



OMCS Budget News

May 2026

A letter from your Board President

Dear Residents of the Odessa-Montour School District,

The Board of Education of the Odessa-Montour Central School District has approved the District's proposed 2026-27 budget. Total budgeted expenditures are \$23,390,156, an increase of \$827,950 above the current year. The largest single item of increased expense is employee health insurance, with an expected year-to-year increase in expense to the District of \$408,000. Other large expense items are increases to instructional staff salaries of approximately \$118,000, approximately \$202,000 in additional payments to BOCES for career and technical education, and approximately \$102,000 in additional payments to BOCES for special education services. As is typical, the balance of the overall increase is spread among mostly pre-existing line items. The Board has also built into the budget contingencies in case expenses exceed or revenues fall short of expectations, which if unneeded will be transferred to reserves to offset future levies. The largest offset to the increased expenses is a \$749,000 reduction in debt service payments.

On the revenue side, the proposed property tax levy is anticipated at \$6,402,930, which is an increase of approximately \$738,000 more than the current year. Appropriated fund balance is \$764,828, which exceeds the District's normal historical range of \$500,000 to \$600,000. The District has again budgeted use of \$120,000 from an employee retirement benefits reserve, and anticipates receiving state aid totaling \$15,758,000. While the New York State budget has not been passed as of the date of this writing, the District does not anticipate that the aid figure will vary significantly from this figure. The remainder of income necessary to balance the budget will come from federal aid and other sources.

This budget will require the tax cap, which is set at 3.12 percent this year, to be exceeded for the first time. As a result, the budget will require approval by 60 percent of the qualified voters present and voting. This necessity is driven primarily by the very small increase the District expects to receive in state aid, which the District depends on for its primary source of funding. We expect state foundation aid to increase by less than \$203,000. As noted above, the increase in employee health insurance costs alone is nearly double this amount. With such a negligible increase in support from the state, the tax levy must be increased to meet the required cost increases.

While the Board does not like to enact a significant tax increase, during the past 14 years the increase to the

District's levy has averaged less than \$70,000, or approximately 1.6 percent per year. This sustained history of minimal tax increases has been due to a combination of reasonable annual increases in state aid and the Board's focus on limiting spending to that necessary to address the District's strategic priorities in order to keep money in the pockets of taxpayers. Unfortunately, the days of reasonable aid increases are likely over, as we anticipate aid increases of one percent or less to be the norm going forward. At the same time, the cost to service the District's population continues to increase at multiples of this percentage due to a combination of economic forces and state regulations and mandates. The Board intends to address these challenges with a continuing effort to control costs and a focus on maintaining fund balance and reserves. As always, this effort will be guided by the Board's strategic priorities with planning over a five to seven year time horizon.

This newsletter provides greater explanation and detail on the proposed budget's revenues and expenditures, with comparisons to the current year's budget. I encourage all District residents and taxpayers to review this information and contact a member of the Board with any questions or concerns.

In addition to voting on the budget, voters will be asked to vote on a proposition setting the annual tax levy for the Dutton S. Peterson Memorial Library and the Montour Falls Memorial Library, a proposition authorizing the expenditure of up to \$526,000 from the transportation reserve to fund purchase of three new buses, establishment of a technology capital reserve, and two open Board positions. The vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m.

District Superintendent James Nolan will present the budget and Board candidates will introduce themselves at the Board's meeting on May 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. I encourage all residents who cannot attend the meeting to send any questions you may have on the budget or for the Board candidates in advance to the District office so that they can be addressed as part of the presentation.

Sincerely,

Robert Halpin

President
Odessa-Montour Board of Education

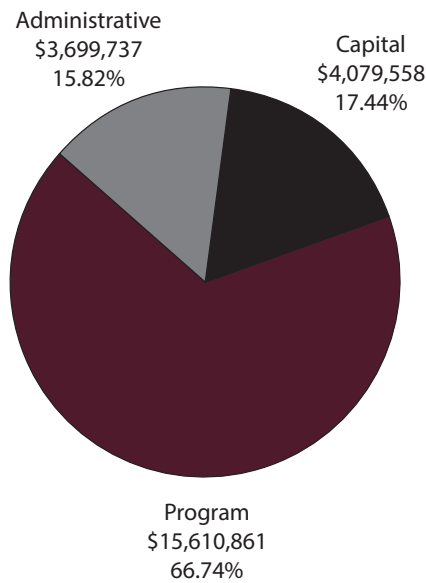
Budget Hearing/ Meet the Candidates Night
Thursday, May 7
5:30 p.m.
District Conference Room (305)

Vote Tuesday, May 19
Noon - 8:00 p.m.
District Conference Room (305)

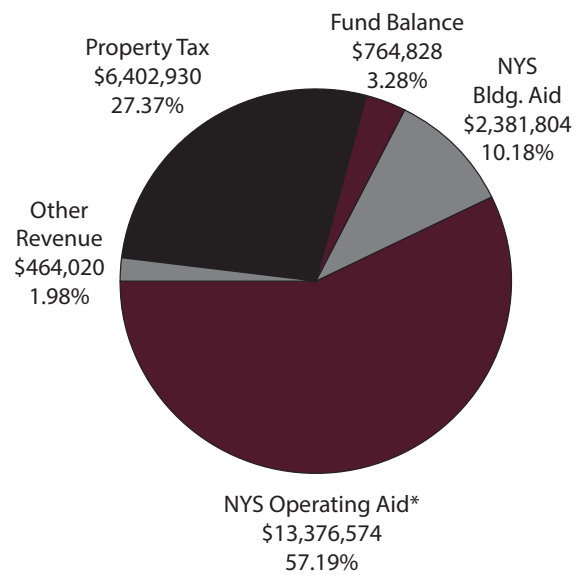
*** We ask all voters to please use the Triple Doors to enter**

Odessa-Montour Central School District Proposed Budget for 2026-27

2026-27 Expenses



2026-27 Revenues



* At the time of this printing, New York State has not finalized the state budget. This is an early estimate of anticipated state aid for the district.

Administrative Component

The administrative section of the budget includes office and central administrative expenses for all certified school administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing administrative and supervisory duties. Included in these expenses are salaries and benefits, as well as travel costs, supplies and all costs to operate each school's main office, as well as the Central Office, Office of Special Education and Board of Education expenses.

Budget Function	2025-26	2026-27	Change
Board of Education	\$23,135	\$23,135	\$0
BOCES Administration	229,390	258,508	29,118
BOCES Capital	115,840	116,112	272
Central Administration	238,553	245,598	7,045
Finance	495,114	539,661	44,547
Legal	20,700	20,000	-700
Personnel	19,612	25,183	3,894
Public Information	20,810	24,704	3,894
Printing/Mailing	140,618	149,701	9,083
Central Data Processing	691,415	753,883	62,468
Insurance	84,000	96,000	12,000
Curriculum Development	54,338	93,837	39,499
Supervision/Regular School	683,414	704,099	20,685
Planning/Evaluation	117,691	122,614	4,923
Employee Benefits	465,622	526,702	61,080
TOTAL	\$3,400,252	\$3,699,737	\$299,485

**Budget
Hearing/
Meet the
Candidates
Night**

**Thursday,
May 7**

5:30 p.m.

**District
Conference
Room (305)**

Vote
**Tuesday,
May 19**

**Noon -
8:00 p.m.**

**District
Conference
Room (305)**

Capital Component

The capital section of the budget covers all costs of operating the cleaning and maintenance departments, including salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities and all other expenses for the maintenance, repair and cleaning of the facilities. Costs associated with debt service are included in this capital component. The Capital Construction line refers to the capital outlay project that is described at right.

Budget Function	2025-26	2026-27	Change
Operation of Plant.....	\$1,200,872	\$1,208,164	\$7,292
Maintenance of Plant.....	289,723	256,213	-33,510
Refund of Property Taxes.....	10,000	10,000	0
Employee Benefits	384,797	435,056	50,259
Debt Service	2,889,300	2,070,125	-819,175
Capital Construction	100,000	100,000	0
TOTAL.....	\$4,874,692	\$4,079,558	\$-795,134

Program Component

The program section of the budget contains all costs of the educational program, including staff salaries and benefits, BOCES instructional services, athletics and transportation.

Budget Function	2025-26	2026-27	Change
Teaching – Regular School.....	\$4,798,078	\$5,130,497	\$332,419
Special Education.....	2,585,646	2,740,091	154,445
Occupational Education	720,885	923,195	202,310
Legal.....	48,300	52,270	3,970
Library.....	98,173	101,096	2,923
Computer-Assisted Instruction	226,293	240,802	14,509
Guidance	294,686	329,304	34,618
Health Services.....	405,297	409,305	4,008
Co-Curricular Activities.....	56,498	57,500	1,002
Interscholastic Athletics.....	277,815	294,397	16,582
Employee Benefits	3,805,799	4,305,261	499,462
Transportation.....	948,152	1,005,143	56,991
Transfers to Other Funds	22,000	22,000	0
TOTAL.....	\$14,287,622	\$15,610,861	\$1,323,239

How will my taxes be affected?

Projected Tax Rates per \$1,000 With 26-27 Proposed Budget

Actual tax rates cannot be determined until final assessment figures and the State Equalization Rates become available. The following are projected rates based on the information available now and current town equalization rates.

Town	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change	2025-2026 Equalization Rate
Catharine	\$ 9.63	\$ 10.88	\$ 1.25	100%
Cayuta	\$ 13.76	\$ 15.55	\$ 1.79	70%
Dix	\$ 9.88	\$ 11.17	\$ 1.29	98%
Hector	\$ 13.20	\$ 14.91	\$ 1.71	73%
Montour	\$ 9.63	\$ 10.88	\$ 1.25	100%
Van Etten	\$ 9.63	\$ 10.88	\$ 1.25	100%
Veteran	\$ 9.63	\$ 10.88	\$ 1.25	100%
Enfield	\$ 9.63	\$ 10.88	\$ 1.25	100%

Capital Outlay Project

The NYS Department of Education allows school districts to complete a Capital Outlay Project each year with a total cost of no more than \$100,000. These projects are designed to be completed in an expedited fashion with building aid returned to the district the following year at a rate of 90 percent (\$90,000).

Odessa-Montour CSD has leveraged this opportunity for the past several years, with our most recent years being focused on replacement of dated fluorescent lighting fixtures to energy-efficient LED lighting.

Included in this proposed budget is a capital outlay project in the Jr./Sr. High School classrooms that continues lighting replacement. Moving to the use of energy-efficient LED lights has had and will continue to have a positive impact on our utility bills.

Board member election

There are two three-year school board positions up for vote. Below are brief biographies of the candidates running for the Board of Education.

Kyle VanGalder, incumbent County Route 14, Alpine

Occupation: Investigator, Schuyler Sheriff's Office
Education: Graduate of Odessa-Montour; earned associate degree from Corning Community College.
Activities: Hunting, camping and vacationing with family.



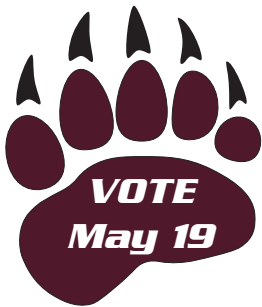
Personal: Resident of the district for 44 years. Family: wife, Lauren; three daughters attending O-M schools.
"I am running to continue to strive for safety, security and education for all students, staff and visitors of the Odessa-Montour Central School District."

Jennifer D. Mosher, incumbent County Road 7, Montour Falls

Occupation: Technical Sales Specialist
Education: 2006 graduate of Odessa-Montour; earned Bachelor's degree in Microbiology and Immunology from University of Rochester.



Activities: Enjoys spending time with family and friends, camping and volunteering time to both OMCS and the Schuyler County FLX CDC.
Personal: Life-long resident of the district. "I am running for another term on the Odessa-Montour Board of Education to build on the 12 years of community leadership in educational policy and continue to unapologetically advocate for quality rural education in Upstate New York."



Absentee/military/ early mail ballots

Applications for absentee ballots are available for residents unable to vote in person on May 19. Early mail ballots have been approved to be used in schools for New York State. Unlike absentee ballots, residents can request an early mail ballot without having a reason such as illness or being out of town. To obtain either application, write or telephone the District Office before May 7. Absentee ballots will be mailed from May 8 through May 14. All ballots are due in the District Office by 5:00 p.m. on May 19.

Am I eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote on the school budget and election, you must be a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age or older and a legal resident of the Odessa-Montour Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No prior registration is required.



***Keep an eye on our
Facebook page
OM Schools
to see our community
offerings including
fitness center and open
pool hours***



Thank you to Les and Irene Wilson, who donated this circa 1930s sweater to the district.

Capital Project update

Phase 1 of the District’s Capital Project is complete, with major improvements at B.C. Cate Elementary School and the Jr./Sr. High School, including several classroom and bathroom renovations, roof work, installation of new high efficiency boilers, corridor flooring, locker room upgrades and a new lighted walkway to the athletic fields.

Work is now underway in Phases 2 and 3. Classrooms at Hanlon Elementary are in the process of being fully renovated to include security enhancements, new finishes, water bottle stations, LED lighting and HVAC upgrades. At the Jr./Sr. High School, domestic water lines are being replaced and preparations are underway for a new emergency generator, expected to be operational for the 2026-27 school year.

Significant renovations are also in progress at the bus garage, marking the first major upgrade in more than 60 years. This work includes a new roof and windows, new overhead and entrance

doors, upgraded security cameras and HVAC system, a new septic system, expansion of the mechanics bay with new lifts, construction of a driver training room and new office spaces, a community entrance, updated restrooms and the addition of a bus wash area to support and protect our fleet investment.

Thank you for your continued support with these needed facilities upgrades as this allows us to continue with the districts’ mission to engage, empower and educate. Continue to watch our social media outlets for community offerings in our Grizzly Grub Hub, swimming pool, fitness center and outside spaces.

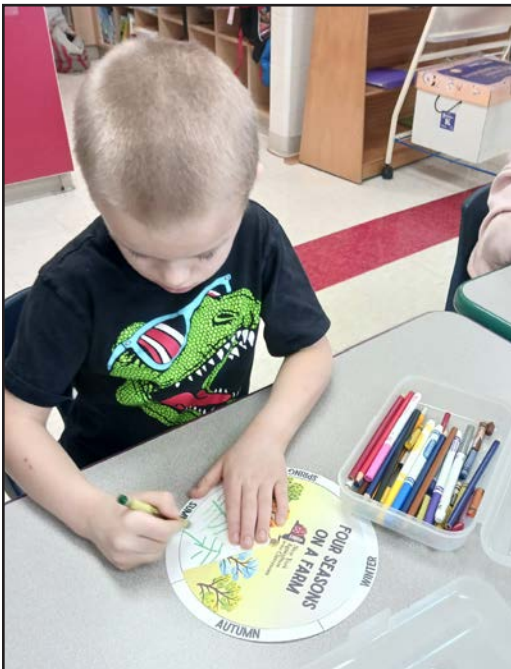
Below: Bus garage renovations are underway.



Far left upper and lower, left: Locker room upgrades and new gymnasium lighting.



Far left, left: Bathroom renovations at B.C. Cate and the Jr./Sr. High School.







***Give-Back Snow Days:
May 22 and 26
No School, All Offices Closed***

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

9/1/2026 Superintendent's Conference Day
 9/2/2026 Superintendent's Conference Day
 9/8/2026 First Day of School

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

10/9/2026 Emergency Go Home Early Drill
 10/12/2026 Columbus Day

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

11/11/2026 Veteran's Day (observed)
 11/20/2026 Early Release Day/PT Conference
 11/25-11/27/2026 Thanksgiving Break

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

12/4/2026 Early Release Day/PT Conferences
 12/23/2026 Early Release Day
 12/23/2026 - 1/1/2027 Winter Break

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1/18/2027 Martin Luther King Day

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

2/1/2027 Superintendent's Conference
 2/16/2027 - 2/19/2027 Mid-Winter Break

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

3/15/2027 Superintendent's Conference Day
 3/19/2027 Grizzly Community Day
 3/26/2027 Good Friday

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

4/5/2027 - 4/9/2027 Spring Break

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

5/21/2027 Early Release Day
 5/31/2027 Memorial Day

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23*	24*	25*	26
27	28	29	30			

6/23; 6/24; 6/25 *Half Days for Students Pre-K-Grade 6
 6/25/2027 Last Day of School/Graduation

**There are up to four emergency days built into this calendar. Should they not all be used, or should more be needed, the Board will approve changes to the official calendar and communicate those changes as soon as possible.

Tentative Give Back Snow Days:
 1st to go: April 2nd 2nd to go: April 12th
 3rd to go: May 27th 4th to go: May 28th

Calendar Days	Staff	Students
September	19	17
October	21	21
November	17	17
December	17	17
January	19	19
February	15	14
March	22	21
April	17	17
May	20	20
June	19	19
	186	182

Color Code

- Holiday/School Closed
- NYS Regents Exams
- Early Release Day

- Emergency Go Home Early Drill
- Superintendent's Conference Day
- Grizzly Community Day



OMCS stages successful production of “Honk!”

OMCS produced the musical *Honk!* this spring, with a cast of students in grades 3-12, as well as many Jr./Sr. High students working behind the scenes. Students rehearsed for two and a half months to create this heartwarming story, based on the ugly duckling and featuring a message of accepting the differences in those around us.

The cast and crew showed their resilience and ability to remain calm in a difficult situation when, on opening night, a power failure caused the lighting system to stop functioning properly.

The cast and crew kept performing, despite the fact that only a couple of the stage lights were operational, never missing a beat. After a brief pause to troubleshoot, the lighting crew found a way to keep the stage lit with just two spotlights, and the entire ensemble brought the old adage “The show must go on!” to life. The final two



performances went off without a hitch, providing many laughs (and maybe a tear or two) for several hundred audience members.

The production also participated in the first ever Great Binghamton High School Musical Awards, which will provide several of our actors an opportunity to attend a weekend of performing workshops later this spring, culminating with the awards show, for which *Honk!* and a number of its cast members have nominations. Congratulations to our cast and crew for another very successful spring musical!

Students explore STEM careers at Corning Inc.

On March 26, a group of O-M eighth grade girls visited Corning Inc. Headquarters for the CHOICES field trip, joining students from 11 different schools. This unique opportunity introduced students to a variety of STEM careers at Corning. Throughout the day, students engaged in hands-on activities, connected with professionals and explored future career possibilities. Students experienced breakout sessions featuring activities in STEM, business, design and technology. From virtual reality to event planning and innovation, each session encouraged creativity while connecting students with real-world careers.

O-M athletes and musicians shine

The following O-M winter sports teams received the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team award, for having a collective GPA of 90 or above amongst it's top 75 percent of students:

Varsity Girls Basketball
Varsity Boys Basketball
Varsity Cheer
Varsity Girls Bowling
Varsity Boys Bowling
Varsity Boys Swimming

Congratulations to our O-M Student Athletes!

Last November, the band and chorus program sent five students to Jr. High Area All-State and two to Sr. High Area All-State. These students spent about six weeks rehearsing with Mr. Reith or Mrs. Rowlands on their music and a long weekend at host school districts, where they rehearsed and fine-tuned their music. These efforts culminated in a concert that featuring several different musical ensembles across multiple disciplines.

In April, 23 chorus students and 18 band students in grades 5-12 performed at NYSSMA solo fest adjudications in Elmira. We are so proud of our Grizzly musicians for stretching their gifts and pursuing musical excellence and musical growth in this avenue of their education.



Grizzly Day celebrated across the district

In March, O-M students and staff enjoyed a fun-filled and memorable Grizzly Day packed with learning, creativity and community.

B.C. Cate celebrated Grizzly Day with a fun Hawaiian theme– “Ohana Means Family!” First and second-grade students enjoyed a pool party at the main campus, making a big splash as they celebrated together. The day also featured grade-level limbo competitions, along with a variety of engaging stations thoughtfully planned by each team for students to rotate through.

Hanlon’s day kicked off with a delicious pancake breakfast, lovingly prepared by staff members. This special start set the tone for a day full of smiles and school spirit.

Students then attended an engaging Birds of Prey assembly presented by Tanglewood, where they learned about fascinating raptors and had the opportunity to see these incredible birds up close.

Following the assembly, students rotated through a variety of interactive stations, choosing activities that matched their interests. Stations included arts and crafts, yoga, LEGO building and Angry Birds, giving everyone a chance to be creative, active and collaborative.

At the Jr./Sr. High School, students celebrated Grizzly Day with a variety of activities including a grade level competition “bear hunt,” learning

to tie fly fishing hooks, tournaments in basketball and cornhole, quiet time coloring and doing scratch art or diamond art, building LEGOS, board games, card games and playing Poetry for Neanderthals. Grades 5-8 attended a performance by Encore Players Community Theatre in the auditorium of “How to Make a Sandwich in 20 Easy Steps When All You Have is a Time Machine”. Junior high students ended their day with a dance party in the cafeteria, and senior high students gathered together for an awards ceremony in the Big Gym.

Grizzly Day was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to connect outside the regular classroom setting. The excitement, laughter and positive energy throughout each building made it clear that this was a day enjoyed by all. Thank you to our staff and presenters for making Grizzly Day such a success!



B.C. Cate families enjoy MakerSpace Night

B.C. Cate Elementary’s annual MakerSpace Night was held in March, bringing students and their families together for an evening of creativity and hands-on learning. Made possible through a collaboration between staff and community partners, the event featured 20 engaging activity stations where students could explore, build and create. Each student was able to take home the projects they made, making the experience both memorable and meaningful.



Odessa-Montour Central School District

300 College Ave.
Odessa, NY 14869
(607) 594-3341

Board of Education

Robert Halpin, President
Jennifer Mosher, Vice President
Sidney Pike, Student Member
Jason Dechow
Dana Sgrecci
Will Shrout
David Stigers
Kyle VanGalder

Superintendent

James Nolan

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PAID
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Watkins Glen, NY
14891

**Post Office or
Box Holder**

Dates to remember

May

- 4 Kindergarten Screening
- 5 4PK Screening
- 6 3PK Screening
- 7 Annual Budget Hearing and Meet the Candidates Night, District Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.
- 8 Early Release Day
Grade 1 Mother's Day Tea
- 19 Budget Vote and Board Election, District Conference Room, Room 305, 12-8 p.m.
Hanlon Fine Arts Night and Concert, 5:30 p.m.
- 21 Board of Education Workshop, District Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.
- 22 Give-Back Snow Day, No School, All Offices Closed
- 25 Memorial Day – No School, All Offices Closed
- 26 Give-Back Snow Day, No School, All Offices Closed

June

- 2 Jr./Sr. High Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Sports Awards Dinner
- 11 Sr. High Art Gallery and Fine Arts Awards, 6:30 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting, District Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Grades 1 and 2 Track and Field, 8:50 a.m. (rain date 6/17)
- 16 Jr. High Awards Ceremony
- 17 Grades 3 and 4 Track and Field, 8:30 a.m.
B.C. Cate Picnic (students only)
- 18 Grades 5 and 6 Track and Field, 8:30 a.m.
Grade 1 Father's Day Coffee
- 19 Juneteenth – No School, All Offices Closed
- 22 Hanlon Picnic (students only)
Kindergarten Track and Field, 8:50 a.m. (rain date 6/24)
- 23 Grade 2 Spelling Bee
- 26 B.C. Cate Awards (students only)
Hanlon Awards Gr. 3-5, 8:30 a.m.
Grade 6 graduation, 10:00 a.m.
Elementary Report Cards Issued
Graduation, 6:00 p.m.

What you will see on the ballot

Proposition 1: 2026-27 Budget

The community is voting on a \$23,390,156 budget for the 2026-27 school year. This year's tax levy limit exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by 60 percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

Proposition 2: Bus Purchase

Vote on authorization to purchase two 64-passenger school buses and one 24-passenger school bus handicap accessible for student transportation at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$526,000, utilizing funds from the transportation capital reserve funds.

Proposition 3: Taxes for Libraries

Vote on authorizing the Odessa-Montour School District to levy and collect an annual tax separate from the annual school district budget in the amount of \$104,919 for the Dutton S. Peterson Library and \$214,872 for the Montour Falls Memorial Library, for the support and maintenance of the libraries.

Proposition 4: Capital Reserve Fund (Technology)

Vote on authorizing the establishment of a capital reserve fund of up to \$800,000 to defray the cost of information and audiovisual technology equipment, apparatus and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection with such.

Vote for two Board of Education Candidates

Budget Hearing/Meet the Candidates
Thursday, May 7 • 5:30 p.m.
District Conference Room (305)



Vote
Tuesday, May 19 • Noon-8:00 p.m.
District Conference Room (305)