



District Budget Vote & Board of Education Election

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Community Resource Center

PROPOSITION #1
Annual Budget
\$44,882,121



2017-18 Budget Message from the Board of Education and Superintendent

The Board of Education and District Administration are pleased to present the proposed 2017-18 budget and \$9.25 million Capital Project Referendum to the residents and taxpayers of the Lewiston-Porter Central School District. The proposed budget is a result of significant discussion and planning by the Board of Education and the District leadership team. Our Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Dr. Patricia Grupka, has done an excellent job taking input from all our stakeholder groups and crafting a school budget that addresses cost increases in a fiscally prudent manner while supporting the continued development of our instructional programs. As was the case with last year's planning process, our district 2016-2020 Strategic Plan is the driving force behind all fiscal decision making. The programs at Lewiston-Porter Central Schools represent one of the finest educational programs in Western New York. All district residents should be proud of the success that is seen each year, with each graduating class, as we send our students forth to face the world's challenges and make a positive difference.

A strong, vibrant school system adds to the value of the community and the value of homes and properties within that community. Here at Lewiston-Porter, with our ranking as the 9th best school district in WNY (Business First), we are not only meeting, but rather exceeding, expectations in a fiscally sound way:

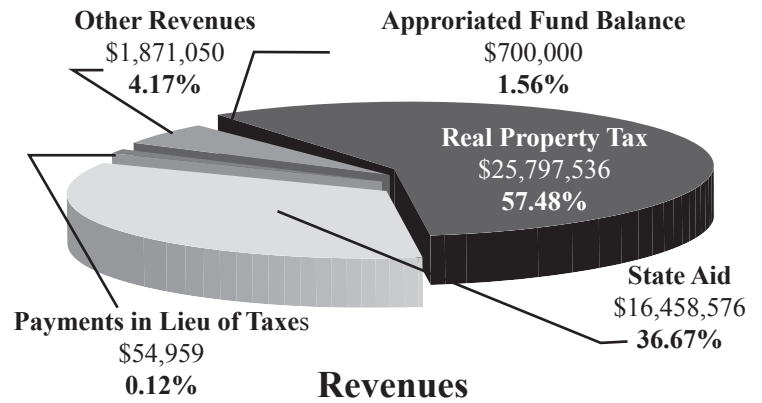
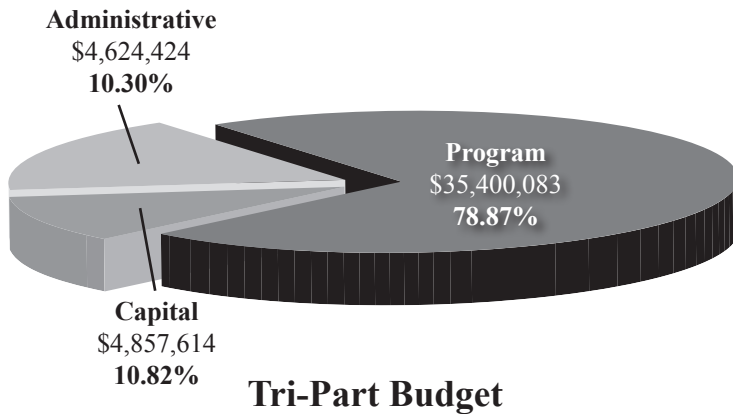
- The 2017-18 budget continues to focus on support for our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan: Supports the development of a K-12 STEM program (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), with specific focus for 2017-18 grades 6-12; Develops an elementary level Enrichment/Gifted and Talented Program;

Continues support of one-to-one computing and technology, whereby all students K-12 will have access to one-to-one computing the fall/winter of 2017-18 school year; Restores a music position, returning a music teacher to each building; Supports the development of a new literacy/reading program K-5; Continues support for our "One District, One Book" Reading Initiative; Provides continued support for our athletic programs and develops a community wide Recreation/Fitness program to open our new facilities to community residents.

- The 2017-18 budget is focused on conservative long term fiscal planning: Residents are presented with a \$9.25 million Capital Project referendum that focuses on Program needs, Health and Safety needs, and general maintenance and repair of our facilities (all outlined in our most recent five year facilities study completed in 2016); Employs the use of Capital Reserve as an aspect of the financing of the Capital Project, along with strategic management of district debt service; Capital Outlay (for planning and implementing smaller projects, outside the scope of a full Capital Project (vital to routine maintenance and upkeep, and the health and safety of our students); Early debt payment (to reduce future strain on our tax levy and reduce interest) and further development of our technology infrastructure. Reserves will be gradually and strategically funded to support future budget development.
- The 2017-18 budget is fair to our taxpayers: The 2017-18 budget is \$44,882,121.00, which includes a modest increase of 1.52% to the tax levy. The levy increase is down from

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2017-18 Proposed Budget: \$44,882,121



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$ 43,091,723	\$44,882,121	\$44,493,868
Increase/decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$1,790,398	\$1,402,145
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		4.15 %	3.25%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	25,409,283	25,797,536	
B. Levy to support library debt, if applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for non-excludable propositions, if applicable **	0	0	
D. Total tax cap reserve amount used to reduce current year levy	0	0	
E. Total proposed school year tax levy (A + B + C - D)	25,409,283	25,797,536	25,409,283
F. Permissible exclusions to the school tax levy limit	\$1,203,815	\$1,167,185	
	\$24,304,542	\$24,729,850	
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)	\$24,205,468	\$24,630,351	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative value requires 60.0% Voter approval - see note below regarding separate propositions) **	\$99,074	\$99,499	
Administrative Component	\$4,603,566	\$4,624,424	\$4,601,094
Program Component	\$34,390,129	\$35,400,083	\$35,295,160
Capital Component	\$4,098,028	\$4,857,614	\$4,597,614

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

No additional support would be provided to the athletic programs. Staff development would be cut. We would not restore the librarian as planned. We would restructure debt payments, assuming higher interest payments. Supply budgets would be cut. Character education programs would be decreased. Department chair positions would not be restored.

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

Description	Amount
Capital Project proposition across District	\$9,250,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹
\$3,802,282

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 by the qualified voters of the Lewiston-Porter Central School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held in the Board of Education Room in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 8:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Community Resource Center, 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.

Proposed 2017-2018 Budget . . . A Closer Look!

The chart below compares the proposed expenditures for 2017-18 to that of 2016-17.

Budget Area	Description	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018	Increase/Decrease
Board of Education	BOE memberships and required trainings, District Clerk, supplies & materials for regular BOE meetings & the Annual Meeting	\$122,733	\$121,529	-\$1,204
Central Administration	Superintendent & secretary salaries, supplies and materials	\$228,269	\$230,138	\$1,869
Office of Finance	Business Official, secretaries, treasurer, tax collector salaries, supplies & materials	\$391,526	\$405,469	\$13,943
Staff	Includes legal, personnel, records	\$296,119	\$307,815	\$11,696
Central Services	Building operations, maintenance, printing & mailing	\$3,112,910	\$3,113,591	\$681
Special Items	Insurance, assessments, BOCES Administrative charges	\$452,009	\$445,882	-\$6,127
Administration & School Improvement	Instructional Administration & Staff Development	\$1,601,765	\$1,599,998	-\$1,767
Teaching	Teachers', aides', monitors' salaries, supplies & materials	\$11,588,128	\$12,277,904	\$689,776
Occupational Education	Career and Technical Education programs at Orleans/Niagara BOCES	\$840,280	\$875,920	\$35,640
Special Programs	Special Education teachers', aides' salaries, supplies & materials	\$5,275,690	\$5,326,635	\$50,945
Teaching- Special Schools	Continuing Education Programming	\$20,878	\$22,878	\$2,000
Instructional Media	Librarians', aides', computer technology salaries, supplies & materials	\$842,623	\$861,602	\$18,979
Pupil Services	Guidance, nurses, psychologists, social worker, extracurricular & interscholastic athletics	\$1,869,486	\$1,993,296	\$123,810
Transportation	Contracted services, fuel, monitors, and other costs associated with the transportation of students	\$2,353,388	\$2,441,606	\$88,218
Employee Benefits	Teacher Retirement System, Employee Retirement System, Health Insurance, Social Security, Workmen's Comp. & Unemployment Insurance	\$9,962,891	\$10,000,244	\$37,353
Capital Debt & Bond Payments	Bonds & BANS principal and interest payments associated with capital projects	\$4,098,028	\$4,822,614	\$724,586
Transfers to Special Aid	Federal aid transfer to general fund for Special Education Summer School	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0
		\$43,091,723	\$44,882,121	\$1,790,398

2017-18 Budget Message *continued from page 1*

our 1.99% in the 2016-17. Districts are required to put forth a tri-part budget broken into three components: Administrative, Instruction Program and Capital. As part of our fiscally prudent plan we were able to cut back on administrative costs in many areas putting forth a minimal increase of less than one half a percent (0.45%) for all administrative costs, which include all of District office expenses, as well as legal and Board of Education costs. Due to employee attrition, and careful long term planning, we were able to maintain program increases to under 3%, while increasing the program offerings to students and funding substantial increases to health insurance, at 6.2%. The largest increase to the tri-part budget is the increase to the capital component at 18.5% or \$759,586. The majority of this increase, \$638,088, is funded through the State Education Department of Facilities and Planning as part of our State Aid Allocation. The local share that the taxpayers are responsible for is a 2.9 % increase over the 2016-2017 cost. The strategic limitation of the tax levy and a conservative, controlled approach to spending, along with modest increases and the restorations of state aid, provide fairness to our taxpayers and sustainability over time.

- Impacts/increases to the budget: Contractual increases; Health insurance costs (up almost 6 %, or almost \$200,000.00); and a long list of unfunded mandates (including rising costs and percentages of special education, ESL; transportation regulations; and reporting requirements regarding healthcare, auditing, and data reporting).
- Budgetary decreases made to support initiatives: Reducing staff size over time through attrition (retirement); BOCES savings (in areas of special and alternative education), transportation and utilities savings (after historical analysis), and strategic cuts to legal fees and insurance costs.
- Our International F-Visa program is now bringing over \$100,000 of revenue to our district.

Our district stakeholders and taxpayers should be very proud of the Lewiston -Porter Central Schools. Our district represents one of the finest educational programs in the World. Yes, the world - with our

continued growth and development of programs on the international stage. There is no question that our programs are comparable to/ or exceed private school offerings throughout our region. We encourage residents to carefully review the information we have included within this newsletter detailing various elements of the proposed budget and the Capital Project referendum. We would especially point you to the details of the \$9.25 million referendum. Our goal is to maximize New York State Education Department Building aid, leverage our allotment of Greenway and NYPA funds, and maintain level debt. This protects your investment in our facilities and develops projects on a more timely schedule, one that address facilities needs on an ongoing basis. Our goal is to avoid the massive, expensive and difficult to manage capital projects Lew-Port has seen in the past.

Please be aware that the following events will be taking place to give residents additional information regarding the proposed budget and Board elections:

- May 2nd - Budget Presentation: 12:30 pm at the Lewiston Senior Center.
- May 9th - Budget Hearing: 6:00 pm in the Board Room.
- May 10th - Meet the Candidate Night: 6:00 pm in the Board Room.
- May 16th - Annual Budget Vote and Elections for the Board of Education: 8:00am - 9:00pm, at the Community Resource Center.

We look forward to seeing you at the events mentioned above, but especially on Tuesday, May 16th for the Annual Budget, the vote on The Capital Project Referendum and election of the Board of Education, which will be held in the Community Resource Center. There is plenty of opportunity for you to vote: Polls open at 8am and close at 9pm.

Respectfully,

The Lewiston-Porter Board of Education and Superintendent
Paul J. Casseri

Lew-Port Middle School Celebrates Differences



Lewiston-Porter Middle School celebrated Autism Awareness on Monday, April 3. Students were treated to an informational assembly presented by Jana Mertz, Program Coordinator from Kaleida Health - Autism Spectrum Disorder Center. She was welcomed by a sea of blue, as students wore blue in

support of Autism. Mertz shared valuable information about Autism, celebrated differences, and encouraged students to treat everyone with respect. Jacob Plache, an 8th grade student and member of Builders Club, initiated the presentation in hopes of educating his peers about Autism. At the end of the assembly, Jacob presented her with a check for \$100 from Builders Club to benefit Ausome Families.

Leah Plennert, an 8th grader and member of Builders Club, has been spreading awareness of Autism for the past three years at the middle school. In an effort to raise money for The Summit Center, Leah and her friends sold puzzle suckers during lunch. This year, they raised \$200 for this worthy cause.



STAR Savings

Your school property tax bill must clearly state your STAR exemption amount and your tax savings. If your taxes are held in an escrow account, you should receive a receipt that includes your STAR information.

Most STAR recipients save several hundred dollars due to the Basic or Enhanced STAR exemptions. Several factors impact your savings, including the amount of:

- your property's assessed value that is exempt from property taxes due to STAR
- taxes collected by your school district

STAR exemption amounts vary based on:

- location (some counties are adjusted upwards to account for higher home values and higher taxes)
- whether the municipality conducted a reassessment
- the level of assessment of the individual municipality
- annual adjustment based on the rate of inflation (Enhanced STAR only)

STAR Rebate

Basic STAR Exemption: This program is available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the resident owners' and their spouses' income is less than \$500,000. This program exempts the first \$21,300 of the full value of a home from school taxes in Lewiston, and the first \$24,600 in Porter.

Enhanced STAR Exemption: Provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes.

Town of Lewiston Estimated Property Tax Rate		Town of Porter Estimated Property Tax Rate	
Estimated Value	\$ 150,000	Estimated Value	\$ 150,000
Minus Star Exemption	\$ 21,300	Minus Star Exemption	\$ 24,600
Adjusted Value	\$ 128,700	Adjusted Value	\$ 125,400
 *Property Tax/\$1,000	 \$ 24.81	 *Property Tax/\$1,000	 \$ 22.53
 2017-18 Property tax with STAR	 \$ 3,193.05	 2017-18 Property tax with STAR	 \$ 2,825.26
2016-17 Property tax with STAR	\$ 3,193.53	2016-17 Property tax with STAR	\$ 2,707.39
Difference	\$ -0.48	Difference	\$ 117.87
*Property tax rates are estimated on most current assessment data available, but not considered final assessment rates.			
Estimated Value	\$ 250,000	Estimated Value	\$ 250,000
Minus Star Exemption	\$ 21,300	Minus Star Exemption	\$ 24,600
Adjusted Value	\$ 228,700	Adjusted Value	\$ 225,400
 *Property Tax/\$1,000	 \$ 24.81	 *Property Tax/\$1,000	 \$ 22.53
 2017-18 Property tax with STAR	 \$ 5,674.05	 2017-18 Property tax with STAR	 \$ 5,078.26
2016-17 Property tax with STAR	\$ 5,686.53	2016-17 Property tax with STAR	\$ 4,852.86
Difference	\$ -12.48	Difference	\$ 225.40

Decreases in STAR exemptions are due to the declining equalization rates

NOTE: STAR rebate thresholds have decreased in both communities.

Lewiston-Porter's proposed tax levy is below the tax cap threshold.

Board of Education Candidates



Lance Dickinson

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics Education- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Master of Education, Mathematics - Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Master of Science, Strategic Studies - Air War College

Employment:

JROTC Instructor, Western New York Maritime Charter School

Three years ago I made the decision to run for the Lewiston-Porter School Board with one agenda, to provide the students of the District with the best education possible within the allotted budget. I feel I have accomplished that goal as an active and beneficial member of the Board. I wish to continue working in this capacity and announce my intention to run for reelection.

For those that don't know me, I served as an active duty Air Force officer for 30 years, before returning to western New York to mentor students as a Junior ROTC instructor. I am an advocate for education and feel my experience as an officer, teacher, volunteer, and parent benefit the board as they continue to face financial, curriculum, personnel, and infrastructure challenges.

My first year on the Board was very educational and eventful. Most board members will tell you they don't know what to expect when they are sworn in, but we are all there to do what is best for the students in our community. In the first year we hired a new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, developed a \$41M budget, ratified three collective bargaining agreements, approved numerous policies, and began work on our much anticipated capital project.

The Board and community were fortunate to hire Paul Casseri and Patti Grupka as our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. They have formed a fabulous administrative team to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. We are also blessed to have great principals, teachers, support staff and parents all committed to our students and schools. This team, along with the Board and our community partners, worked together to create a five-year Strategic Plan to guide the district in developing and advancing school leadership, instruction and community involvement.

The past two years I have taken an active role in reviewing our district policies. Policy is a set of broad written guidelines created by the board of education to chart our district's course of action and in my view, the board's most important function. Our policies state the positions taken by the District, grant the administration direction and authority to act, and provide the guidelines to implement our Strategic Plan and to provide a safe and secure environment for learning.

Like any organization, I also understand that tough decisions still need to be made to ensure we have the resources to continue offering the programs and activities that make Lew-Port special. The District faces a declining enrollment, Strategic Plan implementation, continual personnel changes, and additional capital projects to ensure our school is prepared for the future. I look forward to helping the board and community address our shared vision for the future and to look at ways of doing business smarter through our budget and policy development. Our goal is to put students first by supporting a safe and secure environment for learning, providing resources and programs to allow each student to reach their potential, and holding administration and staff accountable for student achievement results.

Serving on the board has proven to be more than "one meeting a month," but it only takes one graduation, one musical, one moving up day, one sporting event, or one smiling child to make it all worthwhile. But the real success of our schools takes a combined effort from the administration, teachers, parents, and community. By working together and listening to each other we will be able to meet these challenges and continue to provide a world class education at Lew-Port.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to continue working with the community on providing the best education possible for our children.



Gemma Fournier CST, RN, MSN, FAST

Education:

Masters of Science in Nursing: University of Phoenix;
Bachelors of Science in Nursing: Niagara University;
Associates Degree in Applied Sciences/Surgical Technology:

Niagara County Community College

Employment:

Niagara County Community College (NCCC) for the past 22 years: Surgical Technology Program Coordinator/Professor

Please identify previous and/or real life experiences which you believe qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

The real life experiences that qualify me to serve on the Board of Education are that I am a mother of four children, two of my sons are Lewiston-Porter graduates, and my twin boys are currently in 9th grade in Lewiston-Porter High School. I have been the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator and Professor at Niagara County Community College for the past 22 years. My experience with higher education and understanding the needs of the student makes me a strong candidate for the Lewiston-Porter BOE. I coordinate various aspect of the Surgical Technology Program to include advising a diverse population of students to achieve their goals and earn their degree, interpret standards and guidelines for accreditation, program and curriculum development with restructuring, budgetary responsibilities, and I am proficient in writing documents. I believe my personal professional development and involvement with my professions at the state and national level is important to ensure my currency with safe practices to be a better educator.

Why do you want to be/become a member of the Board of Education?

My personal and professional experiences are reasons to become a member of the Board of Education at Lewiston-Porter. I believe in the Lewiston-Porter School district and my interactions with the administration and teachers have been overall positive. The education and encouragement that my two older sons, Anthony and Robert, received from the teachers and guidance counselors have helped them graduate and become successful, hard working adults. Also, my older sons were involved with sports, playing hockey while attending Lewiston-Porter Schools.

Currently, my twin boys, Ethan and Nathan, are both doing very well in 9th grade. They are both self-advocating and self-directed to stay on task with their academics and extra curricular activities; this is due to their positive daily structure while in school. Ethan plays hockey, soccer, and lacrosse; and Nathan has been performing in plays, musicals, and chorus for Lewiston-Porter.

I am a dedicated and hard-working person and would like to give my time back to the school district that has helped my children and other children of my family and friends. I want to see Lewiston-Porter continue its rank as one of the top 10 schools in Western New York, and be part of the school's continued growth of innovative programs and facilities.

At this point in my life, I can offer the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education my positive energy and knowledge to assist the district and be part of the continued progressive movement forward for the future of the Lewiston-Porter students and school district. Thank you!

Board of Education Candidates



Betty VanDenBosch-Warrick

Education:

Niagara County Community College, ACT Travel School of Pompano, Florida

Employment:

General Manager, US Operations, Yorkville Sound, Inc

Please identify previous and/or real life experiences which you believe qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

Three years of service on the Lew-Port Board of Education, coupled with my professional experience running US operations for a multi-million dollar company, uniquely qualify me to return to service as a Board of Education member. My service to the Lew-Port community also includes fifteen years as a volunteer and advocate for public education, including seven years on the PTA board (serving as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President).

In my first term on the Board of Education, we hired a new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, provided oversight to the now completed \$26.7 million Capital Project, created a solid Strategic Plan and weathered a fiscal crisis. Serving on the board, I made it my goal to learn as much as possible about educational governance, policy making, collective bargaining, budgeting and capital outlays. I worked with the board and administration to build a strong leadership team with common goals and the ability to see these goals through.

As Chairperson of the Board's Finance Committee, I gained great insight into the financial workings of the district. When I first joined the board, we were in the midst of a state financial crisis: Lew-Port lost millions of dollars in state funding through the GEA, putting our district on a list of most fiscally stressed districts. Through careful planning, a huge effort from our administrators (who were pulling double and sometimes triple duty) and our teachers' union (who worked with us to balance our budgets), and painful decisions to cut budgets where necessary, we were able to pull through that troubled time.

During my tenure, we were able to restore and/or create several key positions, including a full time curriculum director, a full time athletic director, a librarian position, and a full complement of department chairs. We restored funding for critical staff development, added assistant coaches for many of our teams and made modest increases to the athletic budget for equipment and uniforms, all while keeping our budget below CPI. Most importantly for the tax payer, we consistently kept the levy below the 2% property tax cap, allowing residents to receive a rebate from NY State for their property tax increases for the past two years.

As a board member, I traveled with our Board President and Superintendent to Albany to meet with our legislators to appeal to them for a full restoration of GEA. We stressed how impossible it would be to maintain our program if this funding was taken from us for another year. We were pleased when the state budget included a full restoration of these lost funds.

I was involved with oversight of the capital project, which included improvements to every building on campus. Most of these improvements were centered on student and staff safety and addressed our crumbling infrastructure. While this project is mostly complete, there are still lingering issues that need to be addressed. My familiarity with the project will be an asset going forward with planning and oversight of the proposed new project.

Why do you want to be/become a member of the Board of Education?

While serving as a board member, I worked with district leaders to create a strategic plan and developed a budget to support its implementation. I would like to return to the board to continue the work we outlined, hold those responsible for implementing the plan accountable, and then begin the process of updating and expanding the plan.

As the mother of one recent graduate and two high school students, I have

a vested interest in Lew-Port remaining one of the best school districts in Western New York. I look forward to continuing to support student programs including A/P, Art and Music Honors programs, athletics, and foreign language.

While we do have a wonderful, diverse program at Lew-Port, there are areas I would like to see improved, including Honors/Gifted education at all levels, innovative programs for Special Education, and STEM concentrations that include coding and honors science at the elementary level.

I would like to revisit the Veteran's tax exemption to see if this is something we could offer our past and current service members.

Most importantly, I would like to continue my advocacy for public education at the state and national level. Now more than ever, it is important to build relationships with our legislators to keep them informed of the issues we are facing and how they can best serve our students.

In closing, I would like to say how proud I am of the Lew-Port community, our students, staff and administration. Over the past few years, we have seen our school board become a positive, focused group of professionals with common goals and the dedication and fortitude to move forward with the business of educating our children. It is a good day for our community when we have multiple qualified, dedicated candidates running for an opportunity to serve our community through this important position.

I hope that you will support my candidacy with your vote on May 16th. I am dedicated, committed and willing to put in the time and effort required to be your representative on the Board of Education.



Sarah Roat Waechter

Education:

Associates of Applied Science - Physical Therapist Assistant, Niagara County Community College
Bachelor of Science - Environmental Policy and Behavior, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Employment:

Advance Care Physical Therapy, Niagara Falls

Please identify previous and/or real life experiences which you believe qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

Many of my life experiences have prepared me for the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education. While employed at the Saginaw County Department of Public Health, I developed, implemented and managed the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Abatement Program where part of my responsibilities included writing abatement specifications, sending projects to bid and managing large scale lead based paint abatement projects. Several of the policies, procedures and documents I created for the Saginaw program were later adopted by the State of Michigan and other counties to use in similar programs. The most valuable lesson I learned through this position is your project is only as good as your specifications and change orders can quickly escalate project costs. With several capital projects still on the horizon at Lewiston-Porter, my experience can help guide these projects to completion. My second career, after being a stay-at-home mother to my remarkable daughters (Emma, Lewiston-Porter Class of 2018 and Maggie, Class of 2020), as a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), has given me the opportunity to work with a diverse group of people. This opportunity to educate patients, guide their healing process and to communicate the importance of therapy has allowed me to grow as a communicator and an educator. The ability to listen and empathize with my patients are the most valuable lessons I take from my job as a PTA. These skills are important to looking for public input while developing policies and procedures that address the diversity of needs across the Lewiston-Porter district. Furthermore, I have been involved in government from an early age, attending the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan Girls State (Girls Nation finalist) in high school to

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Board of Education Candidates

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working in public health which makes me very familiar with the constraints and limitations of government. Currently, I am president of Partners In Education at the high school where we have successfully received 501(c) 3 status. I was educated through the public school system until grade nine where I was exposed to a progressive style of education, similar to Lewiston-Porter's Multi-Age. My experience as a non-traditional student at NCCC forced me to balance my work and home life which lends itself to being flexible and understanding during times of difficulty.

Why do you want to be/become a member of the Board of Education?

Being a Lewiston-Porter Board of Education member is an important endeavor to me. My mother instilled in me a desire to learn. She has always believed that a person can take your possessions but that person can never take your education, you can always rebuild based on the strength of what

you know. As I've grown into adulthood, her wise words have influenced my passion for education. I believe it is the strength and soundness of one's education that leads to quality life decisions and it is through education that we maintain a civil society. I believe a free and public education for all children deserves to be defended. I also believe that in changing economics times we must look at innovative ways to fund the excellent academic, athletic and music/art programs we have at Lewiston-Porter. I believe, as a tax payer, we must remain fiscally sound and use our funding wisely. Finally, I believe that Lewiston-Porter is a strong educational community that can continue to grow in strength. It is my wish to contribute to that growth with my experience and my passion. Thank you for taking the time to read this, to get to know me and I look forward to representing you on the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education.

Lew-Port Middle School Goes Bald for Bucks

Some brave and generous students and staff at the Middle School raised some money and shed some hair to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Roswell Institute through their "Goin' Bald for Bucks" campaign.

To this date, the school has raised \$6,190 and the money is still coming in. The online donation at Roswell will be open until the end of June. The event was initiated by Brittany Rosso, a senior at the High School. She is part of the Yroswell Street Team, which is a youth marketing program that works towards a world without cancer and educates the public at community events, helps with fundraisers and raises cancer awareness. Brittany got involved because of her experiences with family and friends that suffer with cancer and hopes to make a difference by raising money for cancer research.

"Brittany approached me at the end of February and asked if the Builders Club could sponsor the Goin' Bald for Bucks fundraiser," says advisor Tina Oddy. "Our members were excited to help with the event since everyone seems to know someone affected by cancer. Everyone wanted to help." The Honor Society held a bake sale. The Builders Club planned and organized multiple fundraising campaigns including "Cancer Sucks, Sucker Roulette" and pizza sale. They also

came up with VIP seating at the April 7th Goin' Bald for Bucks event at the high school auditorium and giving out purple wristbands and hair extensions as incentives to participate and donate.

The event was something to behold as the middle schoolers cheered on their peers, teachers and administrators who were getting their hair cut or shaved for the cause. The Student Council led the audience in the "L-E-W-P-O-R-T Chant" and during the event the audience sang along to the soundtrack that Brittany created. DJ Anthony from Kiss 98.5 was the MC brought lots of energy and excitement to the crowd. And was presented with a cake because it was also his birthday!

A big congratulations goes out to the students who participated and/or raised money for the cause. A special shout out to the students who raised the most money for the cause: James Marshall, Cassady Skellen, Charles Dieteman, Matt Barber, Isabella Guerrucci, Shyanne Rabatoy, Ethan Alker, Amara Preston, David Kennedy, Anthony DiNatale, Joseph Fatta, Nathan Halgash and Everitt Owen. Rhea Furrey and Joshua Lauzonis also made large donations. Also teacher Denis Scinta, who helped to get the students excited and involved in the event raised \$2,885! We have amazing students and staff at Lew-Port!



New York State School Report Card Results

Below is a brief snapshot of the 2015-2016 New York State School Report Card which can be found on the district's website at www.lew-port.com, for our school. This is the most current data available at the time of this printing.

Lew-Port ranks 9th out of schools in Western New York according to "Business First"



Lewiston-Porter Students Continue to Excel

Passing Rate of 65% Higher	Regents Exam	Scoring 85% or or Higher
97%	CC ELA	80%
95%	CC Algebra	62%
94%	CC Geometry	34%
54%	Algebra II / Trigonometry	17%
98%	CC Algebra II	67%
100%	U.S. History & Gov't	84%
91%	Global History & Geography	60%
92%	Living Environment	46%
90%	Earth Science	47%
76%	Chemistry	31%
88%	Physics	32%

- ❖ 2053 Students
- ❖ 99% of our Graduates Received Regents Diploma
- ❖ 49% of our Graduates Received an Advanced Regents Diploma
- ❖ Dropout Rate 1%
- ❖ 83% of our Graduates will continue on to either a two year or four year college
- ❖ 218 Students taking AP Exams
- ❖ 390 AP exams taken
- ❖ 55% of scores were at Level 3 or above

2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

LEWISTON - PORTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WORK TO BE COMPLETED

STEM/ACADEMIC

- Intermediate Education Center
- Middle School
- High School
- Renovate Science Classrooms
- Renovate Library

\$2,138,900

+

HEALTH & SAFETY (Building Condition Survey)

- District Office
- Intermediate Education Center
- Primary Education Center
- Middle School
- High School
- Upgrade Mechanical Systems
- Exterior Masonry Repair
- Crawlspace Abatement
- Auditorium Renovations
- Reconstruct Track

\$6,371,600

+

P.E. PROGRAM/ATHLETICS/RECREATION

1. Renovate tennis courts into play area/batting cages/outdoor fitness
2. Reconstruct tennis courts
3. Reconstruct fencing at athletic fields
4. Upgrade site lighting

\$739,500

=

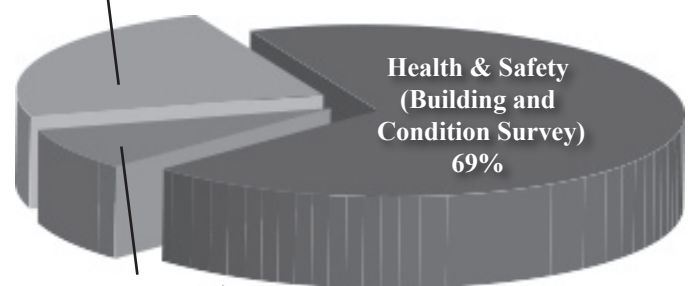
\$9,250,000

TOTAL PROJECT REFERENDUM

SUMMARY

STEM/Academics

23%



P.E. Program/
Athletics/Recreation
8%

FUNDING

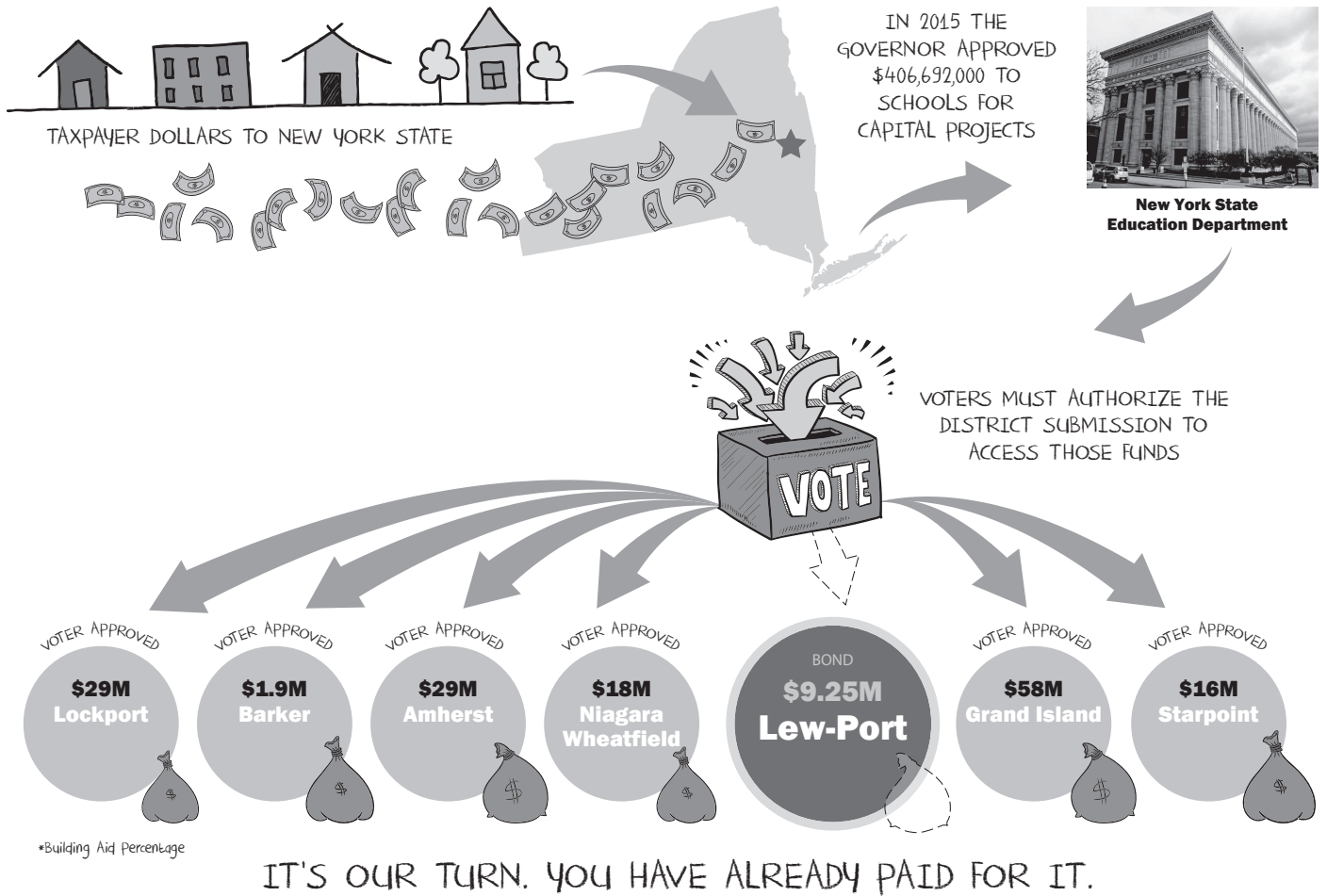
Total Project Referendum \$9,250,000

* District will see a decrease in the level debt over the life of the bond

Capital Reserve Funds Used
For the Project \$500,000

PROJECT IS TAX NEUTRAL

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHAT WILL THIS COST ME?

Total Project Referendum	\$9,250,000
* District will see a decrease in the level debt over the life of the bond	
Capital Reserve Funds Used For the Project	\$500,000

PROJECT IS TAX NEUTRAL

Property Tax Report Card Numbers

	Budgeted 2016-17 (A)	Proposed Budget 2017-18 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$43,091,723	\$44,882,121	4.15%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	\$25,409,283	\$25,797,536	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable ²	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$25,409,283	\$25,797,536	1.53%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$1,203,815	\$1,167,185	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	\$24,304,542	\$24,729,850	
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)	\$24,205,468	\$24,630,351	
I. Difference: (G-H);(negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²	\$99,074	\$99,499	
Public School Enrollment			0.00%
Consumer Price Index			1.26%

² Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

³ For 2017-18, includes any carryover from 2016-17 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2016-17 (D)	Estimated 2017-18 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$1,300,216	\$1,429,999
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$400,000	\$700,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$1,944,542	\$1,839,565
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.51%	4.10%

Budget Vote and Board of Education Election
Tuesday - May 16, 2017 • 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Community Resource Center

Girls On the Run Prepares Students for 5K and Life Lessons

There is a lot more going on than preparing a group of young ladies for a 5K run at the Lewiston Porter Primary Education Center. This is the fourth year that the elementary school has held a Girls on the Run club afterschool. The national organization's mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.

Coaches Ann Marie Oliverio and Mary Kofahl have spent the last three years making it their mission that the girls are not only healthy physically, but mentally and learning important life lessons to help them to develop into confident women. "We have 17 girls, grades 3-5, participating this year," says Coach Oliverio. "We are training them for the 5K, but we are incorporating goal setting, building their confidence and tapping into their personal power or star power as we call it. We encourage the girls to practice a character behavior at home such as being truthful or being organized. Several lessons focus on ways to respond to others and themselves with care and compassion. For example, the girls discuss friendly behaviors that show caring and also learn strategies to stop gossip."

"All of these girls come from different backgrounds, have different abilities, different physical abilities and different academic goals," says Coach Kofahl. "Part of Girls on the Run is helping those girls do everything they put their mind to and help the ones that need extra help, extra encouragement and extra strategies. It is always encouraging to see them talk about themselves and turn down the negative thoughts and encourage each other to turn those thoughts down too. That is a big piece of this, that they know that others have their back."

Angelina Olivera is in the 5th grade and is in her third year of being in the club. "I really like Girls on the Run. I especially like that it

is not just running. You learn a lot of important lessons that you can use. There are connections. You treat others like you want to be treated, encourage people, be kind and include everyone." Ava Riehler says she likes the club because she likes to exercise and run. "I also really like being around the other girls."

The girls meet two days a week at the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They also focus on getting in shape for their end goal of running in the 5K on June 4th at the University of Buffalo. "It is really an incredible event," says Coach Oliverio. "There are little girls everywhere. There are tutus, tattoos, moms and dads. Each girl has to have a running partner and sometimes whole families run together." Fifth grader Aliza Whitehead says it's a lot of fun. "It really energizes me. I feel good when I do it. I have run it twice and it was exciting, even when I was sore, it was a lot of fun."

"It is such a great program," says Coach Kofahl. "Not only for the girls to learn what they are capable of doing, but also to have the opportunity to surprise themselves. Its hard work and dedication and it produces great results. They learn more about themselves through character building, skill building and team building. It is a great all-around program for the girls."



Photo Caption: 1st row (sitting) - Coach Kofahl, Olivia Kozlowski, Alison Kofahl, Francesca Hess
Middle (kneeling) - Kendra Fazzolari, Samantha Draper, Olivia Fesmire, Grace Marra, Raistlyn Julias, Ava Riehler, Lillian Howard
Top - Lilyanna MacKenzie, Angelina Olivera, Isabella Carr, Amelie Vanderlip, Aliza Whitehead, Sydney Jokic, Coach Oliverio
Absent - Liliana Unversaw

Ashli Dreher First WNY Teacher to Be Inducted Into National Teachers Hall of Fame



Lewiston-Porter special education teacher Ashli Dreher has received word that she will be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. She is the first teacher from Western New York to achieve this honor.

The National Teachers Hall of Fame is located in Emporia, Kansas and honors five of the nation's most outstanding teachers every year. A national selection committee, which includes representatives from educational organizations, former inductees in the Hall of Fame, government and corporate America reviews the nominations and makes the final determination on who will be honored at the formal ceremony on June 23.

Ashli is a 1995 graduate from Canisius College with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and English and has completed graduate studies at D'Youville College in 1998 earning a Master's Degree in Special Education followed by a Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY Buffalo in Educational Leadership to earn a School District Leadership Certificate in 2002. She was named the New York State Teacher of the Year in 2014 and has been teaching special education at Lew-Port since 1998. She works in the high school with 12 students with moderate intellectual disabilities and developmental

disabilities. Although she is a certified school administrator, Ashli says she can't ever see herself leaving the classroom.

Lewiston-Porter Superintendent, Paul Casseri says, "Ashli's programming is very innovative. She works with our most severely handicapped students, and what she's done is really a miracle, especially in the area of literacy. She has taken kids whose parents were told years ago that they'd never read and they are reading."

"I am so blessed to have been part of the Lew-Port teaching family for the last 20 years, the NYS Teacher of the Year Council, and the National Teachers Hall of Fame Class of 2017," says Ashli.

"Being a public school teacher at Lew-Port and a colleague of so many talented educators, administrators, and board members makes me proud. It is my hope that I will represent the district well in Washington and in Emporia, Kansas at the induction ceremony and I continue to have high expectations for myself, my students and my children at home."



Lewiston-Porter Embarks on 2017 Capital Improvement Project

Lewiston-Porter Central School District is proud to announce the details for the 2017 Capital Improvement Project. This plan will focus on developing three key areas across this district, which will greatly benefit our students. The areas include Health and Safety; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and Academic classrooms; and Physical Education, Athletics, and Recreation facilities.

After a recent building condition survey, it was sited that major improvements in health and safety are the most needed capital improvements for the District, with 69% of the capital project referendum being contributed to health and safety measures. Renovations will take place in all five District buildings across the Lewiston-Porter campus. Improvements will include upgrading mechanical systems, exterior masonry repair, plumbing, crawlspace abatement, and auditorium renovations.

In addition to creating a healthier environment for our students, this capital project will also benefit our children in the areas of STEM and academics. Lewiston-Porter recognizes the needs for compelling teaching and learning atmospheres, which will empower and inspire students to achieve academic and personal excellence. Because of this, 23% of the capital project funds will boost STEM and Academic facilities. Renovations include improving spatial relationships with new shelving, tables, chairs, computer workstation counters, and an optimized circulation desk to better serve our students. Additionally, eleven science classrooms throughout the Middle and High Schools will be upgraded to reach compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The classrooms will facilitate a better teaching and learning environment for students and staff.

Lastly, our Physical Education program, which includes athletics and recreation, will benefit from the capital project as well. Improvements include revitalizing the tennis courts, creating a play area which will include batting cages and outdoor fitness amenities, reconstructing athletic field fencing, and upgrading site lighting.

The 2017 Capital Improvement Project will be administered in two phases: the first beginning in May 2018 and lasting until September 2018 and the second phase commencing in May 2019 and wrapping up in September 2019. The project will be completed with minimal disruption to the classroom.

The total scope of the project will cost \$9.25 million. This tax neutral project will not bear any increase in tax amounts for District residents. Funding for this project is included in a statewide school capital project initiative, which was approved in 2015 by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo. Funding for this project is already in place as has already been financed. On May 16, 2017, District residents will have the chance to vote to authorize the use of these funds during the District Budget vote.

The 2017 Capital Improvement Project will give the opportunity to support areas throughout our schools, which could not be developed during the most recent capital improvements. After receiving may proposals for the Capital Improvement Project, we look forward to working with the Trautman Associates, the architectural firm chosen to perform the capital improvements.

The project summary along with maps that highlight the renovation sites can be found on the District website: www.lew-port.com.

IEC Students Work to Improve the Cafeteria

by 5th grade students: Mary Cardamone, Dylan Ljiljanich, Ayva Teal, and Aliza Whitehead

What do you think the behavior is like in the IEC cafeteria? "Some students were misbehaving in the cafeteria and are being very disrespectful towards the cafeteria." These words were spoken by Lew-port 5th grade students who personally experienced it. "We are Lancer Leaders and we wanted to do something about this problem."

Our first step was to meet with our Lancer Leader group members, and identify the problems and come up with some possible solutions. Then, we set up a meeting with Mrs. Gajewski. We told her all the problems we noticed in the cafeteria, and all of the positive things we saw in the cafeteria. We then told her some solutions we had for the problems. Mrs. Gajewski listened to our concerns. Mrs. Gajewski brought our concerns to the cafeteria monitors. The cafeteria monitors came up with the solution to set up some activities in the cafeteria throughout the week. Some of the activities include arts and crafts, games, reading a book, and coloring. We have noticed the behavior has improved in the cafeteria since these activities have been applied.

However, we didn't want to stop there. Our next step is to make a survey for all the IEC students to complete. Some of the questions will ask are:

- What are some things you like in the cafeteria?
- What are some things you don't like in the cafeteria?
- What are some solutions you have for those problems?

We will then take all the responses from the survey and look at the student opinions. Our goal is to make the cafeteria a better place by using student voice to accomplish our goal. The IEC Building Design Team is working with us to make the cafeteria a happier and more kid friendly place. "We are excited about these changes, and hope to make a difference in our school!"



Hello from the International Programs Department!

Hello, my name is Rhonda Shiah, the new International Programs Coordinator at the high school. I came from Niagara University where I was the Assistant Director for International Relations, working with the international and exchange students, as well as helping students go abroad to study for a semester, year or short term with a faculty-led group. I reside in Wilson with my husband, Chas and daughter, Samantha. I also have a son, CJ who is currently living in Hanoi, Vietnam where he teaches English in an elementary school.

I am very excited to be here at Lewiston-Porter working with the Chinese Confucius Classroom students and teachers and our international partners. Speaking of partners, on April 18th we will welcome 10 students from our partner school, Saint Benoit High School from Istanbul, Turkey. This is the third year in a row that St. Benoit teachers, Ms. Yasemin Cit and Ms. Hale Tuncer will escort a group of students to Lew-Port. While they are here, the Turkish students will stay with Lew-Port high school students, attend classes and participate in a Scavenger Hunt organized by the International Business Academy class. We will also tour Niagara Falls, visit Old Fort Niagara and Niagara University.

So much is going on with the international programs right now. I am organizing a student trip to China for fall 2017. The week before break, Mr. Andy Sharpe and I visited classrooms to speak to students about this once in a life time opportunity. We hope to take a group of 10 or more students to our sister school in Tianjin, the 5th largest city in China. While in China, students will get the chance to attend school with their Chinese hosts, tour the cities of Tianjin, Beijing

and visit the Great Wall of China. We will host a Parent Information/Interest meeting on Tuesday, April 25th at 6pm in the high school library for any students and parents that are interested in learning more about the trip.

Plans for next year are also underway. We are currently recruiting our next group of Chinese students and we're looking forward to our new partnership with Niagara University. NU will house the Chinese students for half of the year while the other half of the year students will live with host families. While students will have the experience of living with an American family for half the year, the partnership with Niagara is a great opportunity to prepare students for their life as a college student, as many of the students will go on to study at colleges and universities in the US after they graduate from Lewiston-Porter. We're always looking for additional host families, so if you're interested or know a family who might like to host an international student, please have them contact me at rshiah@lew-port.com or 716-286-7235.



Going forward, I hope to have more domestic students involved with our international programs and students, so stay tuned for some exciting programs and activities that I'm working on for next year.

"Public schools are where the next generation of leaders are educated and where cultural exchange take place." – Eugenie Scott

Congratulations!



Congratulations Dylan Gurski! Great work on your poster at the Buffalo Auto Show! First Place! We are very proud of your hard work.



Congratulations to Andrew Carrigan, Jalon Hargis & Vincent Presutti as regional winners at the Area I Skills USA Art Show. Great work!

**Lewiston-Porter
Central School District**

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ECRWSS
RESIDENT

Vote Tuesday, May 16th, 2017

Absentee Ballots

Voters who meet the following criteria need to fill out an Application for Absentee Ballot in order to be eligible to receive an Absentee Ballot. Applications are available in the District Office and on the District website. Absentee ballots must be provided to any qualified voter who will be unable to vote in person due to:

1. Illness or physical disability, hospitalization,
2. Incarceration (unless incarcerated for conviction of a felony),
3. Travel outside the voter's county or city of residence for employment or business reasons, studies, or vacation on the day of the election.

The District Clerk must receive applications for an absentee ballot at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or one day prior to the vote, if in person.

Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the vote, May 16, 2017.

Qualifications for Voters

Prospective voters must be: 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the school district for 30 days or more prior to May 16, 2017.

The mission of the Lewiston-Porter Central School District is to create a learning environment which challenges each unique individual to become a self-sufficient, responsible and contributing member of society and encourages each to achieve his/her potential through a life-long learning process.