



Tiger TRADITIONS

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

BUDGET EDITION

2024 Budget Edition - Volume 29 • Issue 3

MACS unveils Top 10 for **Class of 2024**



It's official: Mexico High School has revealed its Top 10 seniors for its Class of 2024.

Ainsley Bigelow and Avery Mack earned the distinction of class valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

Along with Bigelow and Mack, others achieving top 10 status, in ascending order starting from third, includes Ryan Jackson, Hayliann Smith, Ethan Becker, Emily Burlingame, Everett Bryant, Daniel Gagnier, Thi Huynh and Rosina Hawkins.

"We are incredibly proud of this group and how hard they have worked," said MHS Principal Christopher Soluri. "Their curiosity, critical thinking, and leadership abilities set them apart, inspiring their peers and contributing positively to our academic and extracurricular programs."

The 2024 graduation ceremony is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. June 28.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 6 p.m.

Mexico Middle School Auditorium

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Polls Open noon - 9 p.m.

NEW LOCATION

Mexico Middle School Gymnasium

BUDGET FAST FACTS

4.1% Proposed Budget Increase

2.5% Proposed Tax Levy Increase

MACS a Best Community for Music Education 12 years running

The Mexico Academy & Central School District has been selected for the 12th consecutive year as a Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation.

The organization, now in its 25th year of honoring music education communities, awarded just 975 districts nationwide and around 220 in New York state the distinction of Best Community for Music Education.

"Our music program rocks, and our community support — as evidenced by consistent full crowds and numerous program alumni — always astounds me," said MACS Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner. "Our district is deeply rooted in its musical traditions, and I must thank our

staff at every level for their care and passion, which passes along to our students."

The Mexico Academy & Central School District offers music instruction in classroom music K-12, instrumental music 4-12 as well as choral music in grades 3-12. All students in grades K-8 take music every year and 600-plus students districtwide participate in the band and choral programs.

The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.



A Message from the Superintendent




Dear MACS Family and Community,

We are excited to share with you our proposed school budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Our goal is to strike a balance between responsible financial management and providing the best possible education for our scholars. Here are the key highlights:

- 1. Minimally Raising School Taxes:** We understand the financial burden that taxes can place on our community members. Therefore, we have worked diligently to keep any tax increases to a minimum. Our focus is on maintaining essential services while being mindful of the impact on taxpayers.
- 2. Robust Staff and Curriculum:** Our teachers and staff play a crucial role in shaping the future of our students. We are committed to retaining and supporting our talented educators. The proposed budget allocates resources to ensure competitive salaries, professional development and a positive work environment.
- 3. Facilities Maintenance:** Our school buildings are vital assets that require regular upkeep. We have allocated funds to address maintenance needs promptly. We aim to create safe and conducive learning environments for all.
- 4. Fiscally Sound Financial Plan:** Looking ahead, we recognize the importance of long-term financial stability. Our budget planning considers not only the immediate needs but also the future. By making strategic investments and managing resources wisely, we aim to secure a strong financial foundation for our district.

In summary, our proposed budget reflects our commitment to excellence, fiscal responsibility, and community well-being. We invite your feedback and encourage you to attend our upcoming budget presentation session. Together, we can ensure that our schools continue to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

 Donna Runner, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

A Message from the Board President



At our April 16, 2024, Business Meeting, the MACS Board of Education approved a \$65,717,200 budget for the 2024-25 school year.

The budget represents a 4.1% or \$2,565,700 increase from the 2023-2024 school budget.

To support this budget increase, the Board decided it was prudent to raise the tax levy by 2.5% or \$325,295. As a reminder, the tax levy is the amount of the budget raised from our local tax bills that fills the gap between anticipated revenues and expenditures.

Because our calculated tax cap limit of 5.09% will not be exceeded, a simple majority vote is required to pass this budget.

This year's budget process was especially challenging because revenue for several important staffing positions that had previously been funded by COVID-19 funds was no longer available. After several lengthy budget presentations and discussions, the Board decided to fund some of those positions by making them part of the 2024-25 budget. A few examples of those funded positions include retaining a social worker, a counselor, and five teachers — with four of them at the elementary level.

In addition to the budget, there will be the familiar proposition for Student Transport Vehicles, that is, the recommended replacement of buses. This year, however, there will be two bus propositions as one will be specifically for the purchase of an electric bus. Part of the price for this electric bus will be from a grant, so the cost to the taxpayers will be approximately the same as the cost for a gas/diesel bus. Since New York state has mandated future bus purchases will be for electric buses, the Board believes the purchase of an electric bus would be a reasonable first step in moving toward that mandate.

Of course, with every budget, there may be questions, so I extend an invitation for you to join us for the annual budget presentation and meet the candidates on Thursday, May 9, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Mexico Middle School Auditorium.

Should anyone have any questions or concerns regarding this budget and propositions prior to or following the budget presentation, please feel free to contact the MACS District Office.

To conclude, I urge all of you to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from **noon to 9 p.m. at the Mexico Middle School Gymnasium**. (Please note this will be a change in polling site for voters. Due to a drop in voter turnout, a desire to pursue electronic voting machines and for enhanced security, the Board voted to go to a single polling site.)

Thank you for your consideration,


 James F. Emery
 President
 Mexico Academy and Central School Board of Education

#MACSACCOMPLISHMENTS

FALL

Boys Cross Country: Won the Section III Class C title, with Ethan Becker placing first in the sectional race, while Logan Fitzgerald, Everett Bryant, Aiden Bartlett, Colin Fitzgerald and Daniel Gagnier finished in the top 25. The Tigers finished fifth at the state meet, where Becker finished fourth overall.

CLASS OF 2023 PROFILE

Graduation Rate

All 91%

SWD 77%

Graduates

Regents Diploma 48%

Advanced Regents Diploma 13%

With MM and/or MS 11%

AP Statistics

Number of AP tests given 39

Number who scored a 3/4/5 34

Percent of Graduates earning Rigorous Outcomes:

Earned Dual Credit 89%

Earned 15+ Credits 23%

Advanced Diplomas 40%

Tech. Endorsement 10%

Passed 2+ AP Courses 16%

Seal of Biliteracy 3%

Post Graduate Plans

College 47%

4-Year College 57%

2-Year College 43%

Seek Employment 35%

Trade School 12%

Military 4%

Mean SAT Score

Evidence Based Reading/Writing ...541

Math536

2024-25 SCHOOL BUDGET SPECIAL SECTION

BUDGET VOTE and SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 21 • Noon - 9 p.m.

Single polling site, Mexico Middle School Gymnasium (*follow signs to enter*)

Voters will be asked to decide upon four (4) propositions, including the adoption of the proposed budget for the school year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, non-electric student transport vehicles, an electric transport vehicle, a transportation capital reserve fund and to elect three (3) Board of Education members.

PROPOSITION I – 2024-25 BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget for the Mexico Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, in the amount of \$65,717,200 be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes, therefor?

PROPOSITION II: STUDENT TRANSPORT VEHICLES NON-ELECTRIC

Shall the Board of Education purchase and finance five (5) student transportation vehicles at an estimated cost not to exceed \$800,000.00 including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$800,000.00, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$800,000.00, which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$800,000.00, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

PROPOSITION III: STUDENT TRANSPORT VEHICLES ELECTRIC

Shall the Board of Education of the Mexico Academy & Central School District be authorized to acquire one (1) electric bus to transport students, with a total estimated cost of \$476,775 which shall be funded by EPA Grant Funding and NYSBIP Funding, and therefore be authorized to expend a maximum amount not to exceed \$160,000 toward the purchase of the electric bus, and that such sum or so much thereof as the Board may deem appropriate, in its discretion, to be paid from General Fund or other legally available funds at the Mexico Academy & Central School District?

PROPOSITION IV: TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall, the Board of Education of the Mexico Academy & Central School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated, "2024 Transportation Capital Reserve Fund" created to defray the cost of school buses and other vehicles, including electric school buses and other electric vehicles, and transportation infrastructure, including construction and reconstruction of School District buildings and facilities, original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, and to defray the cost of, in whole or in part, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such reserve fund to be Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000), with a probable term of fifteen (15) years. The Board of Education is hereby authorized to pay funds from the available fund balance, state aid reimbursement to the School District on account of capital projects or transportation aid, such other monies as the voters may direct, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such reserve fund in an amount determined by the Board of Education up to the maximum authorized amount?

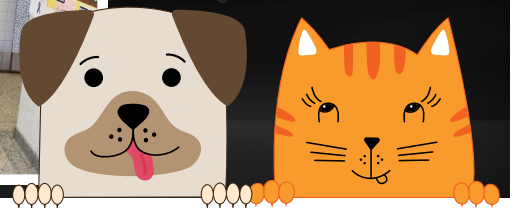
SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:

There are (3) openings. Two (2) for three-year terms commencing 7/1/24. Candidates with two highest number of votes will fill these seats. The third-highest in votes will finish one (1) term for a BOE member who resigned, commencing 5/21/24-6/30/25. Voters can also request an early vote application or an absentee ballot application. The early vote and absentee ballots must reach the Office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on 5/21/24 to be counted.

1. Connie A. Douglas 2. Chad Bigelow 3. Sue Hewitt 4. Amy Shaw

Nelly crowned winner of first **Mutt Madness & Feline Frenzy** tourney

Mexico CSD staff members volunteered their pets for our first Mutt Madness and Feline Frenzy tournament, which allowed for any pet to be entered and randomly drawn into a 64-pet bracket and voted on via the district Facebook page. This year's winner was Nelly Bickford, entered by her mom, Jennifer Bickford who works at Mexico Elementary School. Pictured along with Nelly, from left, are Nelly's dad Luke Bickford, MACS Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner and Jennifer Bickford.



2024 - 25 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

PROPOSED BUDGET

	2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET
General Support		
Board of Education	\$40,505	\$40,483
Central Admin	\$259,726	\$271,775
Finance	\$586,020	\$549,898
Staff (inc. Legal)	\$621,832	\$607,622
Central Services	\$5,083,334	\$5,188,136
Special Items	\$1,361,400	\$1,361,401
Total General Support	\$7,952,817	\$8,019,315
Instruction		
Administration & Improvement	\$1,938,035	\$1,960,585
Teaching	\$24,195,838	\$26,012,816
Instructional Media	\$2,628,089	\$2,642,455
Pupil Services	\$2,864,079	\$3,089,677
Total Instruction	\$31,626,041	\$33,705,533
Pupil Transportation		
Total Pupil Transportation	\$3,593,049	\$3,318,482
Community Service		
Total Community Service	\$154,680	\$125,000
Undistributed		
Employee Benefits	\$14,521,246	\$15,420,710
Debt Service	\$5,138,667	\$4,863,160
Interfund Transfers	\$165,000	\$265,000
Total Undistributed	\$19,824,913	\$20,548,870
GRAND TOTAL	\$63,151,500	\$65,717,200

REVENUE

	2023-24 REVENUE	2024-25 REVENUE
State Aid	\$35,049,530	\$36,372,986
PILOT/Reserves/Other	\$10,127,146	\$11,293,394
Taxes	\$13,011,795	\$13,337,090
Reserves	\$1,213,029	\$1,200,000
Fund Balance	\$3,750,000	\$3,513,730
TOTAL	\$63,151,500	\$65,717,200

THE THREE-COMPONENT BUDGET

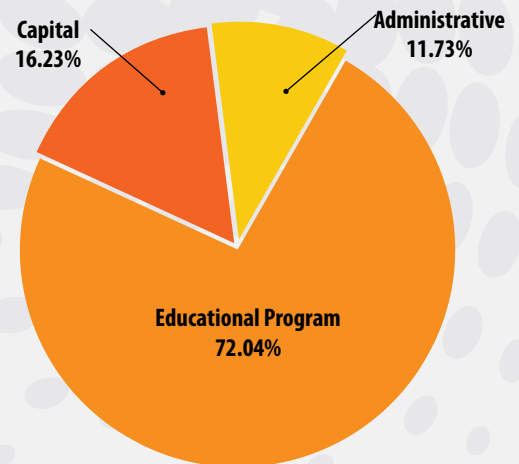
The state legislation which requires the state's school districts to have a public budget vote, includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three components: program, capital and administration. (see chart below)

Administration Budget: This section includes central administration and school offices, along with clerical support, salaries and benefits and related expenses of all school administrators, board of education expenses for planning, legal expenses and other administrative activities.

Educational Program Budget: This portion covers teacher salaries, school supplies and all related educational costs.

Capital Budget: Refers to all facilities costs such as leases, annual debt service, custodial salaries and benefits, service contracts, custodial supplies, maintenance and repair of facilities and utilities.

	24-25 PROPOSED BUDGET
Administrative Component	\$7,710,985
Program Component	\$47,340,808
Capital Component	\$10,665,406
TOTAL	\$65,717,200



The budget proposal also includes \$100,000 for capital improvement. NYSED allows a district to receive aid on capital expenses for projects that are funded with capital outlay (money spent either to purchase a fixed asset or to extend its useful life) that has a total cost of no more than \$100,000. A district may receive aid for this project the following year, which means they are increasing revenues for the following year. This allows districts to have small capital improvements and preventative maintenance to their facilities, while hopefully keeping the amount of large capital projects necessary over the years to a minimum. For the \$100,000 project in 2024-25, the district intends to replace an exterior fixed message sign with a digital display sign, including all related infrastructure improvements and selected interior building renovations.

BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 63,151,500	\$ 65,717,200	\$ 65,140,100										
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$ 2,565,700	\$ 1,988,600										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.06 %	3.15 %										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.1 %											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 13,011,795	\$ 13,337,090											
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 Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 13,011,795	\$ 13,337,090		\$ 13,011,795									
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 844,577	\$ 907,667											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 12,185,301	\$ 12,766,533											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 12,167,218	\$ 12,429,423											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 18,083	\$ 337,110											
Administrative Component	\$ 6,480,961	\$ 7,710,985	\$ 7,698,485										
Program Component	\$ 45,973,104	\$ 47,340,808	\$ 46,961,208										
Capital Component	\$ 10,697,435	\$ 10,665,407	\$ 10,480,407										
<p>* Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the board of Education must adopt a contingent budget. The following items are excluded from a contingent budget: non-health and safety equipment purchases, certain student supplies, non-essential maintenance, transportation of students under mileage limits set by state law, and public use of school building and grounds, except where there is no cost to the District. In light of the Property Tax Cap, under contingency the school district can levy no more taxes than the amount of taxes levied in the prior school year.</p>													
<p>** 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)</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus Proposition – Five (5) Non-Electric Vehicles</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 800,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bus Proposition – One (1) Electric Vehicle</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 160,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation Capital Reserve Proposition (up to; 15 year life)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 10,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	Bus Proposition – Five (5) Non-Electric Vehicles	\$ 800,000	Bus Proposition – One (1) Electric Vehicle	\$ 160,000	Transportation Capital Reserve Proposition (up to; 15 year life)	\$ 10,000,000		\$
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Bus Proposition – One (1) Electric Vehicle	\$ 160,000												
Transportation Capital Reserve Proposition (up to; 15 year life)	\$ 10,000,000												
	\$												

***NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS:** Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 487
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Mexico Academy & Central School District, Oswego County, New York, will be held at the Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of noon and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the District Middle School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

TAX LEVY AND CAP

Real Property Tax Levy 2023-24		\$13,011,795
Tax Base Growth Factor		1.0132
PILOTs Receivable FYE 2024	+	\$9,052,210
Capital Tax Levy Exclusion FYE 2024 (Includes BOCES Capital Exemptions)	-	\$844,577
Allowable Levy Growth Factor		1.02
PILOTs Receivable FYE 2025	-	\$9,052,474
Available Carryover from FYE 2024	+	\$0
Tax Levy Limit Before Adjustments/Exclusions		\$12,766,533
Capital Tax Levy Exclusion FYE 2024 (Includes BOCES Capital Exemptions)	+	\$ 899,780
Teachers' Retirement System Exclusion		-
Employees' Retirement System Exclusion		\$ 7,887
Total Exclusions		\$907,667
MACS 2024-25 Tax Levy Limit, With Exclusions		\$13,674,200
		5.09%

Note: 2024-25 Budgeted Tax Levy is \$13,337,090 which is a 2.5% increase.

MACS TAX BILL EXAMPLE FOR PROPOSED TAX LEVY

EXAMPLE OF AVERAGE TAX BILL AT FULL VALUE

	2023-24	2024-25	Average Increase
Average Assessment	\$116,000	\$116,000	\$0
Rate per thousand	\$14.14	\$14.50	\$0.35
Total Tax Bill	\$1,640	\$1,681	\$41

**This example shows the levy impact only and does not adjust for changes to assessments or equalization rates less than 100%.*

BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

May 21, 2024 • Noon to 9 p.m. at Mexico Middle School Gymnasium

Voters for District Votes must possess the following qualifications to register:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age
- Be a resident of the District for a period of at least 30 days prior to the day of the vote
- Who is not otherwise ineligible to vote under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law

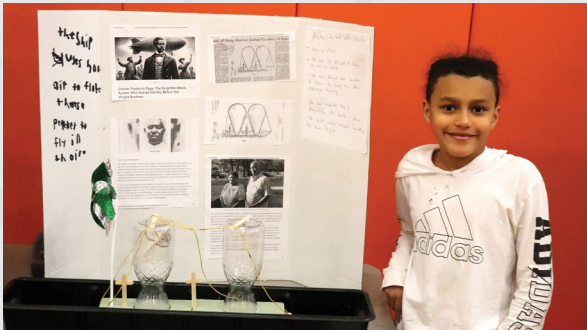
Voters can vote in-person or request an absentee or early vote ballot application.

If there is a qualified voter who is not registered with Oswego County Board of Elections or has not voted in an annual or special school election in the last four years, contact the District Clerk Harmony M. Rice by email at HRice@mexicocsd.org or call 315-963-8400 ext. 5401.

To be counted, completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024.

Mex El celebrates learning, hosts STEAM Fair with dozens of projects

Mexico Elementary School held its Celebration of Learning and STEAM Fair, featuring dozens of student projects throughout the gymnasium. Parents and families spilled in for the event to see teachers and learn about student progress before checking out the experiments in the gym.



Mexico MS travels to Albany for Music In Our Schools Month

About three dozen members of the Mexico Middle School music department traveled to Albany to perform in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) celebration of Music in Our Schools Month.

The group, totaling 35 from the MACS music department, was greeted by Assembly minority leader William Barclay and a representative from State Sen. Mark Walczyk's office, both of whom represent the Mexico CSD area at the state level.

The Select Singers choir, directed by Miss Rebecca Smith, performed music from "Hamilton," "Mamma Mia" and "The Greatest Showman." Their performance was capped off with music from the Barbie Movie, "I'm Just Ken."

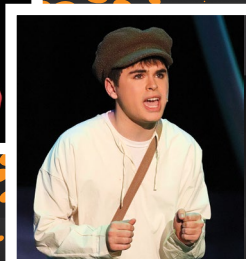
The jazz ensemble performed music from a few different genres with "Take the A Train," "Yesterday" by the Beatles, Music from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and the Taylor Swift hit "Shake it Off."

Following their performance, students had an opportunity to tour the state assembly and senate building and see our state government in action. Students also toured the state museum before heading home.



High School spring musical ventures 'Into the Woods'

Dozens of Mexico High School students staged this year's spring musical, "Into the Woods," from March 7-9. The group, directed by Ms. Laura Washburn, put on three shows in the high school's Avery Skinner Auditorium.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

James Emery - *President*
Darlene Ucraft - *Vice President*
Chad Bigelow
Dennis Brooks
Mark Lichtenstein
Amy Shaw
Susan Teifke
Ethan Becker - *Student Representative*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Donna Runner
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The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Elizabeth DiCosimo, 16 Fravor Road, Suite A, Mexico, NY 13114, 315-963-8400 x5413 or 315-402-8068. Inquiries concerning the application of the Mexico Academy & Central Schools non-discrimination policies may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, telephone (646) 428-3800 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TTY).

Elementary Battle of the Books



Team champions and runners up from elementary school-level battles took part in the annual Mexico CSD Grades 3-4 Battle of the Books competition, with dozens participating at all levels.

Each team read books ahead of the school-level competition, and answered 12 questions trying to identify which book and author is referenced.

The winning team in this year's district battle was the Future Knights from New Haven Elementary School, featuring students Lucas Lighthall, Layne Parkhurst and Victoria Reed. They advanced to take part in the regional battle against other local school districts.

In second were Mexico Elementary's The Brainstormers, followed in third by Palermo Elementary's The Book Adventurers. All teams and student participants are listed below.

MEXICO ELEMENTARY

This year's battle at Mexico Elementary in the gym featured seven teams, with The Brainstormers (Jacob Cahill, Alexis Gagnon, Georg Mehling, Claire Smith) taking first place and Book Brains (Allison Einbinder, Celia Rowley, Hunter Shendock) finishing second to advance to the district battle.

PALERMO ELEMENTARY

Palermo Elementary School's Battle of the Books had six teams participate onstage in the auditorium. The Book Adventurers (Avery Galaway, Brynn Ladd, Makenna McWilliams) won the competition, followed by The Sleepover Sisters (Ryleigh Hibbert, Brooke Ladd, Avrie Smith), and both advanced to the district battle.

NEW HAVEN ELEMENTARY

The school-level battle for New Haven took place in the cafeteria with four teams participating. The combined team of Reader in Me/Two Tigers (Alison B., Gabriella B., Alison Blunt, Gabriella Borden, Isabella Catanzareti) won that competition, followed in second by Future Knights (Lucas Lighthall, Layne Parkhurst and Victoria Reed) to advance to the district round.

Stan Tucker inspires, dares students to dream

Stan Tucker recently visited students across all three elementary schools, encouraging them to dream big, continue to read and even work on writing their own stories.

Tucker aims to one day open a book fair featuring only student authors, and has published dozens of stories written by students around the country.

During his visits, Tucker held an assembly with the entire school and then had individual visits with classes at each elementary school to encourage reading and explain how students could write a story and submit it as an idea to be published by his organization.

More information can be found at stanleytucker.com.



Stan Tucker meets with students during his visit to Palermo Elementary School in mid-March, where Stan encountered "more snow at one time than he had ever seen in his life," he said.