



Tiger Traditions

May/June 2016: 2016-2017 Budget Special Section - Volume 16 • Issue 5



MACS Class of 2016 Top Ten Announced

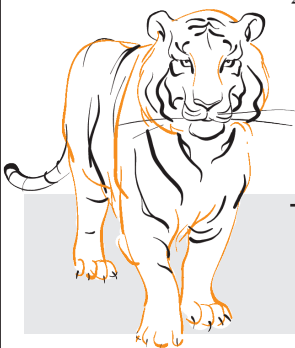
Mexico High School announces the top ten academically ranked students. They are, front, left to right: Hannah Sheldon, Elizabeth Spencer, Samantha McCombie, Kendra Harter (valedictorian), and Anna LaBouef. Second row, left to right: Corrinne Perrotti, Kennedy Lamb, and Deanna Spencer. Third row: Kevin Wells (salutatorian) and Tyler Stever.

Mexico Named 2016 Best Communities for Music Education

Mexico Academy & Central School District has been named a 2016 Best Communities for Music Education district by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation! MACS is one of

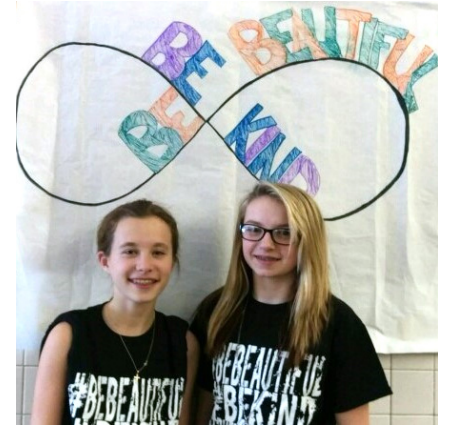


476 school districts throughout the country that received this honor.



True Beauty Day at Middle School

Mexico Middle School celebrated True Beauty this year with a new theme: #bebeautiful #bekind. The emphasis was determined by the responses to the question "What makes you beautiful?" The most frequently heard response from middle school students and staff was, "We show



our beauty by how we treat others. Being kind and being helpful to others makes us feel beautiful." New t-shirts, buttons, banners, and posters were created. Lexi Lemon and Sydney Lawton, pictured, designed the logo and MACS Technology Teacher David von Holtz designed the t-shirts. Two hundred-eighty t-shirts were purchased and 500 buttons were given away. MACS Teacher Mona Goble and MACS Guidance Counselor Lisa Szewczyk serve as the True Beauty Day Coordinators at the school.

Building Impact Due to Summer 2016 Capital Project Work

Due to the Capital Project Work at Mexico High School and Mexico Middle School this summer, the following offices will be relocated:

- Mexico High School's main office, vice principal's office, and guidance offices will be located in the Mexico Elementary School Library.
- Mexico Middle School's guidance office and nurse's office will be located in the health center at Mexico Middle School.

NOTE: The pool and weight & conditioning center will remain open at Mexico High School. Alternate parking will be located at Mexico Elementary School.

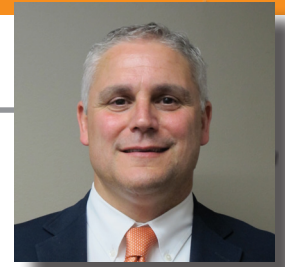
School Budget

Special Budget Section Inside (Pages 5-8)

For District information including a calendar of events, Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the District web site at www.Mexicocsd.org



A Message from the Superintendent



Our 2016-2017 MACS Budget

How do you create the Mexico Academy and Central School District 2016-2017 school year budget that aligns resources to achieve our goals, honors our rich history and traditions, protects our identity, and protects all of the wonderful opportunities for our students when facing the loss of over \$10.8 million due to Entergy's intention to close FitzPatrick?

Creating our budget is actually an exercise in aligning resources to goal achievement in the most effective and fiscally efficient manner. Our District goals are:

- ⇒ MACS will be in the top 10% of the school districts in New York State.
- ⇒ At the conclusion of grade 3, 100% of MACS students will be reading on grade level.
- ⇒ MACS will achieve a 60% proficiency rate for grades 5-8 testing in ELA and Math.
- ⇒ MACS will achieve a 95% passing rate for Regents exams.

This year, our budget process had a couple of unique challenges. As I stated in my article regarding **Our 2 Challenges with Entergy**, we have successfully negotiated Entergy's tax certiorari lawsuit against us. The resolution is that we do not have to pay them anything. Furthermore, we were also able to negotiate a PILOT agreement that provided our District with revenue amounts for the next five years that are higher than anticipated. While our future revenues decrease significantly over the next five years, we can use our reserves to support a smoother transition to our new fiscal realities.

Due to Entergy's intended closure of FitzPatrick, our revenue for the 2016-2017 school year is \$4.6 million lower than the previous year. As fiscal stewards of your tax money, we have developed a budget that reduces expenditures in order to keep the tax levy stable. By holding the levy stable, we achieve our goal of ensuring our tax revenue loss from Entergy will not be transferred to remaining taxpayers.

In the chart below, you will find how we achieved our goal. Due to receiving an additional \$1.8 million in aid, we were able to lower our \$4.6 million gap to \$2.8 million. Through the careful and detailed reduction of expenditures, as well as the reduction of staffing through attrition due to decreased student enrollments, we were able to close our budget gap that resulted from Entergy.

Revenue (Tax & Aid)	Expenditure Reductions
-\$4.6m Entergy Tax Loss	-\$1.3m District Wide Expense Reductions
+\$1.8m Additional NYS Aid	-\$1.5m Attrition & Decreased Student Enrollment
-\$2.8m Adjusted Revenue Gap	-\$2.8m Total Expenditure Reductions

While we have had to overcome loss of revenue (and will have to do so in future years) as a result of Entergy's intentions to close FitzPatrick, we will continue to be a great school district and learning community!

While we had to make reductions, I am happy to inform you that

our 2016-2017 school year budget aligns resources to achieve our goals, honors our rich history and traditions, protects our identity, and protects all of the wonderful opportunities for our students.

Below please find some of the many opportunities for our students that we are able to continue:

- **Leader in Me:** teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.
- **Blended Learning:** delivery of content and instruction via digital and online media with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.
- **Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID):** close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.
- **Advanced Placement:** a program created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.
- **Project Lead the Way:** provides transformative learning experiences through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. Students learn problem-solving strategies, critical and creative thinking, and how to communicate and collaborate.
- **Community Programs:** All community programs will continue for the 2016-2017 school year.

I am also happy to inform you that in our budget development process this year, we were able to maximize our effectiveness and fiscal efficiency in aligning our resources to our goals this year. As a result, we are able to also provide the following additional opportunities for our students next year:

Onondaga Community College Credit Now Partnership Program

- ❖ All Mexico High School students eligible to earn an Associate's Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences, all within their four years of high school for free!
- ❖ All Mexico High School students eligible to earn a minimum of 12 college credits.
- ❖ All credits guaranteed transferable throughout the SUNY and CUNY system as well as additional agreements with private colleges.

Oswego County P-TECH High School

- ❖ Re-invents high school as a unique partnership between local industry, higher education and public high school.
- ❖ A 5 to 6-year program resulting in a Regents diploma AND an Associate's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology or Mechanical Technology through Onondaga Community College.

Summer Instruction

- ❖ For K- 8 students not meeting grade level benchmarks in reading, writing, and math.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Bruno

Contact me at:

16 Fravor Road,

Mexico, NY 13114

963-8400 Ext. 5401

www.mexicoesd.org

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Jeremy Belfield, 16 Fravor Road, Suite A, Mexico, NY 13114, 315-963-8400 x5407 or 315-297-7780. 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).

Our Two Challenges of Entergy

By Sean Bruno, Superintendent

We are all aware of Entergy's intentions to close FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Facility. We also know this will have significant negative impacts on our families, our community and our District. Through our website, letters, emails, presentation meetings, and community forums, I have communicated that in addition to the potential reductions in revenue that would result from the closure, we also faced the financial challenge of Entergy's tax certiorari lawsuit against the town of Scriba, our County of Oswego and our District. Entergy was claiming that their assessment was too high and were pursuing return for the last five years in tax payments totaling a little over \$62 million. Our attorneys and assessment consultant provided the guidance that the outcome of this trial may have rendered a decision that would require us to pay back as much as \$32 million. You probably also know that for the last several years, our District has used some of our revenue to fund reserve accounts in preparation of this event. However, our reserve funds for this possibility only totaled \$23 million, potentially requiring us to expend all of those two reserve accounts and borrow \$9 million to pay back Entergy. (You can probably imagine how much sleep I lost over this challenge!) I am happy to report that through mediation, we have reached settlement of the tax certiorari proceedings that binds Entergy to their original assessments, resulting in no return of any Mexico School District money to them. This is a huge win for our students, our community and our District! It will allow us to use the reserve funds to help lessen the severity of the negative financial impact that Entergy's intended closure of FitzPatrick will have on our District.

Another concern from this lawsuit was that the current law provides for a "cooling off" period. This means that the court decision for the final year's assessment amount in this lawsuit would cause the following three years' assessment to be locked in to this amount. As a result of the "cooling off" period, that in addition to having to pay back Entergy, they would have a lower assessment causing our District to be locked into lower revenue for the next three years. Our attorneys and consultant were predicting this number to be approximately \$6 million in tax revenue from Entergy for the 2016-2017 school year. While a revenue amount of \$6 million is a lot of money, it is over a 50% reduction from the \$12.5 million payment for the 2015-2016 school year.

I am happy to report to you that through mediation, we were able to reach an agreement. We remained strong in our stance that the original assessment and corresponding tax payments thus far have been accurate and fair. Entergy acquiesced to our stance and agreed to waive all claims to all refunds. I'm extremely happy to report that this means that we can keep all of our reserves and use them to negotiate our way to keep MACS great, balanced with responsible and fair budgets through the future reductions in revenue from Entergy's decision to close FitzPatrick.

I am also happy to report that during this mediation, we were also able to reach agreement with Entergy for their next five years' tax payments. In the chart below, you will see the amounts to future tax payments. Please note that if the company is still operating in any of these additional years, the payment automatically is \$12,000,000. It is also worthy to note that this agreement is not transferrable. If FitzPatrick is bought by another entity who would like to continue operations, assessments and corresponding tax payments would more accurately reflect that potential than the agreement below for a plant that is closing.

While this agreement has considerable reductions in revenue over the next five years, the revenue amounts are higher than originally predicted by our attorney and consultant for a plant that is closing. In addition to being higher than expected, they provide us with certainty in planning for accurate budget planning.

It is also worth noting that there are two pieces of New York State legislation currently being proposed. Here is my plain language summary for each:

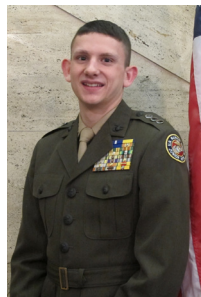
- In New York State, a nuclear energy company must pay a \$750,000 fee to local governments for each dry cask storage.
- In New York State, dry cask storage becomes taxable real property. This means that even if Entergy "mothballs" the facility, the assessed value is fair and appropriate.

Between the Governor's support, the clean energy credit legislation proposal, and the above legislation proposal, we have been particularly successful in our campaign for a positive Fitzpatrick continued operation thus far. Now, hopefully, the legislation will pass and another company will buy and run FitzPatrick.

Year	School Year	Total Tax Payment	MACS Payment (65.5%)	Year to year reduction amounts	Total MACS Losses (annual revenue - \$12.5 m)
2016	16-17	\$12,000,000	\$7,860,000	-\$4,640,000 (12.5-7.86)	-\$4,640,000 (12.5-7.86)
2017	17-18	\$7,000,000	\$4,585,000	-\$3,275,000 (7.86-4.585)	-\$7,915,000 (12.5-4.585)
2018	18-19	\$3,000,000	\$1,965,000	-\$2,620,000 (4.585-1.965)	-\$10,535,000 (12.5-1.965)
2019	19-20	\$3,000,000	\$1,965,000	-\$0 (1.965-1.965)	-\$10,535,000 (12.5-1.965)
2020	20-21	\$2,500,000	\$1,637,500	-\$327,000 (1.965-1.6375)	-\$10,862,500 (12.5-1.6375)
TOTALS		\$27,500,000	\$17,875,000	-\$10,862,000	-\$44,487,500

MACS Seniors Signed for Enlistment in US Military

Mexico High School Senior Alex Joss-Forbes has enlisted in the US Marine Corps. Alex is the son of Ben Forbes and Bethany Joss, and a native of Mexico. He has been a member of the MACS Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) for four years. In the JROTC, he has been a member of the Drill Team, Physical Fitness Team, Cyber Patriot Team, and Rifle Team. In addition, he is a diver on the MACS swim team and runs cross country. Alex signed for enlistment in the US Marine Corps on June 17, 2015, and his ship date is July 5, 2016. He signed on the buddy system with fellow student Cody Myers, far right, and will report to boot camp in Paris Island, South Carolina.



Mexico High School Senior Cody Myers has enlisted in the US Marine Corps. Cody is the son of Todd Myers and the late Kathy Myers. He is a native of Parish, NY. He has been a member of the MACS Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) for five years. In the JROTC, he has been a member of the Drill Team, Physical Fitness Team, Cyber Patriot Team, and Rifle Team. In addition, he has played on both the tennis and golf teams while in high school. Cody signed for enlistment in the US Marine Corps on August 2, 2015, and his ship date is July 5, 2016.



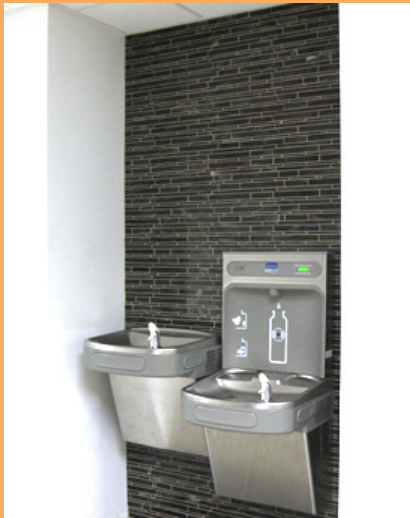
Mexico High School OCAY League Champs

On March 22, 2016, The Mexico High OCAY League team won the gold medal at the third OCAY League event of the school year. This OCAY challenge required the students to complete tasks to survive a pandemic. Pictured kneeling, left to right, are: Robert Cassidy, Becca Saya, Sarah Hubbell, and Hannah Sheldon. Standing back are: Erin Gilmore, Caitlyn Spurling, Aaron Shopland, Ben Pelow, Breanna Delong, and Corrinne Perrotti. MACS Teacher Shannon Bigelow coaches the Mexico OCAY team.

Construction Corner

Along with the Mexico High School Reconstruction Project currently under way, the present Capital Project includes continued construction work at Mexico Middle School throughout the summer of 2016. One area of construction at the school will be the renovation of the 5/6 grade corridor and restrooms. Upon completion, this area will mirror the renovation of the 7/8 grade corridor and restrooms that took place during the summer of 2015. In addition to new lockers, the 5/6 grade corridor will boast new tiling and drinking fountains, as pictured here in the 7/8 grade corridor.

Regarding the Mexico High School Reconstruction Project, one notable change regarding the stadium reconstruction has taken place. Based on late approval from the State Education Department, it has been decided the stadium reconstruction project will be delayed for one year.



Proud to be MACS

Rick Lenahan, Mexico Middle School Health Teacher, was chosen as the March 2016 Proud to Be MACS honoree. Rick grew up in Oswego and graduated from Oswego High School in 1989. He attended Ithaca College, graduating with a bachelor's degree in health education in 1994. Rick went on to earn his master's degree in reading from SUNY Oswego, graduating in 1996. That fall, he began his teaching career at APW.



In September of 1998 he was hired to teach health education at Mexico Middle School and has continued in this position since that time. All seventh grade students take Rick's class for twenty weeks of the school year. In 2000, Rick married his wife, Bobbie, and they are parents to two children - Danielle and Jacob. In his role as health education teacher, Rick covers many topics that are applicable to real life, including: goal setting, decision making, relationship management, self-management (hygiene), advocacy, communication, and stress management. The topics of goal setting, communication, and advocacy have projects attached. Rick also coaches modified boys' soccer, and has coached soccer, basketball and track in the past. Speaking about his work, Rick says, "I do feel fortunate that I have a job that I really enjoy. I like this age group. It's a fun population to work with." Considering the award, he says, "I was surprised. We work with so many people here that are deserving of the award. The nominations came from parents of kids that I have taught or coached and that makes me feel good. Knowing that students talk about what they learn in class at home is very rewarding." Rick and his family live in Oswego, NY.

Joann Gill, MACS School Bus Driver, was selected as the April 2016 Proud to be MACS honoree. Joann is a 1977 graduate of Mexico High School. She began her career in transportation as a bus aide during the summer of 1977, and continued on in the fall as a full-time bus aide for the special needs bus runs, including the bi-weekly bus runs to the NYS School for the Blind in Batavia, NY. When Joann turned 21 years old, she became licensed to drive school buses and drove for BOCES for an additional four years.



In 1984, she began driving for the Mexico School District as a full time bus driver and has continued in this position for 32 years. During these years, Joann has only changed her route one time and has driven her current, New Haven route for the past 29 years. This familiar route includes Ct. Rt. 43, Ct. Rt. 1, Mason Rd., Potter Rd., and Fravor Rd. On a typical day she leaves the bus garage at 6:40 am to drive the high school and middle school morning run. This is followed by the New Haven Elementary morning run and then the Pre-K midday run. In the afternoon she repeats the high school and middle school runs, and she finishes the day with the elementary school run. Joann also drives for sporting events. When asked how she feels about her job she answers, "I love the kids. I've seen kids I'd driven in elementary school and I'm now driving their children. Another thing I like is graduation - I like seeing what the students are going on to do in life... I love driving." When asked how she feels about the award, Joann says, "Honored and surprised." Ms. Gill makes her home in Mexico.

2016-2017 SCHOOL BUDGET SPECIAL SECTION



BUDGET VOTE and SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 17 • Noon - 9 pm

Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo Elementary Schools

Voters are asked to decide upon three (3) propositions, including the adoption of the proposed budget for the school year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, and to elect two Board of Education members.

Proposition – THE BUDGET: Shall the Board of Education of the Mexico Academy and Central School District, Mexico, New York, be authorized to expend the sums of money, which will be required for school district purposes for the 2016-17 School Year, in the total amount of \$51,317,290 (The Budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the School District.

PROPOSITION I: Shall the Board of Education purchase and finance four (4) 66-passenger school buses at an estimated cost not to exceed \$445,000, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$445,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$445,000, 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 \$445,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

PROPOSITION II: Resolved, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Mexico Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$15,000 (in addition to the current annual appropriation of \$60,000 for a total of \$75,000 annually), which shall be paid to the Mexico Public Library for the support and maintenance of the library; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Mexico Central School District.

School Board Candidates. There are two seats open, each for a term of three years. The candidates are:

Janice Clark

Connie Douglas

Dennis Brooks, Jr.

A Message from the Board President

Dear Members of our MACS Community,

The 2015-2016 school year has certainly been one for the ages!

In August, we welcomed our new superintendent, Mr. Sean Bruno. Shortly thereafter, we learned that Entergy, our District's wealthiest taxpayer, was planning to close its FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant some 15 years sooner than expected.

On top of this unexpected closure announcement, an ongoing challenge by Entergy on its tax assessment for the Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant has required the district to spend money and time for consultant and legal fees to battle this challenge. Happily, at this time, an agreement has been reached between the district and Entergy to address this assessment issue.

Despite the Fitzpatrick challenges, the district needed to conduct the annual budget process. A process that needed to consider the above uncertainties, as well as the uncertainties created from the New York State budget process and tax cap requirements.

A budget was developed and was approved by the MACS Board of Education at its April 14, 2016 monthly business meeting. The budget represents a 7% reduction from the current adjusted 2015-2016 school budget.

Most importantly, this budget allows the district to provide resources necessary to meet the goals established by the Board of Education in the summer of 2015, as well as maintain several programs introduced to our students over the last few years like *The Leader in Me*, which teaches Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to our elementary students; *Blended Learning*, a more intense use of technology by classroom teachers and students; *AVID*, a college preparation class for students; *Advanced Placement* classes for those students wanting the extra challenge; and *Project Lead the Way*, a program utilizing the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum.

Additionally, this budget maintains our traditional academic offerings, our extracurricular activities and our athletic programs, as well as offering students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree following a prescribed course load.

However, with every budget there may be questions or concerns, so I extend an invitation for you to join us for the annual budget presentation and meet the candidates on Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Mexico Middle School Auditorium.

Should anyone have questions or concerns regarding this budget prior to, or following the budget presentation, please feel free to contact the MACS District Office or any MACS Board of Education member and we will try our best to address your questions or concerns.

Finally, I urge all of you to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from noon until 9:00 pm at the Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo Elementary Schools.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to see you for the budget presentation on May 10th.

James Emery, President

Mexico Academy & Central School District
Board of Education



2016 - 2017 School Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 17 from Noon to 9:00 pm • Mexico

Proposed Budget

	2015-2016 Final Budget	2016-2017 Proposed Budget
General Support		
Board of Education	\$19,495	\$19,555
Central Administration	\$233,670	\$227,645
Finance	\$482,176	\$421,395
Staff	\$408,410	\$1,109,781
Central Services	\$5,272,073	\$4,734,187
Special Items	\$970,479	\$971,060
Total General Support	\$7,386,303	\$7,483,623
Share of Total	13.64%	14.6%
Instruction		
Administration & Improvement	\$1,286,552	\$1,313,563
Teaching	\$21,545,422	\$20,937,065
Instructional Media	\$2,091,084	\$1,963,886
Pupil Services	\$2,134,951	\$1,270,607
Total Instruction	\$27,058,009	\$25,485,121
Share of Total	49.97%	49.7%
Pupil Transportation		
Total Pupil Transportation	\$2,735,820	\$2,599,689
Share of Total	5.05%	5.1%
Community Service		
Recreation	\$116,000	\$93,279
Other Community Service		
Total Community Service	\$116,000	\$93,279
Share of Total	.21%	.20%
Undistributed		
Employee Benefits	\$12,751,357	\$11,066,255
Debt Service	\$4,105,036	\$4,589,323
Interfund Transfer		
Total Undistributed	\$16,856,393	\$15,655,578
Share of Total	31.13%	30.4%
Total Appropriations	\$54,152,525	\$51,317,290

Revenue

	2015-2016 Revenue	2016-2017 Revenue
State Aid	\$25,656,012	\$27,477,621
Local Non-Tax	\$1,307,147	\$595,788
Tax Levy	\$25,689,366	\$13,233,881
Fund Balance	\$1,500,000	\$2,150,000
PILOT		\$7,860,000
Total Revenues	\$54,152,525	\$51,317,290

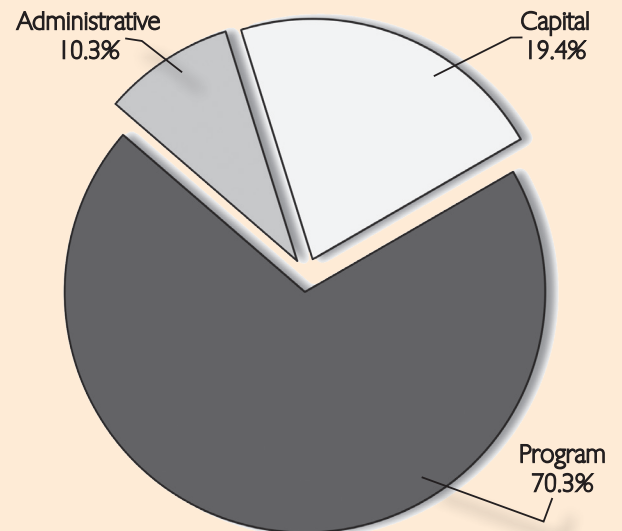
The Three-Component Budget

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 on next page)

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.

Administrative 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, and other administrative activities.



Budget Hearing

Tuesday, May 10
at 6:00 pm

Mexico Middle School Auditorium



Vote and School Board Elections

Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo Elementary Schools

Budget Notice

Budget Notice	Budget Adopted for the 2015-2016 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-2017 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-2017 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount (<i>not including separate propositions</i>)	\$54,152,525	\$51,317,290	\$50,964,578
Increase/decrease for the 2016-2017 school year		-\$2,835,535	-\$3,187,947
Percentage increase (decrease) in proposed budget		(5.3%)	<5%>
Change in the Consumer Price Index		.12%	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$25,689,366	\$13,233,881	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0		
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	0		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$25,689,366	\$13,233,881	\$13,233,881
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$895,054	\$1,474,789	
G. School Tax Levy Limit - Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$24,794,312	\$11,759,092	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$24,794,312	\$11,759,092	
I. Difference: (G-H) (<i>Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions</i>)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$4,928,229	\$5,284,954	\$5,284,954
Program component	\$37,804,255	\$36,060,321	\$35,707,609
Capital component	\$11,420,041	\$9,972,015	\$9,972,015

If the proposed budget is defeated twice, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget. The following items are excluded from a contingent budget: equipment purchases, 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 NEW Property Tax Cap, under contingency, the school district can levy no more taxes than the amount of taxes levied in the prior school year by the district.

List of Separate Propositions That Are Not Included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

Proposition I: Shall the Board of Education purchase and finance four (4) 66-passenger school buses at an estimated cost not to exceed \$445,000, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$445,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$445,000, 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 \$445,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

Proposition II: Resolved, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Mexico Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$15,000 (in addition to the current annual appropriation of \$60,000 for a total of \$75,000 annually), which shall be paid to the Mexico Public Library for the support and maintenance of the library; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Mexico Central School District.

Basic Star and Tax Levy →



Maximum Allowable School Tax Levy

Understanding the tax levy limit and calculating, using the New York State formula, the maximum allowable tax levy for the Mexico Academy and Central School District for the 2016-2017 school year.

Proposed Tax Levy for the 2016-2017 School Year

- \$51,317,290 MACS 2016-2017 Proposed Budget
- \$27,477,621 Estimated State Aid
- \$2,150,000 Appropriated Fund Balance & Reserves
- \$8,455,788 Other Income (Including PILOT)

\$13,233,881 MACS Proposed Levy for 2016-2017

Voter approval requires a simple majority vote (50% + 1).

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Three factors that determine the tax rate on your home include: tax levy, equalization rates and property assessment. The tax levy is set by the school district in May; equalization rates are established by the New York State Office of Real Property Services in August and each respective town establishes assessments and equalization rates, but these are just estimates. Therefore, tax rates are not finalized until late August, at which time school tax bills are printed and mailed.

	Budget Proposed for the 2016-2017 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings¹	\$562.00

The Basic STAR exemption is available for owner-occupied, primary residences regardless of the owners' ages or incomes. Basic STAR works by exempting the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home from school taxes.

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

*Beginning with 2011-12 school levies, increases in STAR savings are capped at 2% of the prior year savings. The cap is not on the exemption amount – but on the savings amount.

How to Register to Vote

A qualified voter of the District shall vote only at the polling place for the election district in which such voter resides and no person shall be entitled to vote at such election whose name does not appear on the Register of the School District. Registration of otherwise unregistered voters shall take place at the District Office, 16 Fravor Road, Mexico, NY, between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm on any day when school is in session up to but not later than 2 pm on May 14, 2016. Any resident whose name currently appears on said register or on the register of the Oswego County Board of Elections for permanent personal registration or who has voted in any annual or special election within the four calendar years preceding 2016 need not register.

\$25,689,366	Prior Year Tax Levy (15-16 Warrant)
x 1.0032	Tax Base Growth Factor
+\$0	Prior Year PILOTS (FY 15-16)
- \$895,054	Prior Year Exemptions
\$24,876,518	Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy
x 1.0012	Allowable Growth Factor
- \$7,860,000	Coming Year PILOTS (FY 16-17)
+\$0	Carryover
\$17,046,370	TAX LEVY LIMIT
+0	ERS & TRS Pension Exemptions
+\$1,474,789	Capital Tax Levy
\$18,521,159	TAX LEVY LIMIT PLUS EXCLUSIONS
-27.9%	Maximum Levy Change

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available at the office of the District Clerk at the District Office, 16 Fravor Road, Mexico on school days from 9 am -3 pm. All ballots must be returned to the District Clerk by 5 pm on May 17, the date of the budget vote.

Voter Qualifications

1. Eighteen (18) years of age or older.
2. A citizen of the United States.
3. A legal resident of the Mexico Academy and Central School District for at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote.

Voters may be required to show proof of eligibility before casting their vote. The following forms of proof may be accepted (not limited to): birth certificate, driver's license, non-driver ID card, utility bill, voter registration card or passport.

Any person not qualified to register or vote under the provisions of Sections 5-100 and 5-106 of the Election Law shall not have the right to register for or vote in an election.

Annual MACS Alumni Association Banquet

The Annual MACS Alumni Association Banquet will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Eis House, 144 Academy Street, Mexico, NY. The banquet will begin at 4pm and the menu is a turkey buffet dinner. The price is \$17.50/person plus \$4 alumni dues. Reservations (due by June 11), may be made by making checks payable to MACS Alumni Association, and mailing the checks to Karen Brown, 213 Fort Leazier Road, Mexico, NY 13114. This year marks the 190th year of the Mexico Academy's first graduating class. A tour of Mexico High School will be given at 1:30 pm on the day of the banquet. Those taking the tour are asked to gather on the brick walkway in front of the school.

Mexico Elementary Team (The Neon Warriors) are Oswego County Champions!



The Mexico Elementary School Battle of the Books team, the Neon Warriors, became the Oswego County Champions on March 22, 2016. The team (pictured here holding their favorite battle books), Sarah Marsden (3rd grade), Jacob Poissant (4th grade), and Ainsley Bigelow (4th grade), won at the district level on March 8, and went on to compete at the county level at Central Square High School on March 22. The team, along with several other teams, read and studied 10 chapter books for six weeks prior to the competitions that tested their memories on the content of the books.

When asked about their strategy Ainsley said, "I just read the books over and over and over." When asked how it felt to win, Sarah replied, "Awesome. People wouldn't think Mexico could win the county battle." And, Jacob said, "We practiced so much and all the hard work paid off."

Why do these winning students like reading? Ainsley: "I like reading because if I'm in a bad mood I can read and time travel to magical places and feel so much better." Jacob: "I

Mexico Middle School "Superhero Music" Concert



The Mexico Middle School 7/8 "Superhero Music" Band Concert was presented in the Mexico Middle School auditorium on March 8. The concert, directed by MACS Band Director Kevin Upcraft, included the 7/8 Jazz Ensemble playing three numbers; a flute duet by Kathryn Morgan and Jaina Ricker; and the 7/8 grade Symphonic Band playing four pieces of "Music of Superheroes." Videos of superheroes played on the screen behind the band as they played the latter.

Palermo Elementary Roller Skates!

Thanks to the Palermo Elementary School Parent-Teacher Club, the students at the school had the opportunity to try out rollerskating on March 23, 2016. Approximately 40 children attended the after-school event which was offered at two separate time periods to allow for age and ability differences. The skates were provided by Be-Mar Roller Skating, Honeoye Falls, NY. Pictured: Jennifer Willis with daughters Avery and Ella, and Be-Mar Roller Skating Employee, right.



like reading because it gives me a picture in my mind." Sarah: "I like reading because there is stuff that doesn't exist like wands, and ghosts that are good, and unicorns."

The team was coached by MACS Teacher Dianne Barnes and MACS School Psychologist Amy Kenner-Marsden.

At the same competition, the Mexico Middle School 7/8 grade team tied for second place, and the Mexico High School team also took second place.

True Beauty Day at High School



True Beauty Day was held at Mexico High School on February 25, 2016. Upwards of 300 students participated in the day-long event that is designed to draw attention to what truly makes a person beautiful. The female students and staff are encouraged to attend school for the day without make-up. Male and female students wear t-shirts that say, "Beauty is more than what I look like" or "I'm with beautiful," the latter boasting an arrow pointing to the person next to the wearer. Students write character traits on white-boards and have their photos taken holding the boards. They also fill out 'complement cards' stating why someone is beautiful. Speaking about the day, True Beauty Day Coordinator and MACS Teacher Shannon Bigelow said, "It went really well. We had a great response. The kids were very receptive and enthusiastic."



Annual Father-Daughter Dance at Middle School

The Annual Father - Daughter Dance at Mexico Middle School drew a large crowd on March 18, 2016. The event, hosted by the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) 8022 as a Relay for Life fund-raiser, included dancing, face painting, refreshments and more.

Right: Justin Taylor pauses with his daughters, Cayleigh, left, and Lily who are both students at Mexico Elementary School.



MACS Musicians Traveled to Albany

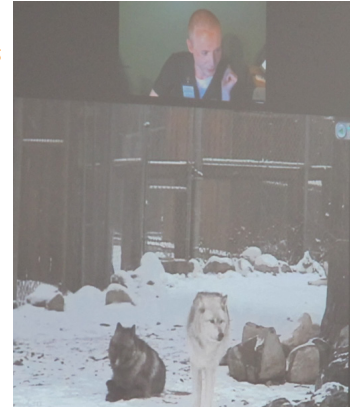
In celebration of March as Music in our Schools Month, the Mexico High School Jazz Choir and Jazz Ensemble traveled to Albany to perform in the Empire Plaza of the New York State Capitol. Approximately



40 MACS musicians participated in the event sponsored by New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). Mexico High was one of the schools from across that state that was selected to perform at the Capitol during the week of March 7, 2016. MACS Vocal Teacher Hope Greco-Gaham and MACS Band Director Brian Carnes directed the students as they performed.

Mexico Elementary Students Learn about Wolves

The third grade students at Mexico Elementary School took part in a noteworthy learning experience in the form of a video conference with the



International Wolf Center, located in Ely, Minnesota, on April 5, 2016. The video conference was used to fulfill an ELA wolf module that had three requirements: learning about real wolves, reading and studying the story structures of several fables and folk tales about wolves, writing a fiction piece of their own that includes realistic elements about wolves. During the video conference the students communicated with a teacher from the International Wolf Center, while watching the wolves at the center, live streamed on their classroom SMART Board. Mexico Elementary Teacher Pam Kuczawa worked with CiTi representatives Melissa Daniels and Elaine Flood to coordinate and conduct the video conference that was titled Wolf 101. The International Wolf Center website is www.wolf.org.

MACS Summer Program Opportunities

Elementary Summer Skills Academy, New Haven Elementary:

The Elementary Summer Skills Academy is designed to provide students targeted instruction in Math, ELA, and STEM.

Middle School Summer Skills Academy, Mexico Middle School:

The Middle School Summer Skills Academy is designed to provide students targeted instruction in Math, ELA, and STEM.

High School Grad Point, Mexico Elementary Computer Lab:

The Summer Grad Point Program is for students who are attempting to recover credit.

Special Education, Mexico Elementary:

Programming for students who are eligible for extended school year services.

Pre-Algebra & Pre-Geometry Summer Program, Mexico Middle School:

A Blended Setting for students taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade and those who will be taking Geometry in 9th grade.

Summer Robotics Camp, at CiTi:

Half-day sessions in Robotics, Minecraft, Digital Photography, and Culinary Arts for students to choose from.

Band Camp, Mexico Middle School:

For students entering 5th-8th grades - small master class, a larger sectional and full ensemble experiences for students.

Mexico Community Summer Feeding Program, Mexico Elementary Cafeteria:

This program provides free lunch to any person in the community - just walk in and join us for lunch!

For inquires about the programs, please contact the MACS District Office at 963-8400, ext. 5400.

National School Breakfast Week

National School Breakfast Week was celebrated in a big way at Palermo Elementary School from March 7-11, when the students



were served their breakfast meal by guest servers - many of whom were in costume! With the goal of encouraging a healthy breakfast at the start of the day, the servers were in competition for the most breakfasts served. Palermo Elementary Principal Peg Scorzelli, dressed as Elsa, from the popular movie "Frozen," won that competition with 114 breakfasts served.



New Learning Tools at New Haven Elementary

Thanks to a DonorChoose.org Award, the students in Brianne Hartmann's kindergarten classroom at New Haven Elementary School have new tools to work with as they develop their reading and math skills. Brianne applied to DonorsChoose.org, a website designed to allow donors to support a classroom, and met the requirements, including writing an lengthy essay. She was awarded two Osmo systems and two Tiggly systems. Both systems involve the students interacting with iPads and hands-on objects at the same time for vocabulary and math lessons. "It takes the iPad to a higher level of thinking using the manipulative[s]," explains Brianne. "We've had fun with it."



Mexico Middle School Chorus Pops Concert

The Mexico Middle School Chorus Pops Concert was held on March 22, 2016. Upwards of 200 students performed for a full house, in the school's auditorium, under the direction of MACS Music Teacher Laura Washburn. The concert was opened by the Mexico Community Brass Band. The 5th/6th Grade Chorus sang three numbers, the 7th/8th Grade Chorus sang four numbers, the Select Choir sang two songs, and solos were performed by Kendra Howard and Adam Pluff. The concert was closed with the all four grade levels singing, with gusto, the popular song "Let it Go."

Mexico High School Band/Chorus Pops Concert

The Mexico High School Pops Concert "Wind Band Classics and Combined Choirs Pops" was held on March 9, 2016 in the auditorium of Mexico Middle School.



The first portion of the concert was the Mexico High School Symphonic Band, with MACS Alumni and Friends of the Mexico High School Band as special guests. Percussion was featured in three of the eight numbers played. MACS Band Director Brian Carnes conducted the band portion of the concert.

The Mexico High School Combined Choirs performed for the second half of the concert.

The vocalists sang five numbers, one of which featured the 2016 Senior Choir Members.

MACS Director of Choral Studies Hope Greco-Gaham directed the choir.

Pre-K Students Visit the Dentist

The staff at Madden Family Dentistry pose with the Mexico Elementary afternoon pre-K class and their teachers. Standing back,



from left to right, are: Patty Bendura, Mexico Elementary Pre-K Teacher Suzanne Maniccia, Alexis Madden, and Debbie MacDougall. Kneeling front, left; Mexico Elementary Teacher's Aid Dolores Brooks.

Both the morning and afternoon Mexico Elementary School Pre-K classes visited Madden Family Dentistry, in Mexico, on February 23, 2016. The students had a full tour of the dentist offices, took rides in the dental chairs, learned about healthy food and unhealthy food, and enjoyed an entertaining and educational puppet show performed by the office staff.

Madden Family Dentistry has been giving tours to Pre-K students in the Mexico School District for over 15 years. New Haven Elementary and Palermo Elementary Pre-K classes also visited Madden Family Dentistry during the month of February, which is Dental Health Month.

Youth Career Summit



MACS AVID Elective Teacher Kim Julian and three MACS AVID students pause for a photo outside a SUNY Oswego lecture hall at the 2016 Youth Career Summit. The students are, from left to right: Ethan Teller, Alasia Henderson and Meghan Daubek.

Forty-six eighth grade students from Mexico Middle School took an exciting field trip to attend the 2016 Youth Career Summit at SUNY Oswego on March 22, 2016. The 46 students were made up of 36 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students, and 10 Exploratory Occupations students. Students from eight Oswego County school districts, as well as CiTi students, attended this year's Youth Career Summit, bringing the total in attendance to over 650 students. During the four-plus hour event, the students rotated through six 'career stations' including: a trade show, P-TECH, NYS Police with Canine, hospitality, trades, and medical.

Noting the significance of the Youth Career Summit at the eighth grade level, MACS AVID Elective Teacher Stewart Smith says, "This really comes at a good time because eighth grade students are planning out their high school plan and this event could potentially offer some insight into their planning of the next four years. I think that it also brings awareness to the opportunities within our county/community; we often say we want our students to take their learning and go out into the world, but sometimes it's just as important to take your learning and bring it back to your community."

Mexico Middle School AVID Elective Teachers Kim Julian and Stewart Smith attended the event, as well as Mexico Middle School Exploratory Occupation Teacher Steve Connolly and Teaching Assistant Monique Hager.

Board of Education

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Darlene Upcraft - Vice President
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High School's "Mary Poppins" Musical Over the Top!



Renee LaDuc, as Jane Banks; Taylor Hall, as Mary Poppins; and Baxter Mason as Michael Banks.

The Mexico High School Drama Club musical production of "Mary Poppins," performed on March 3, 4, and 5, can only be described as

over-the-top! The musical, directed by Mexico High School Drama Club Director William Coughlin, drew large crowds to the Mexico Middle School Auditorium all three evenings. The acting, singing, dancing, and staging by the drama club cast and crew was spectacular. The pit band, made up by both students and community members and directed by Mexico Middle School Band Director Kevin Upcraft, provided the exceptional instrumental music throughout the show.



Calendar of Events

- May 4 High School Spring Concert, 6pm
- May 5 German Honor Society Inductions, 6pm
- May 6 New Haven Muffins w/Mom, 8am
- May 9 New Haven Book Fair
- May 10 New Haven Grandparent Luncheon
- May 10 Budget Hearing, MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- May 11 Middle School Celebration of Learning
- May 11 Mexico Elementary Gr 3 Chorus Concert, 6pm
- May 12 New Haven Chorus Concert, 6pm
- May 16 JROTC Award Ceremony, 5pm
- May 18 Mexico Elementary Gr 4 Chorus Concert, 6pm
- May 19 Palermo Spring Musical, 6pm
- May 21 Junior Prom
- May 24 High School Awards
- May 24 Gr 5/6 Band/Chorus Concert
- May 30 Memorial Day, No School
- May 31 Gr 7/8 Band/Chorus Concert
- June 1 Block M Athletic Awards, 6pm
- June 3 Palermo Mother-Son Olympics, 6pm
- June 6 Top 100 Dinner, 6:30pm
- June 7 Music Awards, 7pm
- June 8 Senior Awards, 6pm
- June 9 MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- June 10 Gr 8 Memories Dance, 6:30pm
- June 10 Senior Dinner/Dance, 7pm
- June 10-11 Mexico Band Pageant
- June 13 Middle School Art/Music Showcase
- June 16 4th Grade Band Concert, MS, 6pm
- June 17 New Haven Donuts w/ Dad, 8am
- June 21 Middle School Awards
- June 23 Last Day of School for Students
- June 23 Baccalaureate, 7pm
- June 24 Graduation, 7pm

Planting and Growing Lesson



AmeriCorps Worker Evan Castelli, back right, is guiding the kindergarten students in Brienne Hartmann's classroom, at New Haven Elementary School, in a planting and growing lesson. Evan, a SUNY Oswego senior, works in a variety of positions at the school three days a week, and selected this gardening endeavor to meet an AmeriCorps requirement of completing a community involvement project. The students assisted in the planting of the seeds and they are caring for the plants. They will work with the plants when they are in the ground in the school courtyard as well. The resulting produce will be donated to those in need.