MARGARETVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL





BLUEPRINT FOR EXCELLENCE

STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2028

https://www.margaretvillecs.org/

Margaretville Central School
415 Main St / P.O. Box 319
Margaretville, NY 12455



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Dear Members of the Margaretville Central School Community,

It has never been more important to be focused, aligned, and intentional in our work. We are proud to share an ***updated and refreshed*** version of our Blueprint for Excellence—a strategic plan that builds on our past progress and charts a clear path forward as we continue to grow and improve.

This plan reflects the collective input of our Board of Education, leadership team, staff, families, and community members. Drawing on feedback gathered this spring, we've worked together to revise and strengthen our priorities to ensure they meet the evolving needs of our students and school community.

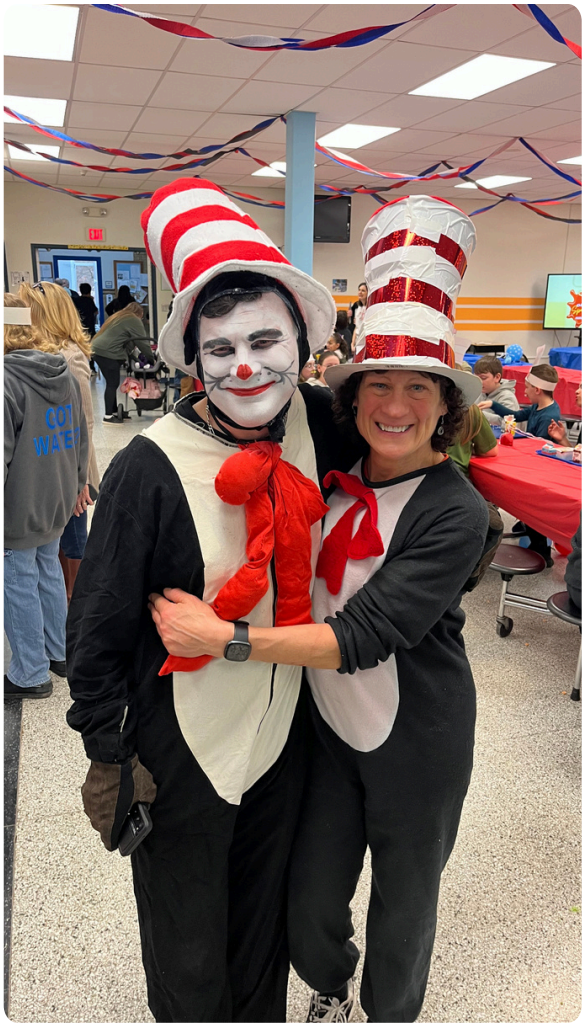
Our refreshed strategic plan will serve as a guide for our daily work and long-term goals. It reinforces our commitment to meaningful connections with every child and family, and to building a stronger, more united school community. We are in this together and look forward to continuing this important work alongside you.

Thank you for your ongoing support, input, and partnership. Your involvement makes a lasting impact on our students and our district's success.

Sincerely,

Michelle Osterhoudt
Superintendent of Schools

Doris Warner
President, Board of Education



PROCESS INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Blueprint Planning is intended to:

- Involve all members of the school community and reflect their shared perspectives.
- Allow stakeholder representatives to review community feedback to clearly define the district's mission, vision and core values.
- Engage a team in defining the priorities of the district and suggesting action steps to accomplish objectives.
- Facilitate action planning focused on identifying who, when and how the work will get done.
- Provide the district with a road map that is transparent, accountable, and focused.
- Enable the district's efforts to innovate, allocate resources and continuously grow in a coordinated, thoughtful, and aligned manner.
- Be an iterative, evolving, and ongoing process that builds from one year to the next while reflecting emerging needs and changing demands.

January 2026: Community feedback gathered.

February 2026: Action plans developed that specifically identify what will be done to meet the objectives of each priority area and who will be responsible for leading the work.

Summer/Fall 2026 : Revisions and review completed by the Leadership Team. Communication to the community and implementation of the plan with stakeholders.

1 2 3 4 5

February 2026: Community team assembled, mission/vision/core values reviewed, priority areas developed, strategies suggested.

March 2026: Action plans revised and finalized. Plan deliverables developed and published.

WHO WE ARE

Our shared core purpose, aspirations and expectations are clear:

OUR MISSION

We partner with our community to prepare all students for life in the world beyond school.

OUR VISION

We are a leader in providing innovative, inclusive, and engaging learning experiences for our students that our community can be proud of.

OUR CORE VALUES

Our vision and mission can be accomplished if all of our work is focused on clearly defined and consistently demonstrated core values.

To that end, we will:

- Ensure that each child is cared for and supported as an individual.
- Demonstrate integrity.
- Foster collaboration and teamwork.
- Be courageous and creative innovators.
- Create joy in learning.
- Celebrate diversity and commit to equity.
- Model humility and selflessness.
- Honor individualized strengths
- Strive to be exceptional.
- Have respect for each other and assume positive intent.

OUR DISTRICT

Margaretville Central School is a vibrant rural school community located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains in Margaretville, New York. Serving approximately 300 students from Pre-K through grade 12, the school is known for its strong sense of community, personalized learning environment, and deep commitment to student success. With small class sizes and dedicated educators, students benefit from meaningful relationships, rigorous academics, and a wide range of opportunities in the arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Margaretville Central School stands as a proud centerpiece of the community, preparing students to thrive while honoring the values and spirit of the Catskills.

OUR COMMUNITY

The Margaretville community is a close-knit Catskills region known for its natural beauty, resilience, and strong civic pride. Nestled among mountains, rivers, and farmland, the area blends small-town charm with a deep appreciation for the outdoors, local culture, and the arts. Families, local businesses, and community organizations work together to support the school and create meaningful opportunities for young people. The result is a welcoming and supportive environment where the school and community are deeply connected and invested in the success of every student.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Board of Education

Doris Warner, President
Marc Osterweil, Vice President
Kent Brown
Matthew Steen
Andrea Cahill
Alani Mendez (Student member)

Administration

Michelle Osterhoudt, Superintendent
Joy Holden, Principal
Jeremey Marks, Building Administrator for Operations and Student Activities



OUR PLAN

The Margaretville Central School District's Blueprint for Excellence is grounded in a clear mission: to partner with the community in preparing all students for life in the world beyond school. This work is guided by a vision that positions the district as a leader in providing innovative, inclusive, and engaging learning experiences that the entire community can take pride in. Together, the mission and vision emphasize not only academic success, but also the development of confident, capable young people who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the broader world.

At the heart of the Blueprint is a strong commitment to a shared set of core values that guide decision-making and daily practice across the district. Margaretville Central School believes that every child deserves to be cared for and supported as an individual while being encouraged to pursue excellence. The district emphasizes integrity, collaboration, creativity, and innovation, while fostering a joyful learning environment that celebrates diversity and promotes equity. Staff and students are expected to demonstrate humility, respect one another, assume positive intent, and honor the unique strengths that each individual brings to the school community.

The district's first strategic priority focuses on expanding student experiences and opportunities. Margaretville is committed to providing a wide range of academic, extracurricular, and advanced coursework opportunities that connect students more deeply to their community and the wider world. By strengthening real-world learning experiences and expanding access to rigorous coursework, the district aims to ensure that students graduate with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to pursue their goals and contribute positively to society.

A second and third priority focus on strengthening community partnership and maintaining high-quality facilities and infrastructure. The district is committed to developing a comprehensive and transparent approach to communication and engagement, ensuring that families and community members remain active partners in the life of the school. At the same time, Margaretville continues to invest in safe, modern, and flexible learning environments that support 21st-century teaching and learning while meeting the health and safety needs of students, staff, and the broader community. Together, these priorities ensure that the district remains a strong, vibrant centerpiece of the Margaretville community.

PRIORITY AREAS

Based on community feedback, the following areas were identified as priorities to be focused on in order to fulfill the mission of the district. Goals have been developed for each area.







PRIORITY AREA GOALS

Student Experiences and Opportunities	**Goal:** We will provide experiences, opportunities and advanced coursework focused on fostering greater connectivity to the community and the world that we live in.
Community Partnership	**Goal:** We will develop a comprehensive program for effective communication and community engagement.
Facilities/ Infrastructure	**Goal:** We will provide an overall school facility and environment that meets 21st century learning, health, and safety needs for all students, staff, and the community.

ACTION PLAN

Priority 1: Student Experiences and Opportunities		
Goal: We will provide experiences, opportunities and advanced coursework focused on fostering greater connectivity to the community and the world that we live in.		
Action Steps:	**Person/People Responsible**	**Timeframe**
Define and communicate a standardized 'work plan' process and conduct an audit of extracurricular organization and effectiveness.	Counseling Office Principal	Summer 2027
Conduct a comprehensive review of Guidance Department practices, career exploration offerings, and student support systems.	Leadership Team	Fall 2026 Ongoing
Create a Portrait of a Graduate aligned to essential workforce and life skills with stakeholder input.	School Counselors Leadership Team	Summer 2027
Expand elementary club offerings to increase student engagement and leadership development.	Building Administrator for Operations Student Activities	Ongoing
Advanced Coursework		
Leverage high-quality online platforms and regional partnerships to broaden advanced and elective course access.	Leadership Team School Counselors	Ongoing/ Regionalization

ACTION PLAN

Work and College Readiness		
Develop structured internship partnerships with local businesses and trades to provide authentic, hands-on career experiences.	Leadership Team	Ongoing
Design and implement a comprehensive Life Skills course focused on financial literacy, communication, career readiness, and daily living skills.	Leadership Team School Counselors	Grades 9-12 2026/2027 Grades K-8 2027/2028
Curricular Opportunities		
Embed explicit media literacy and digital citizenship instruction across all grade levels.	Library Media Specialist Teachers	Summer 2027
Publish a comprehensive, student-friendly course catalogue outlining all academic and pathway options.	School Counselors Teachers Principal	Draft Fall 2026 Published Spring 2027



ACTION PLAN

Priority 2: Community Partnership		
Goal: We will develop a comprehensive program for effective communication and community engagement.		
Action Steps:	**Person/People Responsible**	**Timeframe**
Establish a standardized calendar management system with clear ownership, timelines, and review checkpoints to ensure consistent updates.	Leadership Team	Summer 2026
Develop a comprehensive database of community organizations, professionals, and experts to support experiential learning and career exploration.	School Counselors	Fall 2027
Provide workshops and tutorials to educate families on district communication tools and instructional platforms.	Leadership Team PTA	Ongoing
Explore and define the role of a Communication Director/Community Liaison to centralize outreach and messaging.	Superintendent Leadership Team	Summer 2026





ACTION PLAN

Parent and Family Engagement		
Create a clear communication roadmap outlining where and how stakeholders access key information.	Leadership Team	Summer 2026
Plan 2-3 recurring family engagement activities to build school spirit and community connection.Create a list of yearly events specific to Community Engagement.	Principal Building Admin for OSA	Summer 2026
Community partnerships		
Establish partnerships with local media outlets to showcase student work and district initiatives.	Board of Education Administrative Team	Ongoing
Host an annual Career Day highlighting local careers including EMT, CNA, and trade professions.	Coordinate with Admins: Margaretville, Roxbury, Margaretville Hospital School Counselors	Spring/Fall 2026
Alumni		
Explore creating an official Alumni Association to strengthen long-term community ties.	Building Administrators OSA	Summer 2027
Create and maintain a centralized alumni contact database for ongoing engagement.	Building Administrators OSA	Summer 2027
Organize annual alumni events to celebrate graduates and build mentorship pipelines.	Building Administrators OSA	Summer 2027

ACTION PLAN

Priority 3: Facilities/Infrastructure		
Goal: We will provide an overall school facility and environment that meets 21st century learning, health, and safety needs for all students, staff, and the community.		
Action Steps:	**Person/People Responsible**	**Timeframe**
Form a representative exploratory committee to assess food services, facility enhancements, partnerships, and grant opportunities and provide actionable recommendations.	Building Administrator for Operations and SA Cafe Staff	Ongoing
Develop a multi-year capital improvement plan prioritizing safety, security, technology upgrades, and adaptable learning environments.	Leadership Team CSArch Buildings and Grounds	Spring 2027
Safety		
Expand CPR, AED, and First Aid training opportunities to students across grade levels.	Building Administrator for OSA	Ongoing/Fall 2027

ACTION PLAN

Efficiency		
Conduct an energy efficiency assessment of the building envelope to maximize HVAC performance.	Superintendent Building Administrator for OSA NYSERDA CSArch	Ongoing/Track 3 Funding Application initiated Spring 2027
Future Planning		
Modernize science classrooms to meet current laboratory standards and instructional needs.	Superintendent Building Administrator for OSA NYSERDA CSArch	Ongoing/Track 3 Funding Application initiated Spring 2027
Upgrade athletic scoreboards to improve visibility and functionality.	Superintendent Building Administrator for OSA NYSERDA CSArch	Ongoing/Track 3 Funding Application initiated Spring 2027
Install or upgrade athletic field lighting to extend safe use of facilities.	Superintendent Building Administrator for OSA NYSERDA CSArch	Ongoing/Track 3 Funding Application initiated Spring 2027
Complete necessary repairs and modernization of the bus garage facility.	Superintendent Building Administrator for OSA NYSERDA CSArch	Ongoing/Track 3 Funding Application initiated Spring 2027

OUR NEXT STEPS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Timeframe	Activity	Who
April 2026	Refreshed Blueprint Plan Presented to the BOE and Community	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
April 2026	Blueprint Plan and/or Presentation Shared with Faculty, Staff and Community	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
June and September 2026	Blueprint Plan “unpacked” and shared with the faculty and staff at faculty meetings.	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
February 2027	Blueprint Budget Recommendations Made Blueprint Expenditures Finalized	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
Quarterly	Blueprint Updates provided to the BOE, Community and Staff	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
June 2027	Blueprint Planning Meeting / Plan Updated for 2027-2028Updates provided to the BOE, Faculty, Staff and Community	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
Spring 2028	Blueprint Phase 2 Developed	• BOE • Superintendent • Administrators • Staff • Community Members

2025-26 Blueprint Team

Kent Brown
Andrea Cahill
Erin Cure
Karen Fairbairn
Kristi Gavette
Joy Holden
Joan Lawrence-Bauer
Bill Malanga
Jeremy Marks
Julia Marks
Colleen Martin
Connie Mathiesen
Claudia McMurray
Michelle Osterhoudt
Marc Osterweil
James Owdienko
William Powers
Caitlyn Roberts
Liam Schoonmaker
Matthew Steen
Doris Warner



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