before assuming anything. Walk into a dart tournament and see McFadden quietly step to the line. You might not notice her at first.

Then she throws. And like Ted Lasso showed us, sometimes the most extraordinary competitor in the room is the one you never expected.

"You've got to stay consistent."

-Maci McFadden

Young Voices, Big Impact: Monroe County Youth Senate



When Horia “Ria” Shaheed learned she had been selected as one of just 35 students to serve on the Monroe County Youth Senate, the moment brought a wave of emotions. The Youth Senate brings together students from across the county to discuss issues impacting young people and explore ways they can make a difference in their communities. For Shaheed, the opportunity represents something deeply meaningful: a chance to turn her passion for helping others into action.

“I have always been passionate about creating meaningful change in my community,” Shaheed said. “Growing up, I often noticed issues and ideas that deserved more attention, and I wanted a platform where young people like me could bring those perspectives forward.”

Since joining the Youth Senate, Shaheed has already attended several meetings and said the experience has been both eye-opening and inspiring.

“It’s been great to be in a space where students can openly talk about important issues and share their ideas,” Shaheed said. “Listening to other people’s perspectives has helped me learn about problems I hadn’t thought about before.”

Those conversations have focused on topics that affect many young people today, including bullying, student workloads and mental health. The group has also discussed ways to give back through community service, such as visiting hospitals, supporting children battling cancer and volunteering in local spaces like parks and soup kitchens.

“One issue I feel especially passionate about is the mental wellness of students,” Shaheed said. “It’s something that affects a lot of young people, but it’s not always talked about enough.”

Her passion is personal. Shaheed said watching her siblings struggle with their mental health — and navigating her own challenges after being evacuated from her home country — shaped her understanding of how difficult it can be for students to cope with trauma while balancing school and daily life.

“That experience showed me how important it is for students to have support and understanding,” Shaheed said. “I want to help make sure students have access to mental health resources and feel safe asking for help.”

Participating in the Youth Senate has also reinforced something Shaheed did not fully expect: how powerful young voices can be when they are organized and heard.

“I was surprised by how powerful our voices can be when they are organized and informed,” Shaheed said. “There are adults who want to listen to our problems and possible solutions and help us work on them.”

Through the experience, Shaheed said she has also gained a deeper understanding of leadership.

“A good leader doesn’t command people — they guide them,” Shaheed said. “A strong leader listens more than they speak and supports their teammates so they can grow and succeed.”

Outside of Youth Senate, Shaheed stays busy with a variety of activities. She works at Manor Intermediate School in Cougar Care, participates in Girl Scouts, helps produce the school yearbook, volunteers frequently and is involved with the school musical as part of the costume crew and usher team. She also plays tennis and participates in the school’s Big and Little program.

Looking ahead, one upcoming experience she is especially excited about involves visiting a hospital as part of Youth Senate service work.

“I really enjoy working with kids, and I hope to become a doctor one day,” Shaheed said. “Helping people has always been something I care deeply about.”

Shaheed said that while academics are important, students should also give themselves permission to explore.

“Life should also be about exploring new experiences and discovering what inspires you,” Shaheed said.

Her advice for other students is simple but direct. “Don’t compare yourself to others, just don’t,” Shaheed said. “The best time to begin is now.”

Student Achievement



HF-L Middle School Makes History at Regional Competition

HF-L Middle School students brought history to life on March 10 as they traveled to Alfred University for the regional Day of History Competition—a showcase of scholarship, storytelling, and serious Cougar pride. Students competed across multiple categories, presenting projects as documentaries, websites, exhibits, and live performances.

One of the highlights of the day was gathering around the iconic “Fiat Lux” sign with all HF-L participants. Fiat Lux, meaning “let there be light,” perfectly captured the spirit of the event—students shedding light on pivotal moments, movements, and figures through months of research and analysis.

Their work represents a long-term effort connected to HF-L’s eighth-grade Day of History research project, an annual experience that begins each November and challenges students to investigate a historical topic, craft an argument, and share their findings in a creative format. After completing their research at school, some students choose to take their projects to the next level by entering the regional competition.

And this year’s Cougar competitors were exceptional.

Group Performances

- Willa Jones, Stella Schaefer, Bea Corey, and Kate Lighthouse
Human Experimentation during the Cold War
- Megan Charles, Molly Zittel, and Bell Grethel
Women in the Workforce During WWII: Rise of the Rosies

Group Documentaries

- Cailyn Mannigan and Violet Lewis
Alcatraz: Crime, Protest, Revolution
- Jackson Hawks, Luke McClean, and Caden Hassett
The Manhattan Project

Individual Documentary

- Hannah Stein
Creation of the CIA

Group Website

- Linneaus Pierce, Evan Khona, and Joey Kingsley
The Fall of Communism

Group Exhibit

- Jaiden Young and Abby Wheelock
The Statue of Liberty: A Legacy of Freedom

Several HF-L groups advanced to the New York State Competition at SUNY Oneonta, where students refined and strengthened their projects using feedback from the judges—just like real historians continually revising, rethinking, and deepening their interpretations.

This year’s entries reflect months of research, teamwork, creativity, and scholarly growth. From Cold War ethics to the symbolism of Lady Liberty, our students tackled complex topics with confidence and curiosity.

HF-L is proud of every student who represented our district at Alfred University and SUNY Oneonta. Congratulations to our Cougar historians!





A Dream Realized: Manor Singers Perform with the RPO

Last year, Manor School Principal Joey Weaver asked faculty to dream big: “If you could do anything with your students, what would it be?”

Carina Telesca’s answer was clear—to have Manor students sing with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

It was an ambitious goal, but the Manor School Chorus, a non-auditioned ensemble of over 200 students, has consistently proven itself. The group regularly earns gold medal ratings at the NYSSMA Majors Choral Festival and has been among a very small number of elementary schools statewide to participate—remarkable for a non-auditioned group that rehearses just 40 minutes a week.

Earlier this year, a special opportunity arose through Rochester-born composer Joshua Fugate and the Sing Me A Story Foundation, which pairs medically fragile children with composers to create original works for performance. That collaboration produced Graham’s Grand Adventure, first performed by the Manor School Select Choir in March alongside the Roberts Wesleyan University Chorale and Orchestra.

The Manor Chorus group is thrilled to announce that Graham’s Grand Adventure was selected for performance by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as part of their Educational Concert Series. The Manor School Select Choir had the honor of performing with the RPO in April, showcasing their talent to the community.

HF-L Manor School, where dreams turn into standing ovations.



Student Engagement

Super Readers, Assemble!

If you walked into Lima Primary this March, you might have wondered whether you'd stepped into a school or a superhero headquarters. That's because during Read Across America Week, Lima Primary was transformed into a vibrant world of Super Readers, this year's theme shared by librarian Tammy Pulver.

This isn't just a spirit week—it's a full-on reading adventure. The entire school gets decorated from wall to wall, floor to ceiling, transporting students straight into a universe where the power of reading takes center stage. And our students didn't just admire the decorations—they lived up to the theme. With a schoolwide reading contest, Lima Primary students read an astonishing 13,821 books in just one week. That's not a typo. That's a superpower.

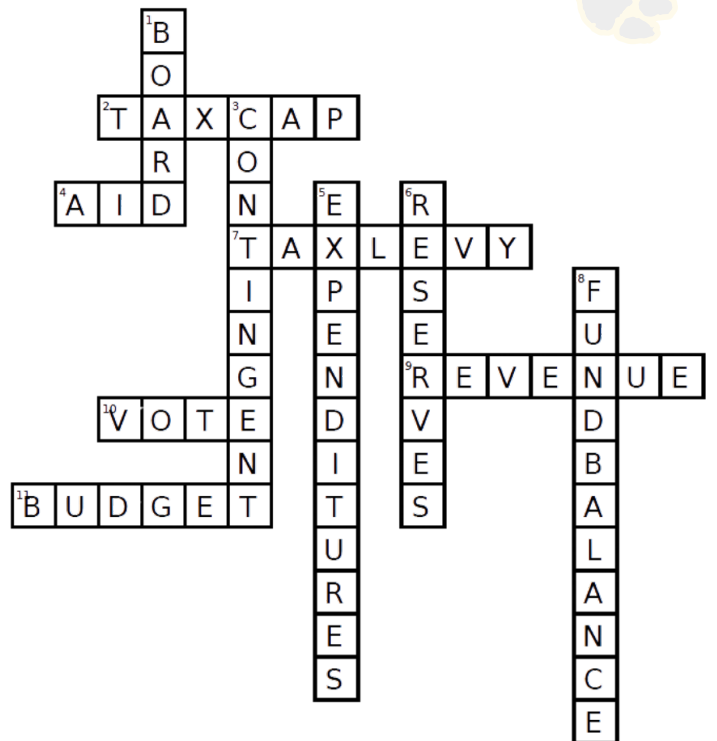
Every year also includes a STEAM project, and this time each classroom created and constructed their very own "Reading Superhero." Capes, masks, gadgets—these heroes came fully equipped to battle boredom and champion books.

The grand finale? A high-energy celebration assembly where excitement reached comic-book levels. Students were surprised by a visit from actual superheroes—The Flash, Batman, and Spiderman—who dropped in to congratulate them for their extraordinary reading achievements. Gasps, cheers, and wide-eyed wonder filled the room.

You can catch the highlights of the celebration on the Lima Primary website under Menu > School Services > Library.

The excitement didn't stop at school. The PTA's Read Across America Family Night invited families to join the fun, traveling from room to room for hero-themed adventures. "The evening was filled with imagination, creativity, and a shared love of reading," said Jennifer Powell, PTA member, who helped organize the event.

At Lima Primary, reading isn't just an activity—it's an adventure, a celebration, and a superpower all its own.





HF-L Students Help Shape the Future of AI in Education at Regional Panel

Nine HF-L High School students recently stepped into an important regional conversation—sharing their perspectives on artificial intelligence with educators from across Monroe County. In March, an all-HF-L student panel participated in the Monroe 1 BOCES Regional AI Series, offering firsthand insight into how AI is shaping learning, creativity, and classroom experiences.

Students joined educators, administrators, librarians, and instructional technology specialists for the second session in a four-part series focused on preparing schools for an AI-driven future. This session, “Future Readiness: Developing an Equitable Student Experience,” centered the student voice.

HF-L Student Panelists

- Nora Beckett
- Ivy (Kai) Ferraro
- Abigail (Abby) Lange
- Jenna Lawrence
- Mariana (Mari) Murgas Cruz
- Finley Neenan
- Marcus Orduna
- Horia (Ria) Shaheed
- Ava Yusko

“It was very interesting to see how my fellow students use and do not use AI throughout their day,” said Finley Neenan. “I believe that AI has benefits to daily life, it can be a valuable tool in education, if used correctly.”

During the discussion, students reflected on how AI has influenced their learning—where it helps, where it challenges them, and the skills and dispositions they believe future graduates will need to succeed in a world where AI is everywhere. They offered thoughtful insight to educators on developing clear expectations and explored questions surrounding fairness,

academic integrity, creativity, and responsible use.

Holly Sidebottom, Director of Professional Development, emphasized how valuable their voices were to the larger regional effort: “As AI continues to evolve, student perspective is essential in shaping how we approach its use in our schools. We are incredibly proud of our students for their leadership, professionalism, and honesty. Their contributions sparked meaningful dialogue and offered valuable insight to educators across the region.”

The panel was part of a broader series featuring national presenters and regional experts, all focused on helping schools balance emerging AI capabilities with timeless human skills—empathy, creativity, curiosity, and connection.

Spring Athletics



Baseball

The 2026 Varsity Baseball Team will be looking forward to our returning seniors and incoming juniors as we work to make it to the Sectional Finals this year. Returning players include Jacob Weber, Aidan and Owen Kearney, Alex Smith, Austin Coyle, Cal Grasley, Grady McCaffrey, Marshall Adams, Nate Meacham, Pat Adair, and Shane Samson. Our incoming juniors include Andrew Cook, Brian Fanning, Brian Finn, Brody Bockus, Brody Swan, Dylan Sweeney, Ollie Osterling, and Ryan Lippincott. The team is looking forward to an exciting season so make sure you come out and catch a game!

Softball

As the upcoming spring season approaches, the team is preparing for a strong and competitive year, led by a dedicated group of upperclassmen. This year's senior class includes Genesis Leathersich, Alysa Richards, Kailyn Snavlin, and Olivia Torregrossa, who will play a key role in providing leadership, experience, and setting the tone for the team. Alongside them, juniors Raegan Banker, Georgia Brownsword, Jade Fowler, Emeline Good, Brooke Gruschow, Lindsay Mason, and Ava Zeh bring depth and energy, while sophomore Addison Mixer adds promising talent to the roster. With a mix of experienced leaders and developing players, the team is looking forward to a successful and exciting spring season.

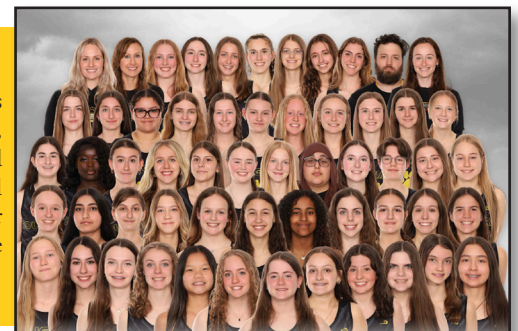


Boys' Track & Field

The boys track team is back in 2026 with a well-rounded roster, which includes several members from last year's sectional team. This season, the team hopes to outcompete Class B schools for the team title, and we also seek to qualify more individuals to the State Qualifier and State Championship meets. This year's seniors are Johnny Clark, Charlie Dovichi, Andy Fosler, Braedon Junot, Jack Lighthouse, Tommy Lowe, Blake McDonald, Maxwell Michaels, Julian Palmer, Sam Roth, Mikey Ruff, Lukas Wilson, and Cayden Yusko.

Girls' Track and Field

The outlook for the 2026 season is looking bright! 2026 is marked by an accomplished senior class including Skye Herbert, Anna Nikodem, Natalie Gilbert, Evie Rose, Ellie Davis, Rachel Negbegbe, Ava Youngblut, Ayla Harrington, Hazel Jokl, Finley Neenan, and Lucy Neff. Last season finished with a runner up spot in sectionals and taking three female athletes to the New York State Track and Field Championships. Current athletes include Skye Herbert for 400m Hurdles, and Irene Sesnie for Steeplechase. With returning athletes and excited newcomers, 2026 is already looking like a competitive season! Go Cougars!



Boys' Lacrosse

The Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Team is looking forward to an exciting season this year, after winning the Section V championship game in 2023, 2024, and 2025. They are hungry and taking this season one game at a time. With strong leadership and experience returning, Jason Bennett, Sam Jokl, and Braden Fugate will anchor the defense. The Cougars offense will be led by Grady Goodberlet, Marco Vengoechea, and Jackson Coon. The team has high expectations for themselves, and is looking forward to growing as a team throughout the season, and peaking at the right time. Big games this season include: Irondequoit, Canandaigua, Spencerport, Brighton, and Penn Yan.

Spring Athletics

Girls' Lacrosse

This year's girls lacrosse team is entering the season with high expectations. Coming off the program's 15th sectional title last spring and a strong 15-6 record, the team is focused on sharpening their game and setting their sights on another deep post season run. Led by returning senior captains Shaye Angelo and Tessa Peinkofer, the team brings a powerful combination of skill across the field. Their tenacity, talent, and strong team chemistry position them well as they prepare to take on an extremely challenging schedule this season.



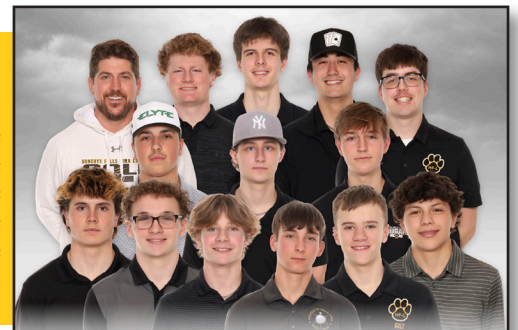
Tennis

The Boys' Varsity Tennis team consists of 14 players. Nine players return from last year's team that lost in the sectional semifinals. This year, there is a nice mixture of returning players and several newcomers ranging from grades 7th to 12th. With a challenging schedule it will not be easy, but the team's goals are to win the division and compete for a sectional title. All players are eager to demonstrate their skills and competitive drive.



Golf

The Varsity Golf Team enters the 2026 season with six players returning from last year. Seniors Owen Reynolds, Ryan Elliot, Nick Dagama, Renato Danella, and Matthew Stansbury. Returning Juniors are Abe Armes, Noah Hullihen, Nathan Conrad along with some new additions Drew Johnson, Chase Harrison, Ollie Myers, JJ Bills, and Linden Bellizi. Luke Boldt will be our only returning Sophomore this spring, and our only Freshmen Adam Wheatcraft played for both JV and Varsity last year. We have had a rough start weather wise this Spring, but this group has been able to get through it because of the great chemistry. We are confident and looking to make a run competing with some of the best teams in the area this spring.



Unified Basketball

Unified Basketball begins their eleventh season with one team led by Coach Berends and Coach Hance, with many new players and returning players from last year and years prior. The players' ongoing commitment to their team's success in the past drives them forward to continue to train and play together successfully while having fun. Thank you once again for the overwhelming support from the entire school, community, and past players. Go Cougars!

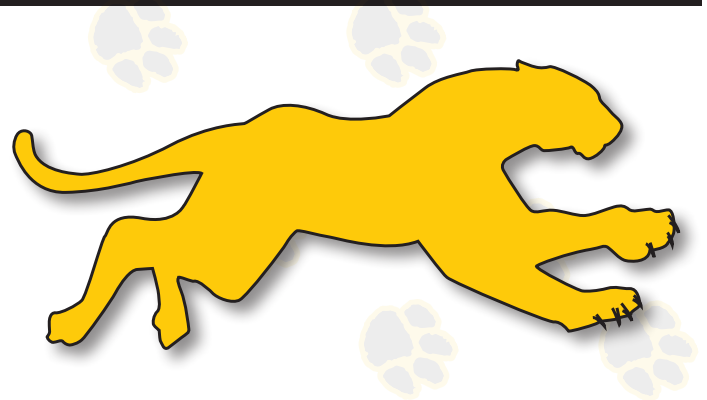


Looking for Sports Schedules?

Go to <http://www.hflcsd.org>, and click on Athletics to view game schedules. This is the best source for up-to-the minute information on sports schedules. Be sure to click on "Notify Me!" in the top right corner of the web page to sign up to receive customized automatic e-mail or text notifications of schedule reminders for the sports of your choice, as well as any scheduling changes.

Get Connected to HF-L Athletics

HF-L CSD Athletics is on Twitter. Be sure to follow us!
• Twitter — @HFLCSDAthletics



Community Engagement

Early Mail Voting

All New York school districts are now required to offer early mail ballots for their elections. This change aims to enhance accessibility and encourage broader participation in the process. Any qualified voter within the HF-L school district is eligible to vote via early mail ballot. While the process resembles absentee voting, there is no obligation to provide a reason for being unable to vote in person.

Voters must request and submit a written application form to the District Clerk. An application can be requested in person, by phone, email or found on the District's website. Applications must be returned to the District Clerk no later than Tuesday, May 12, 2026, if the applicant requests the early mail ballot to be mailed to them. Applicants are allowed to request the application in person at the District Clerk's office up until the day before the election. Once your application is received, the District Clerk will promptly mail the early mail ballot and the accompanying official early mail ballot envelope to you. This process ensures that you have sufficient time to receive and complete your ballot. Official ballots, enclosed within the official early mail ballot envelope, must be returned to the District Clerk by the date of the vote: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, no later than 5:00 PM.

If you would like an early mail voting application or have further questions about the early mail voting process, please visit <https://honeoyefallsny.sites.thrillshare.com/o/hflcsd/page/2026-27-budget-information> or contact the District Clerk, Christina Amorese, at CAmorese@hflcsd.org or 585-624-7010.



Subscribe to ENewsNotes via ParentSquare

Follow these steps to receive messages from the District through the "District-wide ENews Notes Group" in ParentSquare:

1. Visit https://www.parentsquare.com/community_signups/554f875c-0ac7-4256-92f7-d19ee69804e2/new and enter your name and email address, select "District-wide ENews Notes Group" and click "Submit."
2. You will receive an email from ParentSquare to activate your account. Click on the link that says, "Activate Your Account" in the email.
3. This will bring you to a screen where you will need to establish a password and accept the terms and conditions. After those are done, click "Register."
4. This will bring you to a screen where you will need to verify that the account information is your own. If so, click "Yes, This is Me." You will again be asked to verify that you would like to move forward.
5. This will bring you to the home page where posts/messages from the district will be displayed. Your account is active.

Download the ParentSquare mobile app

Send and receive school communications on the go

Community Engagement

Celebrating 12 years in partnership with Honeoye Falls, Mendon, Lima & HF-L Community Programs

HF-L SUMMER RECREATION CAMP IS LOCATED AT MANOR SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 1ST - 8TH GRADE.

Daily activities of sports, arts & crafts, swimming, and so much more!

Early Bird registration ends May 1. After May 1 fees increase to \$720 for residents of Honeoye Falls, Lima and Mendon or \$960 for non-residents for 6 weeks of camp and \$180 weekly.



For more information check out the website:
<https://students.arbitersports.com/hfl-community-programs/hfl-summer-recreation-camp-registration-2026>



40th Annual Cougar Creations

This year Cougar Creations will emphasize the visual arts and feature the Manor Select Singers. Student artwork from all four schools will be on display in the high school A-gym on the following dates and times:

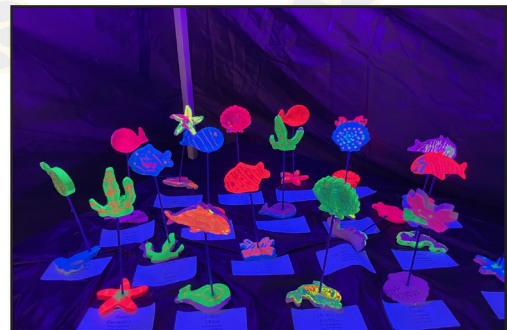
- Monday, May 18, 2026, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (in tandem with the budget vote)
- Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In addition, the following musical performance will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the A-gym:

- Manor Select Singers – 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Finally, the Robotics team will have demonstrations from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the front entrance of the high school.

The annual chicken barbecue will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria and continue until the chicken is sold out. The cost is \$16. For pre-order information, visit the Food Service website on the District's website > Menu > Dining.



Board of Education Candidates

Three seats are open on the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District Board of Education. Candidates elected to the Board during the 2026-27 Budget Vote and Board Election will serve three-year terms. Meet the Candidates Night is Tuesday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the H.S. Cafeteria. This event will also be live-streamed on the District's website at www.hflcsd.org. The Board candidates include:

Julie Masterson



Julie Masterson has dedicated more than thirty years to serving students and families in the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District as a reading teacher and librarian at Manor Intermediate School. She is retiring in June 2026. Prior to joining HF-L, she taught in the Monticello, NY school district.

She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in reading from SUNY Fredonia, a master's degree in library science from the University at Buffalo, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in educational administration from SUNY New Paltz.

A resident of the district since 1999, Masterson is an active member of the community and volunteers with the EquiCenter, supporting therapeutic programs for individuals with disabilities.

She is committed to maintaining strong academic standards while being mindful of responsible budgeting and its impact on taxpayers. Our school district is a source of pride for this community, and she is committed to helping it remain strong for future generations. By serving on the Board of Education, Masterson hopes to use her extensive educational experience to support students, families, and staff while helping the district to grow and thrive.

Rachel Rivera



Rachel Rivera has been an HF-L resident for nearly 14 years. She lives in Lima with her husband Ruben and children. She is a parent of children who have graduated from and are currently attending HF-L, including a college freshman who is an HF-L graduate, a current high school student, and a preschooler who will enter the district in the coming years.

She has been actively involved in the district and community, including serving on the Program Budget Advisory Council and the HF-L School Counseling Advisory Committee. Rivera has also spent many years supporting local youth through coaching and serving in leadership roles within youth football and cheerleading organizations, both at the local and regional level.

Rivera brings extensive experience in leadership, education, and evaluation through her role as Chair of the Education Committee for the New York State Cheerleading Judges Association, where she works to promote consistency, communication, and accountability across programs statewide.

In addition to her community involvement, Rivera has a background in small business ownership and operations and currently works for her husband's business, bringing a practical understanding of budgeting, problem-solving, and organizational management.

Rivera is running for the Board of Education to support strong communication, transparency, and thoughtful decision-making, with a focus on serving all students - every student, every day - and representing the broader community. She is committed to being a thoughtful, engaged, and accessible voice for the district.

Lynley Guckian



Lynley Guckian is seeking her second term on the HF-L Board of Education and currently serves as Vice President of the Board. Guckian is currently on the Audit Committee and Monroe County School Boards Association Legislative Committee and previously served on the Monroe County School Boards Association Information Exchange Committee.

In addition, Guckian has 12+ years of volunteer experience in the district including PTA chair, committee member & event coordinator, has participated in various school improvement teams, has served on the Board of the HF-L Education Fund, participated in the district re-opening committee, and served on the Public Budget Advisory Committee for 3 years. Guckian also worked as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional within the district. She greatly values our close knit community and is dedicated to giving back to our youth and school district. "It has been an honor to serve on the school board as a district and community representative this past term. I look forward to continuing my service of guiding the district as well as advocating for every student and public education."

She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Colorado State University and a M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology.

Guckian and her husband Ryan have lived in Honeoye Falls since 2009. They have three children; two recent HF-L graduates and one currently enrolled in the district.

Board of Education Candidates

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Thomas Gaborski



Thomas Gaborski has been a proud member of the Honeoye Falls-Lima community since 2015, where he and his wife are raising two children who are active members of the cross-country, Nordic skiing, and track-and-field programs at the middle school and high school. Professionally, Gaborski serves as Professor and Department Head of Biomedical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology and is a co-founder of SiMPore, an early-stage technology company commercializing advanced membrane technologies. Building a company from the ground up has meant making every dollar count, prioritizing investments that deliver real value, making hard tradeoffs, and staying focused on long-term goals under significant financial pressure. He believes that mindset translates directly to school districts navigating increasingly tight budgets and growing student needs.

Gaborski also brings direct experience in curriculum development, assessment, and accreditation, and a deep commitment to the thoughtful integration of technology in education. As artificial intelligence reshapes classrooms, workplaces, and daily life, he believes school communities must be intentional, ensuring students learn to use these tools effectively, critically, and ethically. Gaborski is running for the Board of Education to bring his experience as an educator, researcher, and technology leader to a community and school district he cares deeply about.

Caralyn Ross



Caralyn Ross has been a member of the Board of Education since 2017. She served as Vice President from 2021-2023 and has been President of the Board since July 2023. Ross is a member of the Board's Governance Committee and is a past member of the Board's Audit and Policy Committees. Ross also represents the Board on the Legislative Committee of the Monroe County School Boards Association.

Prior to joining the Board, Ross spent two years on the district's Program Budget Advisory Council and two years as community representative for the Middle School Home and Careers Decision Input Unit. She has also been a member of the executive board of the St. John's Nursery School, volunteered to work with students in numerous math and reading programs at Lima Primary and the Manor School, tutored first and second grade students at City School No. 36 in reading, and worked as a Sunday School teacher at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton.

Ross holds a BA from Cornell University, a master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, and a JD from Syracuse University College of Law. She is employed as a Principal Appellate Court Attorney at the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court.

Ross and her husband, Alan, have lived in Mendon since 1995. They have four children, Emma (27), Isabel (25), Nathan (23), and Matthew (20), all of whom are proud graduates of HF-L. "My husband and I chose to raise our family in Mendon because of the excellent reputation of the HF-L school district, and our children have benefitted tremendously from the district's ongoing commitment to providing students with a quality education and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities. I am a firm believer in the value of a public education to students, families, and the community at large. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving the residents of the school district as we work to maintain a sound and fiscally responsible educational program that will equip each student to meet his or her future."

The HF-L Difference



At HF-L, the budget process is designed to be as open, transparent, and collaborative as possible. Throughout the year, the district invites community members into the conversation through multiple public budget study sessions, detailed presentations, and the work of the Program Budget Advisory Council (PBAC), which brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to review and discuss priorities.

We also go beyond what is required to help make school finance more understandable and accessible. From sharing in-depth materials to producing the HF-L Oversimplified budget video series, we strive to break down complex topics in a way that keeps our community informed and engaged every step of the way.

This approach reflects our commitment to ensuring all voices are heard and considered throughout the process, while maintaining a responsible, student-centered budget that supports both current needs and long-term stability.

Board of Education
Caralyn Ross, <i>President</i>
Lynley Guckian, <i>Vice-President</i>
Carol Bellavia
Kelli Eberle
David Francis
Christopher Neff
Joel Robinson
Stephanie Templeton
David Youngblut
Superintendent of Schools
Gene Mancuso
Newsletter Editor
Leah Shepard

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The HF-L CSD utilizes bulk mailings to provide information to our community in a cost efficient manner.

Budget Vote

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
High School Lobby

What You'll See on the Ballot

PROPOSITION #1 **2026-27 Budget**

Shall the Board of Education of the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District in the Counties of Monroe, Livingston and Ontario, State of New York, be and hereby is authorized to expend the sum of \$67,740,000 for the 2026-27 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

PROPOSITION #2 **School Bus Purchase**

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase vehicles for student transportation including necessary furnishings, fixtures, equipment and all other necessary costs incidental thereto, and expend a sum not to exceed \$1,181,590 which is the cost estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, to be raised by tax on the taxable property of the District 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 to finance all or part of the cost thereof by bonds or notes issued in accordance with the Education Law and the Local Finance Law or by installment purchase contracts in accordance with the General Municipal Law and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

Board Election **School Board Members**

Vote for THREE (3)

Julie Masterson
 Rachel Rivera
 Lynley Guckian
 Thomas Gaborski
 Caralyn Ross

Toda la información presupuestaria está disponible en español en el sitio web del distrito o en la oficina del secretario del distrito.

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