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Budget Edition 2022



## 2022-23 Budget Message from the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools

Since March of 2020, the Lewiston-Porter Central School District and school community have faced unprecedented challenges. Never before has the partnership between school, home, and community been clearer or more important. We cannot thank our community enough for your support. We hoped September 2021 would have had us fully back to a “normal” school experience, but the 2021-22 school year continued to throw unprecedented challenges our way. COVID-19 raged throughout January and February and we scrambled to maintain a positive school environment in spite of the many staff and student quarantines. Through strong communication and a clear focus on our students and their success, we are now starting to see light at the end of the tunnel.

Despite the many obstacles, our schools have remained open the entire year for on-campus learning. Our teachers, staff, and administrators have worked tirelessly to provide academic and emotional support to our students. We continue to see challenges, particularly with student social-emotional concerns coming out of the pandemic. In response, we have added a fourth social worker—one to each building—to provide further support for our students across the campus. We have invested in Restorative Practices training for all staff as an opportunity to support the social-emotional growth of our students at all levels. We are making progress. Despite recent setbacks, we are continuing to focus on our students’ mental health and well-being. We know we have work to do but we have started the conversation and will continue to focus on the success and happiness of all our students.

The cost of the pandemic and the inflationary pressures on resources and services needed for school operation cannot be underestimated. Increased operating expenses have been part and parcel of keeping our schools open and our students, faculty, staff, and community safe. Careful budgeting, as we headed into this difficult year, together with our strong academic and financial position, allowed us to weather the uncertainty and turmoil.

As we come out of the pandemic, we respectfully present a proposed 2022-23 school budget of \$53,117,598.00 to the residents and taxpayers of the Lewiston-Porter Central School District. This represents a 3.75% increase budget-to-budget, and a 2.69% increase in the tax levy. Our balanced budget takes current numbers and all potential inflationary impacts for the 2022-23 school year into consideration. It plans for a traditional 2022-23 school year, with the continued development of student academic and emotional support. The 2022-23 school budget continues support for our award-winning art and music programs, our championship athletic programs, and important community outreach like our very popular community education program. The proposed budget is the result of significant work and planning by our leadership team in collaboration with the Board of Education. The District Strategic Plan continues to set the direction of all fiscal decision-making, together with our long-term financial goals.

We are grateful to the State and Federal governments for the significant support realized this year to balance the financial burdens of school operations coming out of a

global pandemic. The finalized state budget includes a 3% increase in Foundation Aid. Other aid categories, particularly BOCES Aid and Transportation are cost-driven aids based on dollars spent in this 2021-22 school year. These dollar amounts are estimates in our total aid package and the inclusion of those aid numbers must be qualified with our internal estimates of spending, adding in inflationary pressures in those areas that may be realized after July 1, 2022.

Budget-to-budget increases for the upcoming fiscal year were again driven by the continued need for, cleaning, disinfecting, and air quality supplies and overall inflationary pressures being felt by all businesses and organizations, especially with natural gas and fuel costs. Also included in the 2022-23 budget are potential increases to transportation and contractual obligations with our various bargaining units representing our employees. Careful budgeting and constant monitoring of expenses to capture efficiencies and limit the rising cost of healthcare have been incorporated into the budget process. Those savings have been applied within this budget along with the careful appropriation of reserves, along with an increase of 2.69% to the tax levy, still well below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the New York State tax cap threshold for individual school districts.

Federal aid in the form of CRSSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) and ARP (American Rescue Plan) is finally arriving. We will continue to use these important dollars

*continued on page 3*

**Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**  
**7:00 am to 8:00 pm**

**PROPOSITION #1**  
**Annual Budget**  
**\$53,117,598**

# School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budegt Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budegt Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$51,195,913	\$53,117,598	\$52,359,286
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$1,921,685	\$1,163,373
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.75%	2.31%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$28,085,639	\$28,843,951	
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)	\$28,085,639	\$28,843,951	\$28,085,639
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,268,890	\$1,279,963	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$27,196,765	\$27,568,487	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$26,816,749	\$27,563,988	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$380,016	\$4,499	
Administrative Component	\$5,029,889	\$4,797,500	\$4,493,558
Program Component	\$36,754,719	\$34,948,395	\$34,549,208
Capital Component	\$9,411,305	\$13,371,703	\$13,316,520

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The district would eliminate all equipment purchases, all travel and conferences, Modified sports would be eliminated, Three teaching positions, two administrative positions, one clerical position and two teacher aides would be eliminated. Community education would be eliminated. Field trips would be eliminated. Supplies and material would be decreased.

\*\* 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
	\$

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$546.61</b>

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Lewiston-Porter Central School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held at the Community Resource Center in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the Community resource center, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

*“One Purpose, Your Pathway, Our Promise”*

# Proposed 2022-2023 Budget ... at a closer look

Budget Area	Description	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
Board of Education	BOE memberships and required trainings, District Clerk, supplies & materials for regular BOE meetings & the Annual Meeting	\$158,447
Central Administration	Superintendent & secretary salaries, supplies and materials	\$281,596
Office of Finance	Assistant Superintendent & secretary salaries, supplies and materials	\$528,531
Staff	Includes legal, personnel, records	\$313,404
Central Services	Building operations, maintenance, printing & mailing	\$3,650,137
Special Items	Insurance, assessments, BOCES Administrative charges	\$549,375
Administration & School Improvement	Instructional Administration & Staff Development	\$2,233,908
Teaching	Teachers', aides', monitors' salaries, supplies & materials	\$13,718,807
Occupational Education	Career and Technical Education programs at Orleans/Niagara BOCES	\$865,000
Special Programs	Special Education teachers', aides' salaries, supplies & materials	\$6,923,339
Teaching - Special schools	Continuing Education Programming	\$113,123
Instructional Media	Librarians', aides', computer technology salaries, supplies & materials	\$956,340
Payroll Services	Guidance, nurses, psychologists, social worker, extracurricular & inter-scholastic athletics	\$2,474,875
Transportation	Contracted services, fuel, monitors, and other costs associated with the transportation of students	\$3,502,530
Employee Benefits	Teacher Retirement System, Employee Retirement System, Health Insurance, Social Security, Workmen's Comp. & Unemployment Insurance	\$11,102,188
Capital Debt & Bond Payments	Bonds & BANS principal and interest payments associated with capital projects	\$5,690,998
Transfers to Special Aid	Federal aid transfer to general fund for Special Education Summer School	\$55,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$53,117,598</b>

## 2022-23 Budget Message *continued from page 1*

toward academic remediation and intervention (including elementary summer programs), social-emotional support, technology, and other very specific initiatives over the next three years. This financial support brings a great opportunity to better the education, health, and well-being of our students.

While we are appreciative of this year's state and federal aid, we remain cautious and conservative in our fiscal planning. Our district has borne the brunt of the New York State financial crisis before. Over the past seven years, we have developed careful, conservative fiscal planning and a strategic plan focused on student achievement. By closely following our strategic plan and long-term fiscal planning, spending is focused to fully support our educational priorities, while remaining fair and responsive to the current and future needs of our taxpayers.

The Budget Vote and Board of Education Election will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm in the Community Resource Center, Multi-Purpose Room. If you would like to request an absentee ballot application, please contact Marisa I. Barile, District Clerk at 716-286-7266 or by email at [mbarile@lew-port.com](mailto:mbarile@lew-port.com).

We thank you for your careful consideration of the 2022-23 budget information included in this newsletter. We appreciate and honor the enduring support by our school community for school programs that have made Lewiston-Porter Central Schools one of the finest school systems in Western New York

Respectfully,

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

### A Message from the District Clerk

To be a qualified voter you must be:

- a US Citizen
- at least 18 years old
- a School District resident (for 30 days immediately preceding the vote)

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

# Board of Education Candidates

**Elect (3) at large Board of Education vacancies. The two candidates who receive the most votes will serve immediately after the election (upon filing the oath of office, if required) until June 30, 2025. The candidate who receives the third-highest number of votes will serve a three-year term from July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2025.**

## Board Candidate Savana Bevacqua

**Education:** Lewiston-Porter Class of 2003

AAS in Humanities & Social Sciences from NCCC  
BS in Urban & Regional Planning from Buffalo State  
Currently attending graduate school at  
University at Buffalo - Masters of Urban Planning

**Employment:** US Navy Veteran

Former Finance & Business Manager at Joe Cecconi's Chrysler  
Village of Lewiston Planning Board member

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

I have built a life around serving my country and community. As both a US Navy Veteran and a Village of Lewiston Planning Board member, I believe that it is our responsibility as community members to represent the standards and values of our district. We are responsible for setting goals and enacting the changes we wish to see. I understand that not everyone has the time available to commit to the community, yet still deserve their interests represented. I also understand that teachers and staff need to have full support and backing from a cohesive, dedicated Board of Education.

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

To put it simply: I believe wholeheartedly in serving my community, and I want an active role participating in the changes the district both needs and wants. I am a lifelong community member and a mother of two young children in the Lew-Port school system. I believe that supporting our teachers and staff at Lew-Port is integral to the educational health of our children and community. I am here to listen and participate!



## Board Candidate Charles (Chuck) Edward Barber

**Education:** HS graduate of Niagara Wheatfield (92);  
Associate Degree, Niagara County Community College  
Bachelor's in Business, Buffalo State

**Employment:** 20 years experience in non-profit work, working with individuals with developmental disabilities at Heritage Christian Services. Left there in 2015 to co-own/run Apple Granny restaurant. After 6 years of this, due to some increased family needs, I left this and currently work with the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce.

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

I believe my work experience and education makes me an excellent candidate for the school board. I have three children currently in the school system who are active in a variety of the school functions/sports. I have extensive board experience serving on the boards of the Lewiston Kiwanis, Hanci, Anchoring Hope and others in the past. I have been active in the boards/running of youth sports that my kids have been a part of as well.

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

I would like to join the school board as it is important to me to be involved in both the school system and the community that my family is a part of. I have always tried to remain active in the community and my work with Apple Granny's and the Chamber has helped with that. I am a member of the Lewiston Kiwanis and have helped support many of their activities, including being the chairperson for the Peach Festival in the past. I feel I can add my professional work experience and love of this community to the school board.



## Board Candidate April Saks

**Education:** Master's degree in Education, Mills College, Oakland, CA

California Teaching Credential, Mills College, Oakland, CA  
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

**Employment:** Freelance editor

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

I've always been interested in the education and well-being of children. After college, before becoming a credentialed teacher, I took on a variety of jobs that were education-related, from dissecting cows' eyes at San Francisco's hands-on Exploratorium museum to facilitating children's groups through Kids' Turn, a support program for children whose families were going through separation and divorce. I also collected data for a nationwide educational research project. I later earned my teaching credential and Master's degree in education, working as an ESL and reading specialist at several elementary schools in northern and central California. While teaching, I worked on the school site plan as a Leadership Team member, and I served as a coordinator of a K-12 student writing initiative as part of the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative.

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

In 2010, I moved with my husband and twin toddlers to Lewiston. When my kids entered kindergarten at Lewiston-Porter, I was excited to continue being involved with education—this time as a parent. I volunteered in classrooms, and helped with multi-age events and special programs like One District One Book. I believe these activities reinforced the importance of support for our students' academic, physical, and emotional wellbeing. At the same time, I became involved in education in new ways by volunteering to interview local applicants to Stanford (where I went to college), and becoming a college essay editor, working with high school seniors to express their ideas effectively as they apply to colleges across the country. Working with high school seniors, in combination with my work in other grade levels has given me an appreciation of the K-12 experience overall.

Last July, I eagerly became a part of the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education when there was an open position. Since that time, I have learned a lot while participating in board meetings and work sessions, attending committee meetings, completing the necessary school board training and attending school events. Since moving to this area, I've enjoyed being a part of the Lewiston Porter community, and as an educator, a parent and a current school board member, I would welcome the opportunity to continue this work. Thank you for your consideration.



## Board Candidate Anika Fetzner

**Education:** Bachelors of Human Resource Management, UMUC

**Employment:** Panera Bread Associate

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

I am a mom of four kids in the district ranging from 1st to 9th grade. My two older children are in orchestra at different levels. My oldest daughter is also involved in multiple Lew-Port athletic programs. This has given me a deeper level of commitment to the Lew-Port community.

I have been a member of the PTSA for 7 years. In the past 2 and a half years, I have been active on the PTSA Board as the chair for spirit wear. As a friend of mine pointed out, I am not afraid to ask questions.

I also have spent some time volunteering in classrooms as well as worked as a substitute teacher in all four buildings, which I believe offers me insight into the life of our teachers and students.

This past year as a Board of Education member offered me the chance to learn a lot about what it involves to be part of our children's education. It definitely was and is a lot to learn. I plunged into several meeting committees and learned that it takes a lot to be well informed about each step it takes to run our school.

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

I have learned a lot this past year and would like to continue to learn all I can about how to keep our district successful.

These past few years have not been easy for any of us. We've had to adapt and overcome a lot of new situations. I think a positive attitude, forward thinking and gentle guidance for our children in the district will help ease the turmoil we've had to face. I would like to continue to be part of the Board of Education to help keep our district on this path.

I'm interested in the continued success of our district. I think it is important to focus on our children's education in order to help them succeed in the future. Lew-Port is an all-around great environment for our children (grandchildren), teachers and supporting staff. The academic performance, diversity of athletics, arts and enrichment programs are some of the best in Western NY. My goal is to not only maintain that standard of excellence but also support future development that is both fiscally responsible and targeted towards our children's best interests.

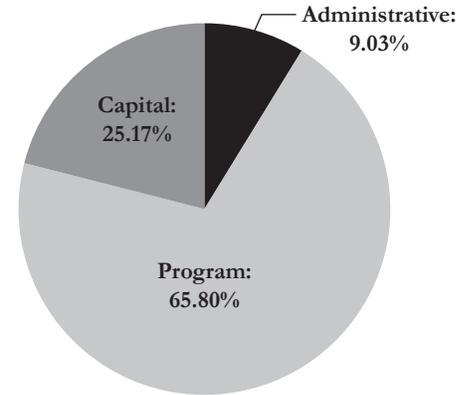


# Tri-Part Budget

Tri-Part Budget		
Administrative	\$4,797,500	9.03%
Program	\$34,948,395	65.80%
Capital	\$13,371,703	25.17%

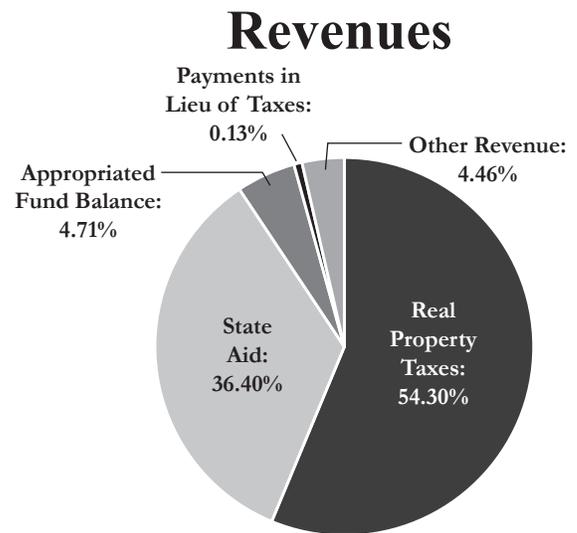
Revenues	
Real Property taxes	\$28,843,951
State Aid	\$19,335,129
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,500,000
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$70,330
Other Revenue	\$2,368,188
	\$53,117,598

# Tri-Part Budget



# Fund Balance and Reserves

Fund Balance and Reserves	
Adjusted restricted fund balance	\$2,651,447
Assigned appropriated fund balance	\$2,500,000
Adjusted unrestricted fund balance	\$2,446,087
Capital Reserves	\$263,711
Repair reserve	\$452,234
Employee benefit accrued liability	\$60,584
Retirement contribution reserve	\$500,000
Tax Certiorari	\$1,293,650
Debt Service	\$81,268



# Lewiston-Porter CSD 22-23 Tax Rates Estimate

Tax Rate Comparison		
	Lewiston	Porter
2022-2023	\$ 26.97	\$23.44
2021-2022	\$26.58	\$22.55
Difference	\$0.39	\$0.89

True Tax Rate Comparison at 100% equalization rate	
2022-2023	\$14.30
2021-2022	\$14.88
Difference	(\$0.58)

2022-2023 Tax Rate Estimates \$150,000 Assessed Value						
	Lewiston	2021-22	2022-23	Porter	2021-22	2022-23
Home Value	\$150,000			\$150,000		
Estimated basic STAR			\$17,700.00			\$20,400.00
21-22 STAR		\$17,700.00			\$20,400.00	
Tax Rates		\$26.58	\$26.97		\$22.55	\$23.44
Estimated Taxes		\$3,516.53	\$3,568.13		\$2,922.48	\$3,037.82
Estimated Increase			\$51.60			\$115.34

Change in Basic STAR as well as variances in equalization rates impacts increases and decreases.

# LEVEL Gallery Art Show

A new era begins with the Lewiston-Porter District Art Show taking place at the new LEVEL Gallery located in the Lewiston Porter Center for the Arts. If you have not had the opportunity to see the High School's latest renovation, prepare to be amazed at the spectrum of color that adorns the floor to guide visitors through its rich exhibitions of student talent.

*Growth Through Art* is the theme of the annual Lewiston-Porter School District student art exhibition, which showcases artwork from district student artists from grades kindergarten through high school. Teachers selected the pieces, which include drawings, paintings, ceramics, mixed-media, photography, digital media, and sculpture. Twenty-nine Lewiston Porter Seniors were inducted into the National Art Honor Society celebrating the dedication and talents of our graduates.



# International Science Fair Plans Underway

*Only the Second Time a US School Chosen for the Prestigious Event*

Lewiston-Porter was selected to host the upcoming 2022 International Student Science Fair (ISSF) scheduled from May 29 - June 3, 2022. Since its inception in 2005, the ISSF has been held in countries like Australia, Japan, and Singapore. The 2022 event in Western New York will mark only the second time it is being held in the United States.

Lewiston-Porter High School and its partners Niagara University and D'Youville University have been busy preparing for the arrival of the student participants from 17 international schools along with their teachers and administrators. Over the course of the week, along with presenting their research, they will also participate in various activities to enhance their cultural experiences, including local excursions, sightseeing, and shopping here in Western New York.

The ISSF with the theme of global sustainability and environmental stewardship is the signature event of the International Science Schools Network (ISSN) and involves an annual gathering of high schools from around the globe to provide a platform for students to engage in scientific research and education. The fair brings together talented high school students, who are passionate about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) along with their teachers and school leaders to share and develop ideas related to the teaching and learning of science research and education.

This annual event offers an opportunity for students from around the world to come together to learn and share their passion for science in a multi-cultural environment. The students attending will promote and engage in scientific research exchanges, by presenting their research projects through poster presentations and defending their research to a panel of expert judges. While the students present their projects, principals and teachers will attend workshops and meetings to share their experiences and knowledge promoting the importance of STEM education.

Lewiston Porter Central School District along with Niagara University and D'Youville University are honored to host this incredible event and the privilege of bringing the world's best STEM students to Western New York. Look for more information on this exciting event via our social media on: [Twitter.com/lewportcsd](https://twitter.com/lewportcsd), [facebook.com/LewistonCentralSchools](https://facebook.com/LewistonCentralSchools) and [instagram.com/lewportcsd](https://instagram.com/lewportcsd).



*Pictured: (l to r) Emma Waechter, Natalie Smith, and Amrita Singh. John Monash Science School, Melbourne Australia 2015. This team took 2nd prize.*



*Current teams that will compete in ISSF 2022.  
Back row (l to r) Raj Singh, Ethan Alker, Kaden Johnson, Josh Long  
Kneeling (l to r) Julia Thomas, Amanda Huang, Sarina Singh, Natalie Peunic, Lauren Lunshof*

## Budget Hearing:

Lewiston-Porter will hold a public hearing to present the 2022-2023 budget at 6:00 pm on Monday, May 9, 2022, in the Community Resource Center, boardroom.

**Lewiston-Porter  
Central School District**  
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Youngstown, New York 14174  
716.754.8281  
[www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com)



**BOE MEMBERS**

**Danielle M. Mullen**

**President**

Term: 2020-2023

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Term: 2021-2024

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**April Saks**

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**Betty VanDenBosch-Warrick**

Term: 2019-2022

Email: [bwarrick@lew-port.com](mailto:bwarrick@lew-port.com)

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ECRWSS  
RESIDENT

## Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program

In partnership with the Lewiston- Porter Central School district the YMCA offers a free half day UPK program to all district families.

Children must be 4 years old but not 5 by December 1st to be eligible for the program.

Limited spots left for the 2022-23 school year.

Please visit the Lew-Port district website for the application.

<https://www.lew-port.com/Page/12867>

FREE PROGRAM

Time: 8:50-11:20am

Program follows the district calendar

Full day fee-based program available.

For more information please contact: [kmeister@ymcabn.org](mailto:kmeister@ymcabn.org)

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.