

VOTE:

Tuesday, May 19
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Goodrich Building
(District Office)
91 Fiddlers Lane

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BUDGET

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At a Glance

PROPOSED BUDGET
\$164,581,354

TAX LEVY INCREASE
3.90%

2026-27 Proposed Budget Highlights

North Colonie Central School District Budget Development

On Tuesday, May 19, North Colonie Central School District residents will vote on a proposed 2026-2027 budget. The budget for the 2026-27 school year is projected to be \$164,581,354. This budget allows the district to maintain all existing programs and staff, while also being cognizant of the financial times. Under the state's property tax cap law, the maximum allowable levy limit is 4.689%. North Colonie CSD is proposing a tax levy increase of 3.90%, well below the maximum allowable levy limit.

One large difference between this year and last is the amount of state aid North Colonie is projected to receive. Last year, North Colonie CSD had a foundation aid increase of \$2,991,728 from the previous year. While we are projected to receive \$1,156,382 in foundation aid from the state in 2026-27, this amount is the lowest since prior to the pandemic. Taking into account rising health insurance costs (+9.54% to 20.00%), physical and liability costs (+7.80%), and energy costs (+22.84% for electric and +19.54% for natural gas), the district has had to adjust its methods for balancing the budget.

Adding Programs Through Partnerships & Innovative Thinking

Despite the challenges presented in difficult financial times, this budget not only maintains staffing, but it adds opportunities for students at no additional cost to the district. This was made possible through creative thinking and community partnerships, to offer seven exciting new programs for North Colonie CSD students in the 2026-27 school year.

"I think this is an outstanding budget," said Board of Education Member and Budget Committee Chair Mrs. Mary Nardolillo. "Being able to bring us new programs and shift things around so that no one is losing a job and I think that alone is outstanding work... I think it meets our mission statement. We're continuing to provide an excellent academic program for students. And I think the other programs that we're adding are very much forward thinking programs."

Learn More About These Programs on Page 2

New Programs for 2026-27 Across the District, at No Additional Cost:

1. **Introduction to Microchip Design & Semiconductor Technology**
2. **Elementary Bikes & School Program**
3. **Introduction to Sports Psychology**
4. **Unified Physical Education Expansion**
5. **AP Business & Personal Finance**
6. **K-5 Learn to Swim Program**
7. **Addition of District Run Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Section**



Capital Project Updates for Summer 2026

Capital Project work is underway at Shaker High School! For more information on the Capital Project, visit page 4.

Pictured: Work has begun on the J-Wing addition.

North Colonie By the Numbers

2026-27 Proposed Budget Highlights (Continued)

6,168

students district-wide as of March 2026, with a projected increase for the 2026-27 school year

850,030

projected miles traveled by the Transportation Department for the 2025-26 school year

+21,225

mile increase from the year before

65+

languages spoken by district multilingual learners

3,500+

students in musical programs district-wide

224,109

New York State apple products (whole apples, apple slices, juice, and applesauce) sold (school year-to-date)

284

acres of property maintained by North Colonie staff

55

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for 2025-26 school year

838,322

breakfast and lunch meals served (2024-25 school year)

66

performing groups district-wide

87

athletic teams in the district

4

Unified Sports teams in the district, with teams participating in all athletic seasons

Introduction to Microchip Design & Semiconductor Technology: Through an exciting regional partnership with RPI, Hudson Valley Community College, and Siemens Industry Software, Shaker High School is one of 10 pilot schools to be selected for this program. This course offers students project-based teaching and learning and would require no new staffing.

Elementary Bikes & School Program: In partnership with Russell Sage College, this program will be embedded into Physical Education courses for all kindergarten students in the district. This provides regular, inclusive opportunities for all students, while helping them build early skills and confidence in physical activity. This program has been piloted at Forts Ferry this year in order to gather feedback and refine the program for next year. It will be taught by our current P.E. staff and hence would require no new staffing.



Pictured: Forts Ferry Kindergarten Students Piloting the Bike Program

Introduction to Sports Psychology: This health elective course explores the mental and emotional factors that influence athletic performance, motivation, and overall well-being, making it valuable to students interested in sports, fitness, health sciences, or human behavior. It will be taught by our current health staff and hence would require no new staffing.

Unified Physical Education Expansion: Building on its success at SHS, North Colonie CSD is expanding its Unified Physical Education program to Shaker Middle School in the 2026-27 school year. This creates inclusive opportunities for students with and without disabilities to collaborate, lead, and support one another and establishes an earlier, more intentional pathway into the high school Unified P.E. experience. This program will be taught by our current P.E. staff and hence would require no new staffing.

AP Business & Personal Finance: This new AP Career Kickstart course being offered by College Board would be North Colonie CSD's first AP Business course. It is easily tailored to fit into existing CTE programs of study, teaching students business management and personal finance literacy skills through entrepreneurial projects and simulated work-based experiences. This college-level course offers an employer-endorsed credential and aims to prepare students for both higher education and career success. This course would require no new staffing.

K-5 Learn to Swim Program: This is an optional program that would be offered outside of the school day, typically in the evenings during the spring season. It's a cost free program that provides flexibility for interested students and families to participate and supports the development of important life skills such as water safety, independence, collaboration, and confidence. This program has been piloted with some of our third grade students at Latham Ridge and Blue Creek and would require no new staffing.

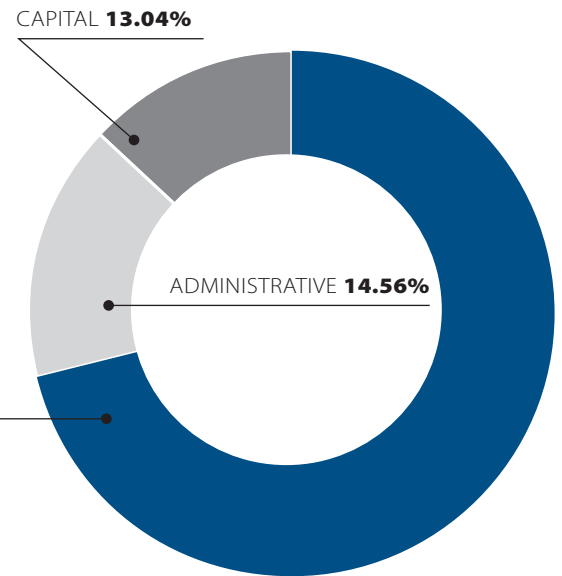
Addition of District Run Universal Pre-K Section*

The expectation is to add our own district-run UPK section, which will be in addition to the existing UPK offerings in conjunction with our community partners. **This option is dependent on the New York State budget.*

2026-27 Budget Summary:

A line-by-line look at expenditures

New York state law requires all school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories (program, administrative, and capital) and compare them to last year's amounts. North Colonie's three-part budget is as follows:



Program

| | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| 2026-27 | \$119,166,878 | 72.40% |
| 2025-26 | \$110,622,768 | 71.26% |

Includes salaries and benefits for all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks and equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (except bus purchases).

Administrative

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| 2026-27 | \$23,955,667 | 14.56% |
| 2025-26 | \$24,676,595 | 15.90% |

Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information and printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, tax collection, and some legal costs.

Capital

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| 2026-27 | \$21,458,809 | 13.04% |
| 2025-26 | \$19,931,140 | 12.84% |

Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings, school bus purchases, utilities, general insurance and tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.

PROGRAM

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 Proposed |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| K-12 Instruction | \$46,130,880 | \$47,918,981 |
| Special Education & Pupil Support Services | \$15,267,930 | \$17,311,827 |
| Counseling, Psychology, Social Worker Services | \$4,499,208 | \$4,423,418 |
| Library & Instructional Technology | \$3,708,554 | \$4,043,461 |
| Health Services | \$1,851,517 | \$2,047,669 |
| Sports & Co-Curricular | \$1,590,913 | \$1,779,145 |
| Summer School Programs | \$219,500 | \$219,500 |
| Interfund Transfers | \$340,000 | \$340,000 |
| Transportation | \$6,055,650 | \$7,775,675 |
| Employee Benefits | \$30,958,616 | \$33,307,202 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$110,622,768 | \$119,166,878 |

ADMINISTRATIVE

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 Proposed |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Board of Education | \$114,506 | \$125,389 |
| Central Administration | \$3,818,794 | \$4,102,404 |
| Information Technology | \$4,656,293 | \$4,704,683 |
| Insurance | \$167,310 | \$182,743 |
| School Administration | \$10,153,761 | \$9,499,733 |
| Employee Benefits | \$5,765,931 | \$5,340,715 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$24,676,595 | \$23,955,667 |

CAPITAL

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 Proposed |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Debt Service | \$7,689,463 | \$9,654,263 |
| Property Services | \$147,000 | \$147,000 |
| Interfund Transfer: Bus Purchase | \$1,723,856 | \$0 |
| Operations & Maintenance | \$8,317,595 | \$9,308,137 |
| Employee Benefits | \$2,053,226 | \$2,349,409 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$19,931,140 | \$21,458,809 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$155,230,502 | \$164,581,354 |

Questions & Answers

Q: Why is the budget increasing by 6.02% from last year?

A: The proposed budget of \$164,581,354 reflects a \$9,350,852 increase (6.02%) from the prior year, with a tax levy increase of 3.90%. The proposed budget maintains all existing programs and staffing.

Q: What programs will be added for the 2026-27 school year?

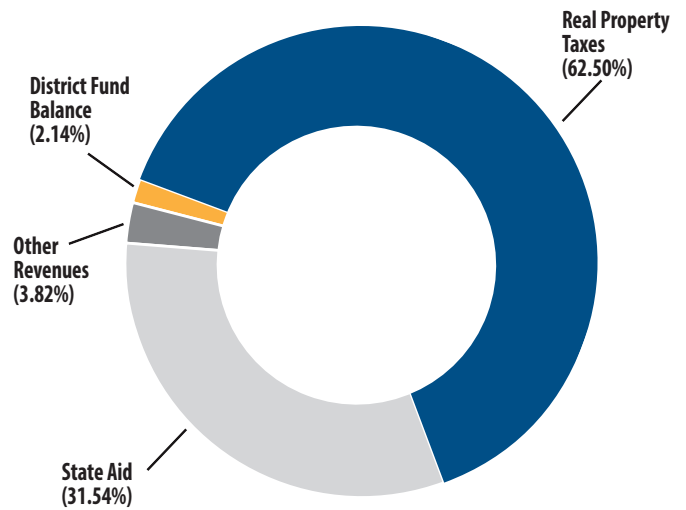
A: To increase opportunities for students in the district, seven new programs will be added, utilizing current resources and partnerships, with no impact to the budget. These programs include: Introduction to Microchip Design & Semiconductor Technology, Elementary Bikes & School Program, Introduction to Sports Psychology, Unified Physical Education Expansion, AP Business & Personal Finance, K-5 Learn to Swim Program, Addition of District Run UPK Section. *See page 2 for more details.*

Q: What is the difference between tax levy and tax rate?

A: The tax levy is the total amount of taxes that a school district raises from property owners within the district in order to balance its budget. The district determines what the levy will be after accounting for all other sources of revenue, including state aid. The tax rate is used to calculate what each property owner will pay in school taxes.

Q: Where does the money come from?

A: The total proposed revenue of \$164,581,354 comes from real property taxes (62.50%), state aid (31.54%), other revenues (3.82%), and the district fund balance (2.14%).



Q: How does the proposed tax rate compare to the New York State tax cap?

A: Under the state’s property tax cap law, the maximum allowable levy limit is 4.689%. North Colonie CSD is proposing a tax levy increase of 3.90%, allowing the district to continue to be below the maximum allowable levy limit.

Capital Project Updates for Summer 2026



Pictured: Work on Taft Cafeteria (Top), Work on J-Wing (Bottom)

Our Facilities team has had a busy few months, preparing for the start of the Capital Project. The team will continue this work into the summer months across the district. Below is a listing of the current work underway, along with the summer work to begin in June 2026.

- In-Progress: J-Wing Addition Work Underway**
- C, D, and E-Wing Bathroom Upgrades Underway**
- May 2026 - New Turf for Lower Maloy Field to Begin**
- June 2026 - Walker Field Track Replacement, Fencing Work, New H Gym Entrance to Begin**
- Summer 2026 - Construction will take place across the district, with work being performed in all schools over the summer.**

Board of Education Candidates

On Tuesday, May 19, North Colonie residents will elect two candidates; each to five-year terms, without compensation, to the Board of Education. Seats are not at large and candidates had to declare what seat they were running for at the time they picked up petitions. The open seat of current board member Nicholas P. Comproski has two candidates running, with Comproski as the incumbent. The open seat of Mary Nardolillo has two candidates running. Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot. The order is drawn at random. For more details about the BOE candidates, visit northcolonie.org and click on Board of Education.

Board of Education Candidates - Seat One

Jessica Morelli-Edmonds

Jessica Morelli-Edmonds is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. Morelli-Edmonds holds two positions that she feels reflect her commitment to supporting families and institutions. As a Principal Consultant at NYS-TEC, a non-profit consulting company, she works in the education technology space, helping state agencies and education institutions successfully implement complex projects and programs. She also owns and operates Milky Way Babies LLC, serving as a Certified Lactation Counselor supporting families throughout the Capital Region, offering services on a sliding scale to ensure that cost is never a barrier to families who need support.



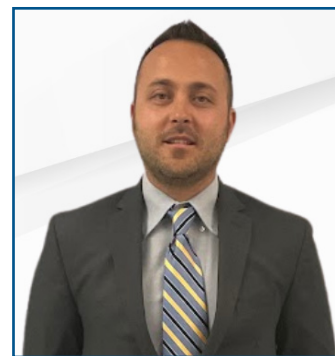
Morelli-Edmonds is active in the North Colonie community, serving on the Loudonville Elementary School PTA, North Colonie Special Education PTA, and the North Colonie Community Advisory Committee. She is also an advisor/mentor for the University at Albany Career Advisory Network. Morelli-Edmonds is a graduate of Shaker High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Siena University, and her Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Education Policy from the University at Albany.

From Ms. Morelli-Edmonds:

I am running for the Board of Education because North Colonie deserves leadership that puts students first and supports the educators who serve them. As a North Colonie graduate and now a parent in the district, I have seen firsthand the difference that strong schools make. My background and work in education policy and programs has shown me what is possible when systems are designed around student needs. My work as a Lactation Counselor has reinforced the importance of meeting families where they are - ensuring services are truly accessible. I want to bring that same commitment to the Board: supporting our teachers, making family services work for all families, and making decisions grounded in what is best for students. North Colonie has incredible potential, and I am ready to help every student thrive.

Dr. Nicholas P. Comproski

Dr. Nicholas P. Comproski is serving his fifth year on the Board of Education and is seeking reelection to a second term. A proud graduate of the North Colonie CSD, he attended from kindergarten through his graduation from Shaker High School in 2010.



Comproski currently serves as co-chair of the Board's Long Range Planning and Curriculum Committees. His involvement in the district extends beyond the Board, including active participation in the Latham Ridge PTA and over a decade as a volunteer coach across multiple district sports programs.

Professionally, he brings a broad range of experience in education, having served in several districts as a Teaching Assistant, Substitute Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Social Studies Teacher, Assistant Principal, Building Principal, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, CSE Chair, and UPK Director. He also worked as an adjunct professor in the teacher preparation program at the College of Saint Rose prior to its closure. In the Fall of 2024, he earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Russell Sage College.

In addition to his work in education, Comproski has proudly served for 16 years as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, currently holding the rank of lieutenant, and previously serving on the Board of Directors for the Maplewood Volunteer Fire Department. He has also contributed to numerous community and charitable organizations in various volunteer roles.

From Mr. Comproski:

I am seeking re-election because I believe strongly in the work we do as a district and want to continue contributing to its growth and success. My goal is to help ensure that every student and family has a positive and rewarding experience. I care deeply about this community and remain committed to serving it through the Board of Education.

Board of Education Candidates - Seat Two

Sean Martin

Sean Martin is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is the owner of 518 Bookkeeping, which provides accounting and bookkeeping services. In addition to this, he is also a freelance writer and published author.



Martin is active in the North Colonie community, having served for many years as treasurer for the Latham Ridge PTA and the North Colonie PTA Council. He is actively involved in the St. Pius X Congregation and is a youth sports coach. Martin is a graduate of Plattsburgh State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications.

From Mr. Martin:

As a proud father and dedicated community member of the North Colonie Central School District, I would be honored to be a member of the esteemed school board. North Colonie has been at the center of most of my adult life and I intentionally purchased a home and created a life for my family and me in North Colonie. I am a compassionate, supportive and level-headed community member who looks forward to working in partnership with my fellow Board members, the North Colonie CSD community and community members.

Janet Appe

Janet Appe is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She is a psychometrician at Capital Care Developmental Pediatrics in Latham. She provides standardized assessments in the areas of autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. As a certified school psychologist, she has worked in local school districts and mental health treatment programs.



Locally, Appe has volunteered as a soccer coach and Girl Scout leader. She is also an active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Albany, co-directs its youth program, and, along with her 13 year old son, joined a group from church on a civil rights pilgrimage. The group traveled from Atlanta to Alabama to learn about historical events from the civil rights movement.

Janet and her wife, Beth, are both alumni ('98, '97) and parents of current students ('34, '34, '30) in the North Colonie CSD. Her father is also an alumnus ('69). In her free time Janet enjoys exploring the area's nature preserves, spending time with family, and following women's tennis.

From Ms. Appe:

I am committed to public service. I firmly believe in the value of a strong public school system and am proud to be a member of the North Colonie community. As an elected Board Member, I will be an active contributor to what is already an impactful and productive Board of Education. I look forward to supporting the Board of Education's accomplishments and objectives. I will strive to serve all students and their families in the district. I will promote continued sound financial management and will support its diverse community more broadly. I will be a strong advocate for students. Additionally, my expertise in special education and developmental pediatrics will strengthen the Board's ability to plan and implement effective practices to support all students, including those with special needs. I will commit to its residents the provision of quality education for all school-aged children. As a North Colonie Board of Education Member, I look forward to the opportunity to learn, listen and lead, among and for my district neighbors.



READ ACROSS AMERICA AT NORTH COLONIE

What started out as an idea to help high school and elementary libraries collaborate more led to a day of... reading! On Monday, March 2, more than 200 Shaker High School students went around the district to visit students in all six elementary schools for National Read Across America Day. To celebrate the day, high school students from the SHS Writing Center, Literature in Education classes, and National English Honor Society did read alouds and facilitated other activities with more than 1,500 elementary students.

"This truly became a collaborative effort across the district," said SHS Librarian Rebecca Byrne. "It was incredibly rewarding to see so many people come together to center reading and build connections across grade levels."

In addition to reading together, activities for the day included bookmark creation, poster contribution, question and answer panels, and story in motion. Older grade levels also had the opportunity to ask questions about what middle and high school are like.

"We feel it was very successful in its first year and hope to be able to continue it in the future," said Ms. Byrne.

Thank you to our librarians, teachers, staff, and homeschool coordinators for recruiting and collaborating to ensure that Read Across America Day was a success here in North Colonie!

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The Bison is getting a name! On May 9 (rain date May 16), the Bison's name will be announced at the Bison Birthday Bash & North Colonie's 75th Anniversary Celebration! See our website and social media for the full reveal!

SMS STUDENT WINS HISTORY DAY CONTEST



Congratulations to SMS eighth grader Inaayah Ashar for coming in first place in the Junior Division for the Capital Region History Day at the New York State Museum! Inaayah presented her original documentary, "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History: How a Peaceful Protest was the Only Solution for the Courageous Country of Lithuania." She also won an award from WMHT for best documentary in both the Junior and Senior Division.

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TRANSPORTATION TEAM GIVES 100%!



100%! The North Colonie CSD transportation mechanics received a perfect rating on their New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) inspection for the 2025-26 school year! Congratulations to our team of eight and thank you for your dedication to keeping our students safe on buses each and every day.



REPEAT VICTORY FOR UNIFIED BOWLING

Strike after strike, Shaker does it again! Congratulations to our Unified Bowling champions on an incredible repeat victory! In March, the team took home the top award for the second consecutive year.

SOPHOMORE AWARDED YWCA YOUNG EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to SHS sophomore Akshita Bandari, for being honored with the Young Excellence Award by the YWCA, which recognizes young leaders who demonstrate commitment to community service, leadership, and academic excellence. Akshita was recognized for her work as co-founder of EmpowerMed, a youth-led health education initiative, her advocacy in public health campaigns, leadership in the Free Healthcare Initiative, and her active participation in school clubs and academic pursuits.



STUDENTS RECEIVE NUMEROUS ART AWARDS

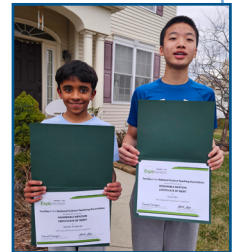
A total of 33 students from SHS and one from SMS have been recognized in the Scholastics Art & Writing Awards. Students received 16 Gold Key Awards, 14 Silver Key Awards, and 25 Honorable Mentions, for a total of 55 visual art honors. Keeping up with their success, earlier this year 16 students had their work recognized at the 27th Annual High School Regional Juried Exhibition. Learn more and see their work on our website.



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SMS STUDENTS PLACE IN SCIENCE COMPETITION

Congratulations to SMS eighth grade students Rohith Krishnan and Louis Jin for receiving an Honorable Mention in the Toshiba ExploraVision Competition! The yearly competition is widely recognized as the world's largest K-12 science competition and is organized by Toshiba in partnership with the National Science Teaching Association. Rohith and Louis worked together to research and develop a proposal for a future technology concept for "NOSSA- Self Secreting Cooking Oil!"



NORTH COLONIE KIDS CARE - SPRING 2026



February 2026 –
Haitham Hussein & Eveline Hanchett



March 2026 –
Isaiah, Levent, Ryan, Kaia, Josie, Mara, Josh and Olivia

North Colonie Kids Care provides our district with the chance to spotlight students whose accomplishments stand out, even among the many wonderful achievements of our students. Learn more about our recent recipients on our website at northcolonie.org/kidscare.

SPRING MUSICALS "FOOTLOOSE" AND "DESCENDANTS" A SUCCESS



Talent was on full display in March, as both SHS and SMS presented their annual spring musicals. SHS cut loose and brought "Footloose" to life (pictured left and above), while SMS shared the world of "The Descendants" (pictured right). Congratulations to the cast and crew of both shows for a great run!



FARM TO SCHOOL EFFORTS BLOOM ACROSS THE DISTRICT

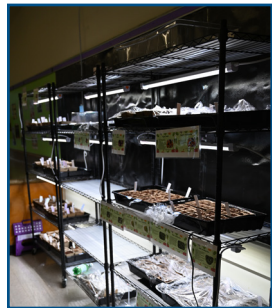
GREENHOUSES GROW UP!

Construction is underway for two new greenhouses in the North Colonie CSD. Our Maintenance and Facilities teams have been hard at work, constructing one greenhouse outside of Central Office, which will be maintained by the students and staff in our Transitions Program. The other is located in the upper courtyard at SHS outside of the Freshman Seminar rooms, where those students and faculty members will maintain it. These greenhouses were ordered in the fall of 2025 with a NYS Farm to School grant and will help extend the growing season here in North Colonie.



LEARNING OUTDOORS AT SMS

Students at SMS are getting some fresh air as they learn in their new outdoor classroom. It's the site of beautiful, new wooden benches and a whiteboard that teachers can utilize to get kids outside while still learning. Culture, Community and Collaboration Innovation Lab Teacher Erica Doolittle has taken full advantage of the space with her students when the weather cooperates.



GROW ROOM SPROUTS AT SOUTHGATE

Who says it's too cold to grow year round? Southgate Elementary School has created a "Grow Room," which will be used strictly for growing throughout the year. Planting began in the Grow Room in April as part of a buddy project between communications students and fifth graders. The goal is to begin planting seeds for tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, flowers and more while it's still cold outside, in the hopes that they will be ready to move into the Southgate Garden and other gardens around the district, when the weather warms up in the spring. The refreshed space has racks with lights that will help heat the seeds and encourage germination indoors. It's never too early to start!

CONGRATULATIONS SHAKER GIRLS' BASKETBALL & COACH SHIPLEY!

The Shaker girls' varsity basketball team and coach Jaimee Shipley had a great season! In January, Shipley reached 100 career wins as head coach. Following this, she led the basketball team to a history making season, with a trip to the NYSPHSAA Class AAA Tournament semifinals. The Blue Bison battled Albertus Magnus in a thrilling matchup at Hudson Valley Community College, forcing overtime before falling 64-60. The team finished as the 6th ranked team in New York State. The Blue Bison won their first Section 2 Championship in 15 years, first Regional Championship in program history, and made their first State Final 4 appearance in program history. Congratulations to Coach Shipley and her team on an unforgettable season!



NORTH COLONIE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

A simple motto can shape an entire community. At SMS, the special education team lives by one phrase: "Actually, they can." Special Education Teachers Mrs. Susan Deierlein and Mrs. Christina Biviano make sure every student, family member, and colleague feels what those words truly mean. Neither Mrs. Deierlein, a Newburgh native and St. Rose graduate, nor Mrs. Biviano, a 2006 Shaker alum and special education teacher of 14 years, expected their paths to lead them to special education.

"I was actually a radio and TV film student at Marist, and I graduated with a communications degree," said Mrs. Deierlein. "I came up here and worked at Clear Channel, and then quickly decided that was not what I wanted to do. I watched a 20/20 special of two individuals with autism communicating through piano and I decided to do something like that. I saw St. Rose had a career changing pathway where you could get your masters. So I joined that program and from there on, I solely focused on special education."

Mrs. Biviano's journey was inspired by a familiar face at SHS, Social Studies teacher of 28 years, Mrs. Christine Butry.

"I was a history major, thinking I was going to be a U.S. history teacher," she said. Planning to follow that path, Mrs. Biviano pursued dual certification and found herself in a self-contained classroom. "I absolutely fell in love. I realized I need to do this. I need to help families. I need to help students. Just become a key contributor to society, both in and out of school."

Together, Mrs. Deierlein and Mrs. Biviano are working to change the narrative and stigma surrounding special education, showing every day that their students can succeed. One of the most visible examples of that mission is SMS's newest addition, the Bison Brew, for which the impact is undeniable.

"The coffee cart is our absolute passion," said Mrs. Deierlein. "Some parents were saying, they'll never be able to do this, and now we're able to say 'no, they are doing this.' The Bison Brew days are the best days, kids come down, and they smile and hang out, and kids are delivering all over the building."

The duo is constantly expanding the Bison Brew, creating new opportunities for students to build real-world skills, from pouring drinks and handling money to making snacks and producing videos for their Instagram account (@bison_brew).

Outside the classroom, both teachers cherish time with their families. Mrs. Deierlein is often found with a book and coffee in hand, while Mrs. Biviano might be coaching her daughter's gymnastics team, working out, or also enjoying a cup of coffee. When it comes to fun facts, their differences shine. Mrs. Deierlein loves musical theater, while Mrs. Biviano is a fan of Lil' Wayne. While their music tastes may be worlds apart, their shared passion for their students is perfectly in sync.



CHRISTINA BIVIANO (left),
14 Years with North Colonie
SUSAN DEIERLEIN (right),
8 Years with North Colonie
Special Education Teachers at SMS



AMY RYMAN
4 Years with North Colonie
School Nurse at Loudonville

Loudonville Elementary School may be the oldest and smallest school in the North Colonie CSD, but for School Nurse Mrs. Amy Ryman, its close-knit community is what makes it special, and what has made her love working there the past three years. Prior to her time with North Colonie, she worked as a nurse at Albany Medical Center, a position that eventually inspired her to take the job in the district. As a mom of three, Mrs. Ryman understands the importance of support.

"I would see kids at their worst, and it was hard not really being able to see the kids or follow their progress after," Mrs. Ryman said. "So this is really nice here that I get to see the kids grow and be with them, through sickness and health."

Originally from Windham, Mrs. Ryman joined the Air Force and "went to a whole bunch of different places," before eventually moving to the Capital Region to be closer to her family after they relocated. After leaving the Air Force, Mrs. Ryman was unsure of her next step. But when her youngest child, now 14, was diagnosed with a chronic illness, she found her calling in making a difference in the lives of others.

In her free time, Mrs. Ryman enjoys spending time outdoors and with her family and can often be found at The Crossings. Through her care, compassion, and daily connections with students, Mrs. Ryman continues to make a meaningful impact at Loudonville, proving that even the smallest school can leave the biggest impression.



AILEEN DIRTADIAN
*34 Years with North Colonie
 Mathematics Teacher at SHS*

Mrs. Aileen Dirtadian has been a fixture of the mathematics department at SHS for 34 years. Currently teaching Precalculus and Calculus BC, she has taught nearly every math class at every level over her career. A native of Troy and a graduate of Catholic High, Mrs. Dirtadian’s journey into education was greatly influenced by her mother, a longtime English teacher at both Troy and Catholic High. She recalls that from as early as her elementary school years, she had a passion for helping her neighborhood friends work out math problems. That passion never waned.

Mrs. Dirtadian received her Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from St. Francis (PA) and her Master’s from the University at Albany. After spending a handful of years outside of North Colonie to start her career, she came to SHS in 1992 and has never looked back. What has kept her here? For her, that’s easy.

“It’s the people. It is really the people,” Dirtadian said. “The students, of course too, but the connections. When I started here, I found a family immediately and it was amazing. I started with Harriet Greenberg and Claudia Allison... oldies, but goodies, but they embraced me immediately, embraced me into their family.”

From a young age, Mrs. Dirtadian also became involved in the North Colonie Teachers’ Association and has spent the last 21 years as the secretary for the union. At the same time as she took over the role as NCTA secretary, she also took over the organization of SHS junior and senior awards, something she continues to this day.

“It’s another layer of knowing other people in other ways,” said Dirtadian. “Being able to help teachers and help them through difficult times when they’re hitting bad spots. With the union I do the retirement stuff too. So I try to guide them into their future and what it looks like.”

In her free time, Mrs. Dirtadian enjoys tutoring, spending time on their boat on Saratoga Lake, and working out at Hotworx alongside colleague and friend Mrs. Carm Avellino.

One person can change everything. For SHS Art Teacher Mr. John Doolittle, that idea isn’t just a belief, it’s something he’s lived and passed on to generations of students. Hailing from Middletown, R.I., Mr. Doolittle was once told by his high school guidance counselor that math and science were not his strong suits. As he tried to figure out his next steps, he felt unsure of his direction. That same counselor encouraged him to continue to pursue his love for the arts.

“The ceramics class and teacher in high school really changed my whole outlook on school and life,” said Mr. Doolittle. “It gave me focus and direction.”

He went on to major in art at Skidmore College, with concentrations in Graphic Design and Ceramics, but after graduating, he still wasn’t certain how he would use his degree.

“My dad was in education in Rhode Island for 45 years,” said Mr. Doolittle. “Watching my dad do what he did for so long and being exposed to education for so long, it was an easy thing to decide.”

After earning his master’s degree from The College of Saint Rose, Mr. Doolittle moved to Latham with his wife, SMS Innovation Teacher Erica Doolittle. Since then, he has spent more than two decades at SHS, shaping not just artists, but people. His outlook on life and education are deeply connected.

In his ceramics classroom, learning goes far beyond technique. Students take part in "storytime," where Mr. Doolittle shares experiences that shaped his life, offers advice, and listens as students navigate important decisions about their futures. His impact extends beyond the classroom and into the culture of the building itself. Mr. Doolittle often reflects on the people around him, including SHS Hall Monitor Kay Smollin.

“You can’t walk by the front entrance without feeling the care and the love she has for the staff, the teachers, the kids,” said Mr. Doolittle. “That kind of spirit, I feel every day at SHS, wherever I am in the building.”

He also values his colleagues in the art department. “We go back a long way, and they’re incredible human beings,” shared Mr. Doolittle. “I work for a district that supports us in the art department. We have all the things that we need to pass on the vital sort of experience in the arts that all kids deserve and need. So, I’m grateful for that every day.”



JOHN DOOLITTLE
*28 Years with North Colonie
 Art Teacher at SHS*

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR STAFF MEMBERS ON NORTHCOLONIE.ORG/STAFFSPOTLIGHT](http://NORTHCOLONIE.ORG/STAFFSPOTLIGHT)



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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

North Colonie CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

91 Fiddlers Lane, Latham, NY 12110

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VOTE:

Tuesday, May 19
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Goodrich Building
91 Fiddlers Lane

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

By law, all voters must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older and residents of the North Colonie Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Voters must have a valid I.D.



**SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO REQUEST A
MAIL-IN BALLOT
FOR 2026 BUDGET VOTE**

As a result of the New York Early Voter Act, North Colonie residents who are registered voters are able to request a ballot to vote by mail this year.



1 REQUEST A BALLOT AND FILL IT OUT



2 SIGN, DATE AND SEAL IT



3 MAIL-IN YOUR VOTE

Required School District Budget Notice

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year* |
|---|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$155,230,502 | \$164,581,354 | \$160,741,104 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year | | \$9,350,852 | \$5,510,602 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 6.02% | 3.55% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 2.63% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$98,467,974 | \$102,308,225 | |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable | \$0 | \$0 | |
| C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable** | \$0 | \$0 | |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy | \$0 | \$0 | |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D) | \$98,467,974 | \$102,308,225 | \$98,467,974 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$2,293,649 | \$4,320,721 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$97,176,058 | \$98,764,376 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$96,174,325 | \$97,987,504 | |
| I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)** | \$1,001,733 | \$776,872 | |
| Administrative Component | \$24,676,595 | \$23,955,667 | \$22,716,364 |
| Program Component | \$110,622,768 | \$119,166,878 | \$116,820,431 |
| Capital Component | \$19,931,140 | \$21,458,809 | \$21,204,309 |

*It is anticipated that a contingent budget would require \$3,840,250 in reductions including elimination of equipment and capital purchases.

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

| Description | Amount |
|----------------|--------|
| Not Applicable | NA |

| | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year |
|---|---|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ | \$424 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the North Colonie Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Goodrich School (District Office) in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Goodrich School (District Office) at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.