



Tiger TRADITIONS

BUDGET EDITION

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

2023-2024 Budget Edition - Volume 28 • Issue 3

MACS: Trimble, Britton atop Class of 2023; **Top 10** announced

It's official: Mexico High School has named its valedictorian, salutatorian and entire Top 10 for the class of 2023.

Anna Trimble and Noah Britton earned this year's valedictorian and salutatorian honors, respectively, at the Mexico Academy & Central School District.

Along with Trimble and Britton, others obtaining Top 10 status this year include Sage Clement, Cordelia Humiston, Owen Marsden, Alexa von Holtz, Avery Oakes, Cali Hopp, Alexander Shomo and Tucker Donath.

Principal James Busco recently made the announcement, calling attention to the group's hard work not only in the classroom but in extracurriculars and throughout their community.

"I'm so incredibly proud of this group of wonderful individuals," said Busco. "We cannot wait to see what their next steps bring, and hope they never forget all of the impactful teachers, staff and mentors who helped them become who they are today."

The 2023 MACS graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 23 at 7 p.m.

MACS has announced its Top 10 students in the Class of 2023, pictured with administrators recently in the Mexico High School foyer. Front row, from left: MHS Principal James Busco, Noah Britton (salutatorian), Anna Trimble (valedictorian), Cali Hopp, MHS Assistant Principal Christina Scales. Middle row: Sage Clement, Avery Oakes, Alexa von Holtz, Cordelia Humiston. Back row: Owen Marsden, Tucker Donath, Alexander Shomo.



Soaring: **Drone course** takes MACS students to new heights



The sky's the limit for a new course offered by Mexico Academy & Central School District.

Mexico High School's Drone Technology class is helping students working toward earning their official drone licenses through the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We're so excited to be able to offer this opportunity for our students," said MHS science instructor David Dzielak who helps teach the course. "As technology continues to evolve, it's important students get their chance to learn utilize these new tools."

Dzielak said that this class is the first group of what they hope to be many cohorts of budding drone enthusiasts, and students will be able to move onto an advanced class in the second year of the program should they choose.

During the class, students learn about regulations and rules of flying a drone in addition to the science and mechanics that helps them work. Students also practice flying drones that have different types of control systems before they take their licensure tests.

In addition to Dzielak, other teachers in the class include technology instructor Dave von Holtz and LAN technician James Rhinehart. The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's Model Schools team also supports the teachers and students.

Students interested in signing up for the beginner level STEM course should talk to their guidance counselor, the teachers said.



A Message from the Superintendent



Dear MACS Family and Community,

This newsletter submits the proposed budget for Mexico Academy and Central School District for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Several years ago, Superintendent John W. Barile, of Brookfield Public Schools in Connecticut, wrote the following: "Successful organizations, teams, schools and

individuals have many similar attributes. Focus, determination, commitment, talent and effective resource allocation are among them. However, unless we are goal driven and results-oriented, no level of talent or resources will help us achieve our mission. Everything we do must be about teaching and learning. We must always ask, 'How does this effort/initiative, etc. help students learn?' If the initiative or activity does not contribute to the academic and behavioral learning of our students, then we must reconsider why we are spending time and money on it."

Sustainability is our long-term goal and the community has clearly shared that the robust level of opportunities in academics, fine arts, athletics and extra-curriculars at MACS are extremely important. We built this proposed budget through the lens of student learning, maintaining fiscal responsibility and an educational program that will effectively meet the needs of our scholars. We anticipate the next few years to be challenging and have begun looking for ways to prepare for future reductions in revenue and rising expenses.

We do want to take this opportunity to recognize all the dedicated staff for their hard work and commitment to student success. Thank you for your support to the district. Together we are educating and motivating our students to be successful, responsible citizens.

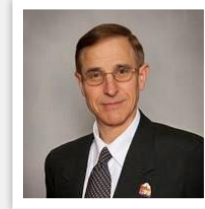
Polls are open for the annual budget vote and Board of Education election from noon to 9 p.m. at the district elementary schools on Tuesday, May 16. If you need guidance as to where you should vote, there is a link on our website, MexicoCSD.org under Resources. We look forward to seeing at the polls!

Respectfully,

Donna Runner

Donna Runner, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

A Message from the Board President



At our April 20, 2023, business meeting, the MACS Board of Education approved a \$63,151,500 budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

The budget represents a 2.88% or \$1,770,500 increase from the 2022-2023 school budget.

To support this budget increase, the Board decided it was prudent to raise the tax levy by 2.5% or \$317,360.

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 2.64% will not be exceeded, a simple majority vote is required to pass this budget.

It is important to note that during the budget development process, the Board requested a reduction in expenditures. Working in a collegial manner, administration, department coordinators and staff were able to reduce the budget while still maintaining student programs, extracurricular activities and athletic opportunities.

In addition to the budget, there will be the familiar proposition for student transport vehicles, that is, the recommended replacement of buses.

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 4, 2023, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Mexico Middle School Auditorium.

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

To conclude, I urge all of you to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from noon to 9 p.m. at your designated polling site at the Mexico, New Haven or Palermo elementary schools.

Thank you for your consideration,

James F. Emery

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

#MACSACCOMPLISHMENTS

FALL

Alexa von Holtz: girls swimming states- 6th place 100Butterfly and 4th place 200 Individual Medley- ALL CNY Team-Girls Varsity Swimming & Diving

WINTER

Varsity Winter cheer team:

Qualified to states - led by seniors Alyssa Webster, Brianna Coe and the rest of team Karyna Gasper, Marley Eastman, Kierstyn Ford, Macie Guyette, Harley Potter, Emma Cadrette.

Anysia Ingersoll -Player of the Year, OSHL Girls Basketball, 1,000 Point scorer for Mexico, All-CNY Team

Renee Kinikin – First girls Mexico wrestler to win NYS Girls Wrestling Invitational at the inaugural event

CLASS OF 2022 PROFILE

Mean SAT Score

Evidence Based Reading/Writing: 553
Math: 547
Average ACT Score: 1099

AP Statistics

Number of AP tests given: 41
Number of students who scored a 3/4/5: 22

2022 Graduates: 170
Regents Diploma: 63
Advanced Regents Diploma: 19
With Mastery of Math and/or Science: 13

College credits earned while in High School:
41 Students earned 1-3 college credits
65 earned 4-19 college credits
25 earned 20-40 college credits

2023-2024 SCHOOL BUDGET SPECIAL SECTION

BUDGET VOTE and SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 16 • Noon - 9 p.m.

Our three elementary school polling sites (follow signs to enter)

Voters will be asked to decide upon two (2) propositions, including the adoption of the proposed budget for the school year commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, student transport vehicles and to elect three (3) Board of Education members.

PROPOSITION I – 2023-2024 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, 2023, in the amount of \$63,151,500 be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes, therefor?

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:

THREE (3) THREE-YEAR VACANCIES (VOTE FOR THREE)

- 1. James F. Emery
- 2. Darlene E. Upcraft
- 3. Susan Teifke

PROPOSITION II - STUDENT TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Shall the Board of Education of the Mexico Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance five (5) student transport vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$700,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$700,000, shall be issued.

Music In Our Schools Month **ROCKS MACS**



Art, Math, English honor society hold combined induction ceremony

Ahead of spring break, Mexico High School inducted dozens of exceptional students into its Art, English and Math honor societies.

High School Principal James Busco and MACS Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner were on hand to congratulate the students and celebrate the occasion along with a crowd that featured several Board of Education members, family, mentors, peers and community members.

Up first was Art Honor Society, which is co-advised by David Maidens and Brittany Malone. The 2023 inductees were: Olivia Bartel, Alexis Bickford, Ella Blunt, Samantha Buckley, Zoey Cornell, Marc Loomis, Ella McCoy, Grey Schipper and Alyssa Webster.

Next was Math Honor Society, advised by Maria Panzetta. New inductees to MHS included Ethan Becker, Ainsley Bigelow, Everett Bryant, Amber Burke, Emily Burlingame, Hailey Comstock, Tucker Donath, Daniel Gagnier, Rosina Hawkins, Thi Huynh, Ryan Jackson, Emma Lawler, Juliana

Ricker, Hayliann Smith and Alyssa Webster.

Finally, English Honor Society, advised by Shannon Bigelow, inducted its 2023 class. Its new members included Ethan Becker, Everett Bryant, Emily Burlingame, Hailey Comstock, Daniel Gagnier, Wyatt Hancock, Rosina Hawkins, Thi Huynh, Ryan Jackson, Gavin Nickolas and Hayliann Smith.

After the ceremonies, ...there was reception held in the main foyer to celebrate the night and the hard work of these scholars.



2023 - 2024 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

PROPOSED BUDGET

	2022-23 ADOPTED BUDGET	2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET
General Support		
Board of Education	\$41,020	\$40,505
Central Admin	\$254,380	\$259,726
Finance	\$537,280	\$586,020
Staff (inc. Legal)	\$619,055	\$621,832
Central Services	\$5,067,630	\$5,083,334
Special Items	\$1,266,572	\$1,361,400
Total General Support	\$7,785,937	\$7,952,817
Instruction		
Administration & Improvement	\$1,854,910	\$1,938,035
Teaching	\$23,374,690	\$24,360,838
Instructional Media	\$2,597,635	\$2,628,089
Pupil Services	\$2,755,680	\$2,864,079
Total Instruction	\$30,582,915	\$31,791,041
Pupil Transportation		
Total Pupil Transportation	\$3,528,127	\$3,593,049
Community Service		
Total Community Service	\$155,750	\$154,680
Undistributed		
Employee Benefits	\$14,019,595	\$14,521,246
Debt Service	\$5,308,676	\$5,138,667
Total Undistributed	\$19,328,271	\$19,659,913
GRAND TOTAL	\$61,381,000	\$63,151,500

REVENUE

	2021-2022 REVENUE	2022-2023 REVENUE
State Aid	\$34,627,595	\$35,049,530
PILOT/Reserves/Other	\$10,102,737	\$10,127,146
Taxes	\$12,694,435	\$13,011,795
Reserves	\$0.00	\$1,213,029
Fund Balance	\$3,956,233	\$3,750,000
TOTAL	\$61,381,000	\$63,151,500

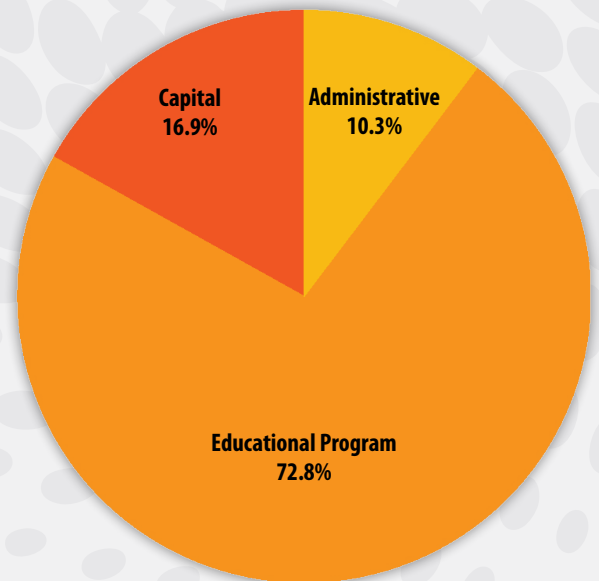
The Three-Component Budget

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.



BUDGET HEARING

**Thursday, May 4 at 6 p.m.
in the MS Auditorium**

VISIT www.mexicocsd.org for meeting details

BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 61,381,000	\$ 63,151,500	\$ 62,832,620										
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 1,770,500	\$ 1,451,620										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.88 %	2.36 %										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 12,694,435	\$ 13,011,795											
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)	\$ 12,694,435	\$ 13,011,795		\$ 12,694,435									
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 1,037,834	\$ 844,577											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 12,333,362	\$ 12,185,301											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 11,656,601	\$ 12,167,218											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 676,761	\$ 18,083											
Administrative Component	\$ 6,174,220	\$ 6,480,961	\$ 6,363,975										
Program Component	\$ 44,377,877	\$ 45,973,104	\$ 45,783,433										
Capital Component	\$ 10,828,903	\$ 10,697,435	\$ 10,685,212										
<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="width: 100%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus Proposition – Five (5) Vehicles</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 700,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	Bus Proposition – Five (5) Vehicles	\$ 700,000		\$		\$		\$
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Bus Proposition – Five (5) Vehicles	\$ 700,000												
	\$												
	\$												
	\$												

***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 2023-24 School Year
\$ 494

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Mexico Academy & Central School District, Oswego County, New York, will be held at District Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of noon and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the District Elementary Schools, 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 2022-2023		\$12,694,435
Tax Base Growth Factor		1.0098
PILOTs Receivable FYE 2023	+	\$9,040,083
Capital Tax Levy Exclusion FYE 2023 (Includes BOCES Capital Exemptions)	-	\$1,037,834
Allowable Levy Growth Factor		1.0200
PILOTs Receivable FYE 2024	-	\$9,052,210
Available Carryover from FYE 2023	+	\$0
Tax Levy Limit Before Adjustments/Exclusions		\$12,185,301
Capital Tax Levy Exclusion FYE 2024 (Includes BOCES Capital Exemptions)	+	\$844,577
Teachers' Retirement System Exclusion		\$0
Employees' Retirement System Exclusion		\$0
Total Exclusions		\$844,577
MACS 2023-2024 Tax Levy Limit, With Exclusions		\$13,029,878
		2.64%

Note: 2023-2024 Budgeted Tax Levy is \$13,011,795 which is a 2.5% increase.

MACS TAX BILL EXAMPLE FOR PROPOSED TAX LEVY

EXAMPLE OF AVERAGE TAX BILL AT FULL VALUE

	2022-23	2023-24	Average Increase
Average Assessment	\$116,000	\$116,000	\$0
Rate per thousand	\$16.06	\$16.46	\$0.40
Total Tax Bill	\$1,863	\$1,909	\$46

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

BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

May 16, 2023 • Noon to 9 p.m. at district elementary schools

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 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 16, 2023.

Proud to be MACS



Nicole Nash

Mexico Elementary | 8:1:1 Teacher
October 2022



Karlene Kzyjewski

Mexico High School | Teaching Assistant in charge of Distance Learning
November 2022



Andrea Searles

New Haven Elementary | RTI Reading Instructor
December 2022



Kristine Earley

Mexico Middle School | Physical Education Teacher
January 2023



Kate LaDuc

Mexico Elementary School | 4th Grade Teacher
February 2023



Tracey Reynolds

Palermo Elementary School | Reading and Math Intervention Teacher
March 2023

Mexico HS teacher earns spot among Master Teacher ranks



A Mexico High School math instructor is among just 221 educators newly selected statewide for the prestigious New York State Master Teacher Program.

Maria Panzetta, who has taught high school mathematics at MACS for five years, learned recently that she will be part of the program and join the more than 1,600 master teachers around the state. The group is noted as a professional network of public school teachers with a passion for inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders.

"I felt honored to be accepted," Panzetta said. "The rigorous application process was an exciting challenge for me, and now I look forward to the opportunities for more personal educational development and working with teachers across New York state."

Panzetta said that Mexico High School Assistant

Principal Christina Scales, who has been through the program herself, was a driving force behind applying.

"As a teacher, I'm always looking for ways to improve my lessons," Panzetta said. "With the connections and professional development the Master Teacher Program offers, I should be able to build more critical thinking and problem solving skills in my students, and to help them find and use the math that surrounds them daily."

Panzetta attended Liverpool High School and graduated in 2014 before earning bachelor's degrees in mathematics and childhood education with special education at SUNY Geneseo. In 2020, she was awarded her master's degree in education with a specialization in mathematics from SUNY Oswego.

She taught algebra at the high school for two years and is now in her third year teaching common core and fundamental geometry.

According to SUNY, master teachers are dedicated professionals who teach science, technology, computer science, robotics, coding, engineering, math, and integrated STEM courses across grades K-12 including Advanced Placement, Honors and Regents levels.

"Great teachers can change lives and guide students towards success," said SUNY Interim Chancellor Deborah Stanley. "For nearly a decade, New York's Master Teacher program has done just that and has recognized the critical contribution of New York State educators in setting students on that path toward rewarding careers in STEM."

Panzetta thanked her family for being so supportive, noting she has always wanted to be a teacher since before she started school with major role models in her life. Her mother had a long career in music education, and her grandmother taught young children in an innovative elementary program.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

James Emery - *President*
Darlene Upcraft - *Vice President*
Chad Bigelow
Dennis Brooks
Amy Shaw
Susan Teifke
Sobrina Vazquez
Luke Kinsey - *Student Representative*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Donna Runner
16 Fravor Road • Mexico, NY 13114
963-8400 Ext. 5401 • www.mexicocsd.org



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Mexico, NY 13114

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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

Three very competitive Battle of the Books matches took place at the MACS elementary schools, deciding each school's representatives in the district-wide battle that featured six teams.

Each team fought hard and worked collaboratively to answer 16 questions trying to identify which of several books the queries were referencing along with their author.

The top two teams from each school advanced to compete in the district-wide competition, which was won by Mexico Elementary's

The Brainstormers. They advanced to compete in the regional round against other area districts.

Below is a recap of teams advancing from each school, and a full photo gallery from each school battle is available online.

MEXICO ELEMENTARY

Our two teams advancing from Mexico Elementary's battle are Book Jungle (Ellie, Abigail, Evelyn, Aliyah) and The Brainstormers (Georg, Jacob, Claire, Alexis).

PALERMO ELEMENTARY

The Palermo Elementary representatives in the district Battle of the Books were Team Puppy Returns (first place - Dylan, Liam, Hannah) and The Sharks (second - Trever, Mallory, Breanne).

NEW HAVEN ELEMENTARY

The Wild Foxes (Quinn, Althea, Natalie) took first place and Team Golden Tigers (Henry, Jasper, Isabella, Gabriella) was second to both earn their spots in the district battle as New Haven's representatives..

100 Days of Learning

Mexico Elementary School students celebrated their 100th day of school in mid-February. Kindergarten students completed 100-themed projects, did related activities and many dressed as if they were 100 years old to celebrate the milestone of growth and learning.

