



Forging a New Future



Dear Delaware Academy Community,

As we move from winter into spring, we begin to celebrate another exciting year in the books at Delaware Academy. Our buildings have been filled with energetic, eager learners, who consistently rise to the occasion. Whether in the classroom, on the court, or on the field, our students and staff consistently rise above, making Delaware Academy an exceptional place to learn, belong, and grow alongside the community.

While we close out one academic year, the district remains focused on what our students will need in the years ahead to thrive in an ever-changing world. We continue to support this growth through both short- and long-term initiatives that are designed not as temporary solutions, but as lasting investments in our future. This commitment is clearly reflected in the completion of the new Agriculture and Technology wing as part of our most recent capital project.

(continued on page 2)

2026-27 BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 19
2026 Noon – 8:00 pm • Middle School Gym Lobby

The proposed tax levy of
2.90% meets the tax cap

(continued from page 1)

These new labs provide students with hands-on, real-world learning experiences that prepare them for both college and careers. With a forward outlook on our future graduates and a strong alignment to 21st-century learning, this newly-renovated space will encompass elements such as modern agricultural practices, advanced manufacturing tools, engineering concepts, and emerging technologies. Students will have opportunities to engage in project-based learning that builds critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills while exploring high-demand career pathways.

Beyond skill development, the space fosters innovation, creativity, and an increased connection to both local industry and global advancements, ensuring students are well-equipped to succeed in today's rapidly evolving world.



Along with engineering, agricultural practices, and critical thinking, the district continues to stay focussed on core academics as well, with the incorporation of initiatives revolving around early education writing skills, financial literacy, incorporation of new math and science requirements and last but not least, a continued

commitment to the arts. Together, we are working to ensure our students are prepared for both today's expectations and tomorrow's opportunities. As always, your continued support is appreciated. With it, we will continue to provide a safe, well-rounded environment where every student can thrive. Thank you for another great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Shuf".

A Transformative Year

The Delaware Academy campus was a beehive of activity over the summer and into the school year, with work on a number of capital building projects taking place. Besides the Ag & Technology Labs, this included the completion of the new dual-purpose softball/soccer field and Dave Kelly Field and adjoining track and field spaces, generously donated by the Clark family. Other projects completed include new pavement at the elementary school, upgraded sound and lighting systems in the high school auditorium, and a variety of infrastructure and systems improvements, including heating and ventilation systems, security, communications and energy efficiency.



Clockwise, from top left: workers remove the cupola dome for restoration; new booths and tables in the high school cafeteria; a night game under the new lights at Dave Kelly Field; workers install new chimney liners at the high school; infrastructure repairs and upgrades underway in the rear of the high school building; new stage lighting awaits installation in the high school auditorium, and (center) paving takes place at the elementary school drive and parking lots.

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Delaware Academy had a **94% graduation rate**

- Awarded **189 scholarships** last year to recent and past graduates from outside providers that totaled approximately **\$241,000**

- **92%** of students taking AP courses earned **3+ or better**

- 37 students participated in **CTE (Career & Technical Education) programs** through DCMO BOCES

- 15 students earned the **Seal of Biliteracy** (*middle right*)

- 9 students earned the **Seal of Civic Readiness**

- Students **outpaced the state average score** on the Grades 5-8 Science and Grades 3-8 Math and English Language Arts (ELA) Proficiency tests

- Strong participation in **leadership** and **service** programs, including SADD (*top left*), FCCLA (*bottom right*), FFA (*top right*), National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and the Catskill Area School Study Council (*bottom left*).

- **Senior internships** are a part of the **Career Destinations** program for non-CTE students. All Delaware Academy students will complete an internship or other work experience before graduation (*middle left*).



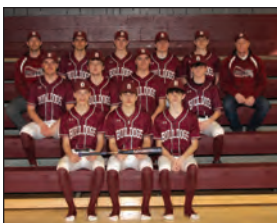
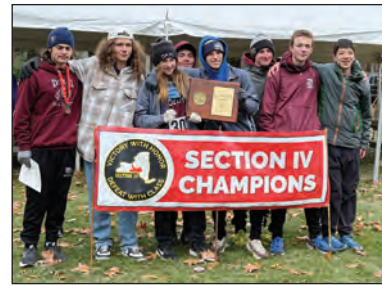
MUSIC & ART HIGHLIGHTS



- Music department offered a **Veteran's Day Concert** in November for Veterans and their families
- Many students participated in **All-County Music Festivals**: 13 in junior high band, 6 in jazz band, 10 in elementary chorus, 11 in senior chorus, 20 in junior orchestra
- 3 students participated in **Senior High Area All-State Orchestra** last November, 4 students were selected to participate in **Area All-State Choirs**
- 11 students will perform vocal solos and 35 students will perform string solos at the **NYSSMA Solo Festival**. 20 students will perform band instrument solos at NYSSMA
- All Elementary students performed in a **Holiday Sing-A-Long**
- Ms. Lindner, Mr. Baxter, and student Abraham Pettit participated in **Tuba Christmas**, in Johnson City, NY
- The drum line participated in the **Delhi Holiday Parade**.
- High school, middle school and 5th grade **concerts**, as well as a **Senior Recital** in February and a **Pops Concert** in March
- Student Paisley Smith **performed the National Anthem** at the boys and girls sectional basketball games
- **Holiday ensemble** serenaded students in the high school lobby
- Students performed the musical **"The Addams Family"** including 29 cast, 22 stage crew and 4 in the pit orchestra
- 4th and 5th grade chorus, band and orchestra **concert** in June, as well as a **pre-k celebration** and a **kindergarten celebration**, both in June
- High school band and orchestra **performed at The Plains at Parish Homestead** in April
- Art students in 6th grade, Studio in Art and Community Action Service Art classes created **collaborative ceiling tile designs** and then painted them using the grid method making the high school art room and creative, colorful, and inviting space
- Community Action Service Art students made angel ornaments and **visited the Delhi Rehabilitation and Nursing Center** to deliver them to each resident. They also made ceramic recovery related tiles, which were **donated to FOR-DO** (Friends Of Recovery-Dedicated to Others)
- Students in the Community Action Service Art class participated in the **International Memory Project** once again, creating portraits for children elsewhere in the world



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS



- Our football and soccer teams were able to practice and play home games on the **newly refurbished Dave Kelly Field**, including the first-ever home **night games under lights**
- Varsity Tennis team won the **Section IV Team Championship**
- Boys Varsity Soccer team won the **MAC Championship**
- Delhi/SK Boys Cross Country won their **13th consecutive MAC title, Section IV Class D Championship**, and finished 4th at the **State Championships**. Jaden Lewis was a medalist and received All-State honors
- Delhi/SK Girls Cross Country won their **19th consecutive MAC title, Section IV Class D Championship**, and finished 5th at **State Championships**
- Football **All-State Section IV Class D selections**: Adam Cook and Lucas Nealis – 1st Team; Steven Hillis - Hon. Mention
- Walton/Delaware Academy wrestler Cadence Guy finished **1st in Section IV @ 100 lbs.** and also finished 4th at the **NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championship**
- Girls Varsity Basketball team won the **MAC League Championship** and **Section IV Class C Championship**
- Girls Basketball Head coach Todd Bruce was named a *Daily Star* **Basketball Coach of the Year**
- Boys Varsity Basketball Team is **Section IV Class C Runner-up** and **MAC Champion**
- Varsity golfers Carson Pashley and Cameron Winner have qualified for the first round of the **state qualifiers** (to be played this spring)
- Senior Rebecca Verspoor was named to the **State Student-Athlete Advisory Committee** for the second year



2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET BASICS

Balanced Budget

A budget is balanced when:

$$\text{Expenses} = \text{Revenues}$$

(budget needs) (income sources)

Expenses: Salaries, Benefits, Supplies, Equipment, Contractual Costs, BOCES Cost

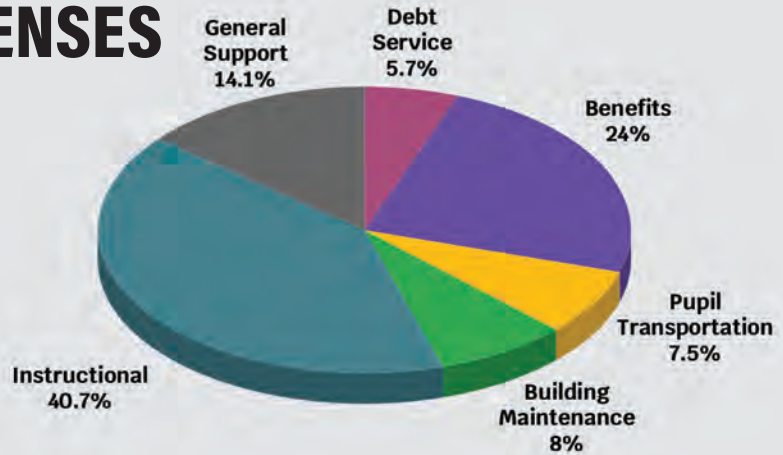
Revenues: Taxes, State Aid, PILOT Payments, Fund Balance, Reserves

The budget we have proposed for 2026-2027 is **balanced**.

Tax Cap

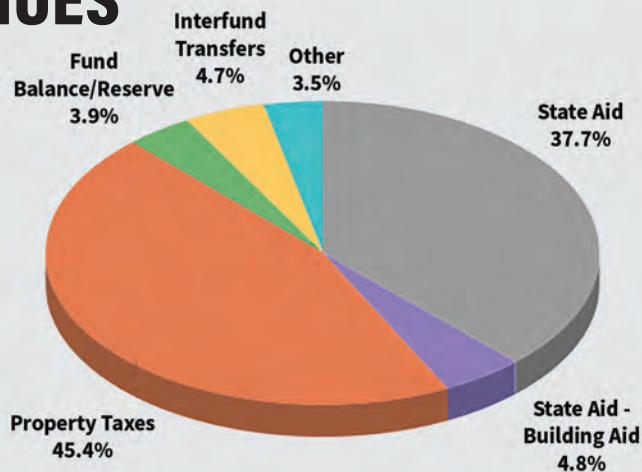
The New York state “tax cap” is an 8-step formula that limits how much the tax levy can grow each year. When calculating the “tax cap,” the formula allows for the district to apply various exclusions which can make the formula vary from year to year and district to district. Delaware Academy’s tax cap this year is limited to 2.90%. After much consideration, it was agreed that staying at that cap with a **tax levy of 2.90%** exhibits fiscal responsibility, while continuing with the district’s vision of academic excellence.

EXPENSES



	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget
Debt Service	\$1,319,826	\$3,182,326
Benefits	\$5,548,308	\$5,775,884
Pupil Transportation	\$1,731,067	\$1,678,562
Building Maintenance	\$1,849,903	\$1,896,842
Instructional	\$9,395,377	\$9,571,520
General Support	\$3,249,248	\$3,318,793
TOTAL	\$23,093,729	\$25,423,926

REVENUES



	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget
State Aid	\$8,714,190	\$8,941,596
State Aid - Building Aid	\$1,115,028	\$2,129,384
Property Taxes	\$10,480,511	\$10,784,446
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$900,000	\$1,761,500
Interfund Transfers	\$1,088,000	\$1,088,000
Other	\$796,000	\$719,000
TOTAL	\$23,093,729	\$25,423,926

3-Part Budget Summary

Category	2025-2026 Amount	2026-2027 Amount	\$ Difference	% Of Budget
Administrative	\$2,421,332	\$2,507,710	\$86,378	9.86%
Program	\$16,511,369	\$16,792,220	\$280,851	66.05%
Capital	\$4,161,028	\$6,123,996	\$1,962,968	24.09%
TOTAL	\$23,093,729	\$25,423,926	\$2,330,197	10.09%

The **Administrative** component of the budget includes expenses for central administrative and support salaries and related costs, Board of Education expenses, legal expenses, business office expenses, and insurance.

The **Program** component of the budget includes expenses relating to instruction, including salaries, benefits, textbooks, supplies, transportation, and athletics.

The **Capital** component of the budget includes costs associated with custodial salaries and benefits, building maintenance costs, debt services costs, and capital outlay expenses for building repairs.

Tax on True Value Comparison

Category	\$100,000 Home Without STAR	\$100,000 Home With Basic STAR	\$200,000 Home Without STAR	\$200,000 Home With Basic STAR	\$300,000 Home Without STAR	\$300,000 Home With Basic STAR
Current Tax (12.09)	\$1,501	\$1,051	\$3,002	\$2,551	\$4,502	\$4,052
Proposed Tax (12.33)	\$1,544	\$1,081	\$3,089	\$2,625	\$4,633	\$4,170
Tax Increase	\$43.00	\$30.00	\$87.00	\$74.00	\$131.00	\$118.00
Per Month Increase	\$3.63	\$2.54	\$7.25	\$6.17	\$10.88	\$9.79

Propositions You're Voting On

PROPOSITION 1

Approval of the Budget

The proposed annual budget for 2026-27 is \$25,423,926.00.

PROPOSITION 2

Technology Capital Reserve Fund

The proposition authorizes the district to use up to \$300,000 from the Technology Capital Reserve Fund to replace and replenish student and staff computers and classroom hardware.

PROPOSITION 3

Capital Reserve Fund

The proposition authorizes the district to use up to \$765,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to reduce long-term debt associated with the voter-approved capital project dated October 11, 2023.



Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi

2 Sheldon Drive
Delhi, New York 13753



Non-Profit
Organization
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13815

Board of Education

Tammy Neumann, President
Lauren Raba, Vice President
Ro Avila, Trustee
Seth Haight, Trustee
Lucy Kelly, Trustee
Sean Leddy, Trustee
Kimberly Shephard, Trustee

Superintendent

Carey Shultz

Current Resident Or

ECRWSS
Postal Patron

Board of Education Candidates

There are three candidates for the two seats on the Board of Education currently held by Ro Avila and Kimberly Shephard. Both terms will run from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.



Kimberly Shephard

Kimberly lives in Delhi with her husband John and son Levi, who is an 11th-grade student at Delaware Academy. Kim's oldest son, Travis, is a 2005 graduate of Delaware Academy.

Kim is a teacher at Oneonta Middle School. Her educational experience includes teacher, elementary principal and Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in reading education, and a school administrator certification.

Kim has been involved with children in the Delhi community as a youth soccer coach and Little League coach. She currently serves on the Delaware Academy School Board of Education and is interested in continuing to serve for another three-year term.

As an educator, she is in the best position to help make decisions, establish policies and programs that afford all students the opportunity for a high-quality education.

At Delaware Academy, Kim's own children have been afforded challenging and motivational learning and extra-curricular experiences from the amazing teaching and coaching staff. Kim brings the perspective of an educator, parent and taxpayer to the role of school board member.



Nathaniel McCarthy

I am running for a spot on the Board of Education because I have a tremendous amount of pride in this community and school district and want to see its continued success.

I am a dedicated community member who has volunteered extensively in various youth initiatives.

I am currently a Lieutenant with the New York State Police and am fortunate to serve the same community I live in with my wife Megan and our two children. As a supervisor in a large organization, I'm comfortable working in groups and listening to other opinions. Prior to joining the State Police, I worked as a Construction Project Manager making me well versed in all facets of construction projects. Additionally, my son and I operate a small family-owned maple syrup farm.

I feel that our community's future is based on a strong educational foundation which acts as the solid base for our children's success. Part of that success is attributed to strong athletic, performing arts, and club programs. I recognize the challenges involved in educational leadership in a changing world, but understand it can be met with forward, creative thinking. A parent's input in their child's education is paramount to its success and transparency is essential.

The School Board's role is to establish policies, develop an annual budget, approve contracts, and approve personnel hiring. My professional experience makes me well versed in all these categories. I have no special interests and no hidden agenda. Rather, I look forward to cultivating a positive future for our children, teachers, administrators, other district employees, and community members, all while promoting fiscal responsibility.

I humbly ask for your support on May 19!



Hope DellaCrosse Knapp

Hope DellaCrosse Knapp is a dedicated member of the greater Delhi community and a proud parent of five children who have attended Delaware Academy. While her family is rooted in the

area, Hope spent her early years in Florida before returning home to raise her family because she believes Delaware Academy offers a rare, close-knit "private school feel" within a public school setting.

Her children include graduates from the classes of 2020, 2022, and 2023, as well as a current sophomore and fifth-grade student.

Hope is a cake designer, former Pre-K educator, and served as President of the Greater Delhi Area Chamber of Commerce for eight years. With a background in early childhood education and child development, she brings an understanding of student growth and learning. She has been actively involved in the school and community through roles such as Varsity Club Advisor, supporting modified and varsity athletics, organizing and assisting with fundraising initiatives, and coaching youth soccer and baseball. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Delhi Youth Sports Group, holds a role within the Delhi American Legion, and brings prior experience in local radio.

Encouraged by board and community members to run, Hope brings a collaborative and solutions-focused mindset. She values transparency, clear communication, and accountability, and believes that sharing accurate information builds trust.

Hope is committed to supporting a well-rounded educational experience that values academics, the arts, and athletics, and believes strong schools are built through integrity, community involvement, and a shared commitment to every student's success.

On the cover: Ag Technology Teacher Michelle Somers and students Levi Shephard, Delaney McCann and Hunter Nichols got an early look at some of the new tools in the Agriculture and Technology Wing.