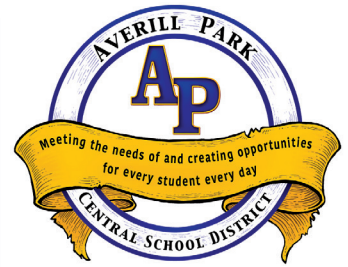


# Averill Park



## BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday  
May 17, 2022**

**7 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Averill Park High School  
AUXILIARY GYM**

*Voting will take place  
by scanning-type voting  
machines, as required by law*



Students have returned to in-person learning and are doing great things in the classroom this year.

## 2022-23 Proposed Budget Maintains Strong Academic Program

On Tuesday, May 17, Averill Park Central School District community members will vote on a spending plan for the 2022-23 school year that maintains a rigorous academic curriculum and supports diverse music, arts, extracurricular, and athletic programs.

"We are very pleased that we are able to maintain the strong academic program for our students that we have built over the years, while staying within the tax cap," Superintendent Dr. Franchini said. "There are still many unknowns ahead of us, including a potential fiscal cliff as the stimulus funds come to an end in the near future. We will continue to do everything we can to be good financial stewards for our community and honor our commitment to meet the needs of and create opportunities for every student every day."

The \$63,873,347 budget is supported by a 2.95% tax levy increase which continues the District's practice over the past 11 years of adopting tax levies which are within the State's statutory Property Tax Cap limit. The final State budget allocates \$26,969,970 in aid to Averill Park for 2022-2023 – an increase of \$1,329,241 over the current year. More information about these funds can be found on page 2.

The community will also vote on a proposition to purchase eight (8) school buses and one (1) truck at a maximum cost of \$809,373 as part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan (page 5).

### Highlights of the proposed budget include:

The District will see a reduction of 7.0 FTE in staffing from retirements and temporary appointments that are expiring, including four Aides, one Teacher Assistant, one Intervention Specialist and one Middle School AIS Teacher. Many of these reductions are needs-based and IEP-driven, so there is no impact on students. It does honor our commitment to reduce staffing when viable.

In an effort to address the amount of square footage that our custodial workers are responsible for, this budget includes an addition of 1.0 FTE for a custodial worker.

The 2022-23 budget also reaffirms the District's commitment to servicing our special education population. Specifically, this budget utilizes stimulus monies to fund an Assistant Director of Special Education and, as part of the General Fund, the District will implement a new in-house 6:1:2 Special Education program, which is both cost effective and best meets the needs of students.

If the proposed budget is approved by voters, Averill Park CSD will maintain current academic programs, AP classes, college credit courses and athletic teams. The budget continues to hold a wide range of academic programs, extracurricular activities and services for students in K-12. For more information about the proposed budget, please visit [averillpark.k12.ny.us](http://averillpark.k12.ny.us) and click on "Budget Corner."

### 2022-2023

#### BUDGET SUMMARY

- ▶ **Proposed Budget**  
\$63,873,347
- ▶ **Budget-to-Budget**  
Increase 3.9%
- ▶ **Estimated Tax Levy**  
Increase 2.95%

The Proposed Budget maintains programs and services offered in 2021-22 and meets the changing needs of the district.

#### Also on the Ballot...

- ▶ **Board of Education Election** (See page 2)
- ▶ **Bus Purchase Proposition** (See page 5)

# Stimulus Package Funds Are Short-Term Infusion

Last year, the Averill Park Central School District received federal stimulus funding as part of the American Rescue Plan and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations. These funds are available for schools to use for at least a two-year period.

A large portion of these funds must be used for specific state-regulated purposes, such as for providing summer enrichment and afterschool programs, addressing learning loss, providing professional development, and more. As such, the district has added intervention support positions at the elementary and middle school levels to address the academic needs of students who have been impacted by the disruption in a consistent educational program since March 2020. Also, the district ran a K-12 summer program last summer and plans to offer the same this summer. Finally, the district has appropriated funds to support the social-emotional needs of our students throughout the district, many of whom have struggled with the volatile conditions both in and out of school throughout the pandemic.

Please know that these funds are completely separate from the normal operating budget that community members will be voting on, and are not a recurring source of revenue. Once the stimulus money is spent, the normal operating budget must be able to continue to support programs and staffing or they would need to be cut. While the District has been deliberate and purposeful in how the stimulus funds have been spent, it will not be possible to offer all of the same programs or the same level of staffing once the stimulus funds expire. The remainder of the funding will expire at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year.

Additional, detailed information about how the district is using stimulus funds can be found on our district website: <https://averillpark.k12.ny.us/federalstimulusfunds>



During this year's Wellness Day at APHS, students participated in a number of sessions, including a Charcoal, Movement and Music workshop pictured here.

## Board of Education Election

Voters in the Averill Park Central School District will elect three members to the Board of Education this year. Board members serve three-year terms. For more information on candidates running for the Board of Education, visit [averillpark.k12.ny.us](https://averillpark.k12.ny.us) and click on "Budget Corner."

## 12:1:1 Classroom Improvements

The 2022-23 budget includes funding to enhance the 12:1:1 special needs classrooms at Averill Park High School. These classrooms can have up to 12 students, with one teacher and one classroom aide. The classes are designed to work with those young people who have great academic needs, with instruction tailored to their skill levels, as well as to develop the life and social skills necessary for success in life after high school.

If funding allows, safety enhancements will be made to the baseball and softball fields at the high school by installing fencing around the fields.

These improvements will be accomplished through a \$100,000 Capital Outlay project. These projects receive State Building Aid in the year following project completion. The District will then receive approximately \$77,900 in State Building Aid in 2023-24 as reimbursement for this project.



# Spotlight on Student Success

## DISTRICT

- The Averill Park Central School District has been ranked as a Top 10 school district in the Capital Region by niche.com.
- All five schools held events related to mental health and wellness.

## HIGH SCHOOL

- The girls varsity basketball team won the 2022 State Championship, beating Tappan Zee 54-58 in the title game at Hudson Valley Community College.
- Senior Amelia Wood broke the all-time scoring record for girls basketball, setting the bar at 1,544 points during her varsity career.
- 61 students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- The APHS Odyssey of the Mind team placed third at the New York State competition, qualifying for Worlds in Iowa.
- The boys varsity soccer team won the Section II, Class A championship, defeating La Salle in the final game to win its first title since 2013.
- Six students are sponsored by the American Legion to attend Boys State and Girls State this summer. They are: Timothy Elliott, Matthew Frost & Tyler Michaels; Kathleen Doran, Emma Hanlon & Saeryn Sawyer
- Sonja Kaye and Francesca Morone were named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Six seniors were selected for the New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence Award, including Isabella Cardillo, Alexandra Gaboury, Sonja Kaye, Sydney Ferguson, Danielle LaPier and Francesca Morone. The selection was based on class rank and certain Regents exam scores.
- The varsity boys bowling team won the Suburban Council Gray Division championship for the first time since 2000, when they competed in the Colonial Council.
- The Robotics Club won a state qualifier at West Genesee CSD and competed in the state competition.
- Seven students in the Class of 2022 fulfilled their academic requirements in an accelerated manner and graduated at the mid-year point in January, including Emily Shaffer, Avery Leveroni, Aydan Lachar, Meya Francis, Stephen Catalano, Morgan Browe and Annalise Agostine.
- Senior Liam Rounds received a National Gold Key award for his AP Studio portfolio.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

- The CARES program returned to Algonquin Middle School. This after-school program has a mission to deepen the connection between students and their school, and to improve students' academic performance in their current grade level.
- With support from the Averill Park Education Foundation, AMS started its first-ever Esports team.
- With federal stimulus funding, the AMS Summer Program was provided to 51 students with daily ELA, math, science, social studies and art/physical activity programming to support our most struggling learners develop skills for middle school success.
- Students at Algonquin Middle School donated more than 1,500 canned food items to support the Sand Lake Kiwanis holiday dinner program and local food pantries.
- Algonquin Middle School held its Kids Heart Challenge event to raise money for the American Heart Association, collecting more than \$6,000.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- The Reading League worked with elementary school teachers to deepen their understanding of early literacy and the science behind how students learn to read.
- Jaxon Rouleau raised more than \$1,000 during the annual PTA Fun Run Boosterthon and was named the Poestenkill Elementary School Principal for the Day.
- West Sand Lake Elementary School held its first Harvest Run where students brought in donations of food items to be donated to local food pantries.
- Students from West Sand Lake Elementary School and Poestenkill Elementary School participated in the Girls on the Run 5K.
- Students and staff members at Miller Hill-Sand Lake Elementary School sold Make-A-Wish stars for \$1 a piece, raising \$558 which will help make a child's wish come true.

## APHS Expands College Credit Offerings

One of the goals set for the Averill Park Central School District is to make sure that students are college and career ready. Averill Park High School has shown a commitment to this goal by constantly increasing the number of college credit courses that are available to students.

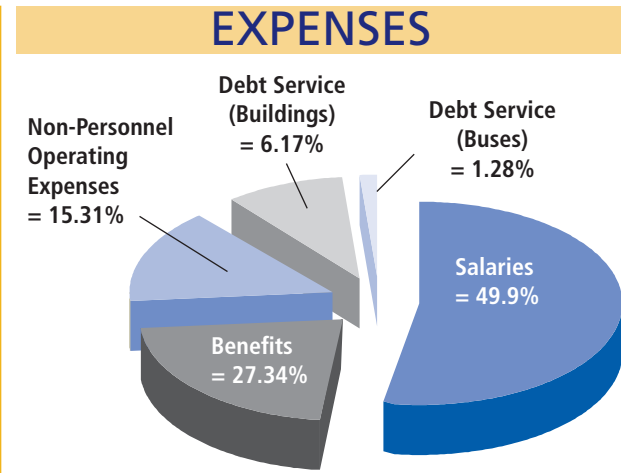
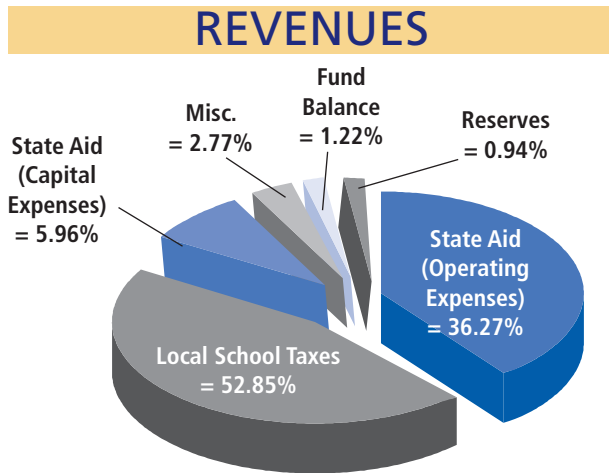
Currently, APHS offers 20 courses which offer the opportunity for students to receive college credit. Six of these have been added since 2019, including College Readiness and Research Skills (HVCC), Photography (C-GCC), Advanced Ceramics (C-GCC), English Comp 1 (C-GCC), English Comprehension 2 (C-GCC), and Music Theory (SCCC).

For the 2022-23 school year, the High School is expecting to boost that number once again, adding AP Physics through the College Board, with a three credit option via HVCC, and Intro to Government (HVCC). In addition, the District is continuing to explore half a dozen other options for the future.

In addition to these offerings, the High School administration has expanded many other programs, as well. For the 2021-22 school year, there are 24 extra-curricular clubs and activities available to students. There are 25 athletic teams, eight music organizations, and two service organizations. APHS also provides in-house CTE programs, including Auto Mechanics, Engineering, and Construction.

## REVENUES: Where money comes from to pay for Averill Park's schools

| Source of Revenue             | Proposed 2021-22    | Proposed 2022-23    | Dollar Change    |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| State Aid - Operating         | \$22,801,568        | \$23,164,373        | 362,805          |
| Local Tax                     | 32,790,622          | 33,756,381          | 965,759          |
| State Aid - Capital           | 2,839,161           | 3,805,597           | 966,436          |
| Misc                          | 1,657,496           | 1,766,996           | 109,500          |
| Fund Balance                  | 780,000             | 780,000             | —                |
| Debt Reserve                  | 88,000              | 0                   | (88,000)         |
| Workers' Compensation Reserve | -                   | 100,000             | 100,000          |
| ERS Reserve                   | 500,000             | 500,000             | -                |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>         | <b>\$61,456,847</b> | <b>\$63,873,347</b> | <b>2,416,500</b> |



## EXPENSES: How money is spent for Averill Park's schools

| Expenses                        | Proposed 2021-22    | Proposed 2022-23    | Dollar Difference  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>       |                     |                     |                    |
| Personnel Salaries              | \$31,126,630        | \$31,875,381        | \$748,751          |
| Personnel Benefits              | 17,107,218          | 17,465,551          | 358,333            |
| Non-Personnel Items             | 9,273,608           | 9,775,527           | 501,919            |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b> | <b>\$57,507,456</b> | <b>\$59,116,459</b> | <b>\$1,609,003</b> |
| <b>Capital Expenses</b>         |                     |                     |                    |
| Debt Service Buildings          | \$3,117,375         | \$3,942,100         | \$824,725          |
| Debt Service Buses              | 832,016             | 814,788             | (17,228)           |
| <b>Total Capital Expenses</b>   | <b>\$3,949,391</b>  | <b>\$4,756,888</b>  | <b>\$807,497</b>   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>           | <b>\$61,456,847</b> | <b>\$63,873,347</b> | <b>\$2,416,500</b> |

# School Bus Purchase Proposition

On May 17, when Averill Park residents vote on the 2022-23 school budget, they will also consider a bus purchase proposition. The proposition seeks voter approval to purchase eight (8) school buses and one (1) truck at a total cost not to exceed \$809,373 (see the breakdown of bus cost and financing below). The bus purchase is part of the district’s long-term bus replacement plan designed to keep the district’s fleet in safe, working order.

The School Bus Purchase Proposition breaks down as follows:

- \$603,709 for the purchase of five (5), 65-passenger school buses.
- \$182,161 for the purchase of three (3), 29-passenger school buses.
- \$63,602 for the purchase of a Chevrolet 3500 enclosed utility body truck.

Because the district is eligible to receive approximately 72 percent State Aid on the purchase of these buses, the actual cost to the district will be significantly less than the amount requiring voter approval. The district would also trade in eight (8) buses with a total value of \$40,099 that have become too costly for the district to maintain.



Residents will vote on a proposition to purchase eight school buses and one Chevrolet 3500 truck.

## Breakdown of Bus Cost & Financing

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Bus Total . . . . .  | \$ 785,870        |
| Less Trade-ins . . . . .                                   | \$ 40,099         |
| <b>Net Borrowing Cost After Trades . . . . .</b>           | <b>\$ 745,771</b> |
| <b>Total Principal to be financed (5 years) . . . . .</b>  | <b>\$ 745,771</b> |
| <b>Add Finance Cost . . . . .</b>                          | <b>\$ 44,637</b>  |
| <b>Total Purchase Cost . . . . .</b>                       | <b>\$ 790,408</b> |
| <b>Less State Aid . . . . .</b>                            | <b>\$ 567,513</b> |
| <b>Total Taxpayer Cost . . . . .</b>                       | <b>\$ 222,895</b> |
| <b>Annual Local Taxpayer Cost (over 5 years) . . . . .</b> | <b>\$ 44,579</b>  |

## TRANSPORTATION FACTS

- ▶ Between daily transport, sports, field trips, summer school and summer camps, Averill Park’s 75-unit bus fleet travels nearly one million miles a year.
- ▶ In 2021-22, there are 35 in-district runs covering 130 square miles and 14 out-of-district runs to 30 different private, parochial, charter and special needs schools. New York state requires the district to provide transportation to students living in-district who attend private and parochial schools within 15 miles of their home.
- ▶ The average life of fleet buses, due to terrain traveled and Northeast weather conditions, is about 10 years with each bus logging approximately 90,000-130,000 miles over that time.

## Bus Purchase Questions & Answers

### Why does the district purchase buses on a regular basis?

The proposed bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards. The plan allows the District to trade in or phase out older, high-mileage vehicles to avoid cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service.

### How does the district determine when to replace a bus?

Mileage is not the only consideration when determining which buses to remove from service and to replace. The primary consideration is the age of the bus. The average lifespan of a school bus in Upstate New York is roughly 10 to 12 years, mostly due to weather conditions. The salt mixture used on local roads is corrosive to a bus structure. After about 10 to 12 years, buses require costly and necessary repairs to pass New York state’s rigorous inspection process. It is not cost effective for the District to repair these vehicles.

### Why do I sometimes see buses with only a few students on them?

Usually, when you see a bus with only a few students on it, you are probably seeing a bus at the beginning or end of its route, depending on the time of day. Because we have combined high school and middle school bus runs, you may see a bus light in passengers as it travels between the schools for pick-up or drop off. We also transport students to several private, parochial, charter and special needs schools, using smaller vehicles in our fleet better suited to transport smaller numbers of students.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jessica Zweig, *President*  
 Dr. Peter A. Schaefer, *Vice President*  
 Jacqueline Geraci  
 Samantha Hicks  
 Douglas Kelley  
 Meghan McGarry  
 Ann Morone

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. James R. Franchini  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
  
 Matthew Hladun  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
  
 Carrie Nyc-Chevrier  
*Assistant Superintendent for Business*

For more information,  
 please call the district at  
**(518) 674-7066**

# Averill Park

**CENTRAL SCHOOLS**

146 Gettle Road, St. 1  
 Averill Park, NY 12018

NONPROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 CAR-RT SORT  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Averill Park, NY  
 Permit No. 11

To: BOX HOLDER  
 POSTAL PATRON  
 RURAL ROUTE  
 STAR ROUTE

*Produced by the Questar III Communications Service*

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE**

| <b>Overall Budget Proposal</b>   | <b>Budget Adopted<br/>for the 2021-22<br/>school year</b> | <b>Budget Proposed<br/>for the 2022-23<br/>school year</b> | <b>Contingent Budget<br/>for the 2022-23<br/>school year*</b> |
|--|---|--|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions   | \$ 61,456,847   | \$ 63,873,347  | \$ 62,907,588   |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 school year  |   | \$ 2,416,500   | \$ 1,450,741  |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in proposed budget  |   | 3.93%  | 2.40%   |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index   |   | 4.70%  |   |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount  | \$ 32,790,622   | \$ 33,756,381  |   |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable   | \$ -  | \$ -   |   |
| C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **  | \$ -  | \$ -   |   |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy   | \$ -  | \$ -   |   |
| E. Total Proposed School Tax Year Levy (A + B + C + D)   | \$ 32,790,622   | \$ 33,756,381  | \$ 32,790,622   |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit   | \$ 618,121  | \$ 699,575   |   |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions   | \$ 32,481,348   | \$ 33,056,806  |   |
| H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D) | \$ 32,172,501   | \$ 33,056,806  |   |
| I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**  | \$ 308,847  | \$ -   |   |
| Administrative Component   | \$ 5,394,741  | \$ 5,878,022   | \$ 5,488,872  |
| Program Component  | \$ 47,966,591   | \$ 48,827,853  | \$ 48,775,853   |
| Capital Component  | \$ 8,095,515  | \$ 9,167,472   | \$ 8,642,863  |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Averill Park Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at the Averill Park High School Auxiliary Gym in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine

\*Under NYS law, a school may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated the Board may adopt a contingent budget or put a budget before the voters a second time. If the budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingent budget. Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect that prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases. More significantly a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. Using the required formula, the proposed budget is within the allowable tax levy limit and requires a simple majority. The proposed tax levy increase under the proposed budget is \$965,759.

| **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 |
|---|-------------|--------|
|   | NONE        | \$0    |
| Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year   |             |        |
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>   |             | \$556  |

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

**WHO MAY VOTE?**

In order to vote, you must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the Averill Park CSD for at least 30 days prior to May 17, 2022. Advance registration is NOT required, however, you will be asked to show proof of residency. Such forms may include a driver's license, a non-driver's identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card.

**HOW CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?**

Residents who will be out of town, are unable to vote in person, or have concerns regarding COVID-19 can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. Applications may be requested by calling the District Clerk's office at 674-7085 or picked up at the District Office, located in the Averill Park High School at 146 Gettle Road. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 17, 2022.