



# Duanesburg

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**2025-26**

## Budget **VOTE** Tuesday, May 20

**POLLS OPEN 1-9 P.M. AT DUANESBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### PROPOSAL MAINTAINS ALL PROGRAMMING; STAYS AT TAX LEVY LIMIT

Voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 20, to consider a proposed \$20,686,000 spending plan for the 2025-26 school year. Polls will be open from 1-9 p.m. at the Duanesburg Elementary School.

The proposed spending plan includes a 6.39% (\$1,243,000) year-to-year increase and calls for a tax levy increase of 3.20% (\$287,125), which is at the district's tax levy limit or "cap." The district will utilize \$1,221,410 of fund balance and reserves to ensure that the cap is not exceeded.

State aid remains the largest source of revenue for the district. Most state aid comes in the form of Foundation Aid, which is expected to remain at a 2% increase (\$106,835) and is a smaller increase than expected.

"Initial projections were revealing a 5-6% increase in most budget lines, with a considerable budget gap, but we've been able to narrow that gap through strategic line-by-line trimming, utilizing grant funding, and contributing fund balance," Superintendent Kimberly Ross said.

"It is our responsibility to make sure we are the best stewards possible of the community's tax dollars, a task that we take very seriously through purposeful long-range planning, strategic spending to earn state aid back, and calculated methods of earning interest on our savings," she added.

The proposed spending plan maintains all current programming for students, including extracurriculars, athletics, and field trips. It also accounts for the reduction of staff by one teaching position, a decision that Ross says was made based on an audit of current class sizes, and the changing instructional needs of students.

"DCS is thriving right now," Ross said. "We continue to outperform the state in 3-8 math and ELA assessments, graduate nearly 100% of our students, and have furthered our elementary reading program with fidelity. This spending plan helps ensure that the district maintains its trajectory and keeps heading in a very positive direction."

### PROPOSED BUDGET

#### AT-A-GLANCE

2025-26  
PROPOSED BUDGET  
**\$20,686,000**

SPENDING INCREASE  
FROM 2024-25  
**\$1,243,000 / 6.39%**

TAX LEVY CHANGE  
FROM 2024-25  
**\$287,125 / 3.20%**

### HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the DCS Hall of Fame are due by the end of the school year. The HOF Committee will review nominations and select up to three nominations for induction. Inductees will be recognized at the first Board of Education meeting of the new school year. Nominate a DCS alumni, a current or former staff member, or community member here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NominateForDCSHOF>

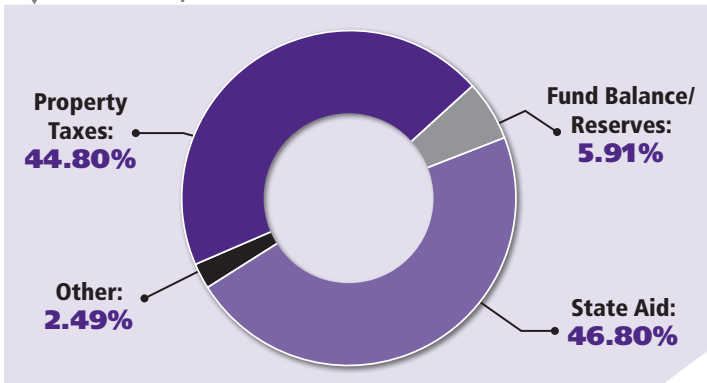
### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT DCS

**Matthew Newvine** has been named valedictorian, and **Brooke Grenier** has been named salutatorian, for Duanesburg's graduating Class of 2025. Newvine, the son of David and Laurel Newvine, plans to attend Binghamton University in the fall to study mechanical/aerospace engineering. Grenier, the daughter of Matthew and Sharlene Grenier, has not made a final decision as to where she will attend college, but is strongly considering Babson College. Her intended major is archaeology or global business.

Read more about these distinguished scholars on the DCS website: [https://bit.ly/DCS\\_2025ValSal](https://bit.ly/DCS_2025ValSal)

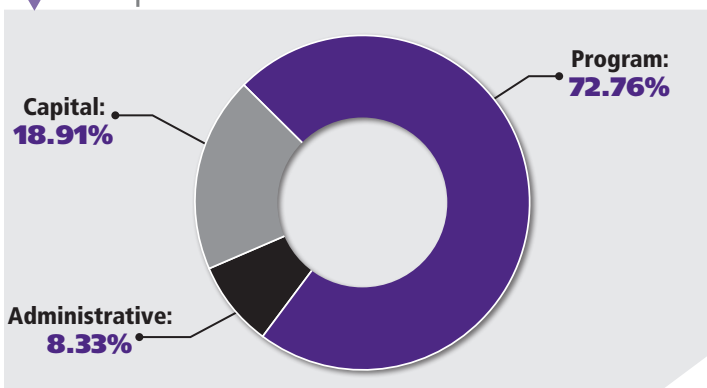


## Anticipated **REVENUES:** *Where the money comes from*



| CATEGORY              | 2024-25 BUDGETED    | 2025-26 PROJECTED   |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Property taxes        | \$8,980,349         | \$9,267,474         |
| State aid             | \$9,082,096         | \$9,681,116         |
| Fund balance/reserves | \$1,150,555         | \$1,221,410         |
| Other                 | \$230,000           | \$516,000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$19,443,000</b> | <b>\$20,686,000</b> |

## Proposed **EXPENSES:** *Where the money goes*



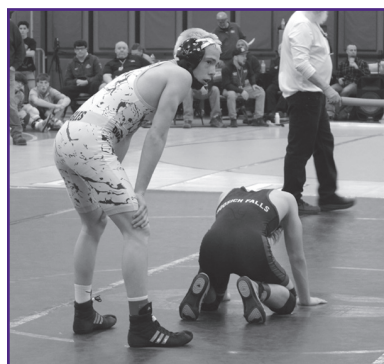
| COMPONENT      | 2024-25 BUDGETED    | 2025-26 PROJECTED   |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Administrative | \$1,652,721         | \$1,722,605         |
| Capital        | \$3,377,187         | \$3,911,455         |
| Program        | \$14,413,092        | \$15,051,940        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$19,443,000</b> | <b>\$20,686,000</b> |

## DCS STUDENT-ATHLETES REACH NEW HEIGHTS

DCS has a long-standing reputation as a school district that produces very successful athletic teams, with many stand-out athletes who represent the district with tremendous pride. The 2024-25 school year was no exception. Highlights include:



Senior **Jeffrey Mulhern** reached the 1,000-point plateau as a junior and just one year later, he made DCS history by becoming the first DCS male basketball player to ever reach 2,000 points. His record stands at 2,039 career points. In April, Jeff received the very prestigious honor of being named New York State's Class C "Co-Player of the Year." The Times Union named him "Small School Player of the Year" for Section 2 and the Daily Gazette selected Jeff as one of five players from all classifications to be on the "All-Area Boys Basketball First Team."



Freshman **Wyatt Rock** had a tremendous season on the wrestling mat. He won the title of Class D sectional champion; Section 2, Division 2 champion; and earned his way into the NYSPHSAA New York State tournament at MVP Arena.

Freshman **Bridgett O'Donnell**, junior **Paige Kropp** and senior **Maura O'Donnell** participate on the combined Mohonasen-Schalmont-Duanesburg swim team, which was crowned Section 2, Division 2 champions this year. Individually, Bridgett was the Section 2 champion for 500 freestyle and Maura was a sectional champion in two events — 200 freestyle and 100 breaststroke. Maura earned her way into the NYSPHSAA New York State tournament in four events.



Senior **Joseph Harris** was this year's overall Section 2 Scholar-Athlete Award winner for boys basketball, representing the Western Athletic Conference (WAC). This marks the third year in a row that a Duanesburg student-athlete has taken the top award for Section 2 basketball, as Joey joins Owen Lohret ('23) and Kate O'Hanlon ('24) in receiving the prestigious honor.



## School District Budget Notice

### OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

|   | Budget Adopted for the<br>2024-25 School Year | Budget Proposed for the<br>2025-26 School Year | Contingency Budget for<br>the 2025-26 School Year * |
|---|---|--|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions  | \$19,443,000                                  | \$20,686,000                                   | \$20,636,000  |
| Increase/Decrease for the School Year   |   | \$1,243,000                                    | \$1,183,000   |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget   |   | 6.39%  | 6.08%   |
| Change in Consumer Price Index  |   | 2.95%  |   |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount   | \$8,744,255                                   | \$9,267,474                                    |   |
| 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)  | \$8,744,255                                   | \$9,267,474                                    | \$8,744,255   |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit  | \$457,274                                     | \$448,447                                      |   |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions  | \$8,819,028                                   | \$9,267,475                                    |   |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D) | \$8,286,981                                   | \$8,819,027                                    |   |
| I. Difference (G - H) (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate propositions) **               | \$532,047                                     | \$448,448                                      |   |
| Administrative Component  | \$1,652,721                                   | \$1,722,605                                    | \$1,722,605   |
| Program Component   | \$14,413,092                                  | \$15,051,940                                   | \$15,021,940  |
| Capital Component   | \$3,377,187                                   | \$3,911,455                                    | \$3,891,455   |

\* Contingent budget will focus on reducing increases in new programs, new services, and additional equipment.

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

| Description   | Amount    |
|---|-----------|
| Bus Purchases   | \$230,000 |
|   |           |
| Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year |           |
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>   | \$454     |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of Duanesburg Central School District, Schenectady County, New York, will be held at Duanesburg Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Duanesburg Elementary School, 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.

## Conover and Wilkes announce retirements

DES principal Andrea Conover and library media specialist Donna Wilkes have each announced that they will retire at the end of this current school year. Conover has been in the field of education for 30 years – 14 of which were devoted to Duanesburg. Wilkes has been with the Duanesburg School District for 24 years, having started in 2001.

*“I feel so fortunate to have overlapped my time at DCS with both Mrs. Conover and Mrs. Wilkes this past school year,” Superintendent Ross said. “Teaching our children, in my opinion, is the most admirable profession and fulfilling career that one can have. Both of these longtime educators have inspired thousands of Duanesburg students over the years. DCS is a better place because of the influence of these two professional educators and the dedication they have shown to fostering student growth and success.”*

Superintendent Ross is overseeing the search for a new elementary principal, informed by internal and external feedback garnered through community



surveys and forums. Panels composed of teachers, staff, parents/guardians, community members and students are conducting interviews with the final six candidates in early May. DES' new principal will be announced before the end of this current school year, with a projected start date of July 1.

To read more about Conover and Wilkes' tenure at DCS, go to the district website.





**Duaneburg**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
133 School Drive  
Delanson, NY 12053

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#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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of Mngmt. Services**  
Jeffrey Rivenburg

**High School Principal**  
Jodi L. Marvin

**Elementary School  
Principal**  
Andrea Conover

## CURRENT RESIDENT

Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES  
Engagement & Development Services.

# 2025-26 Budget VOTE

## Tuesday, May 20

POLLS OPEN 1-9 P.M. IN THE DUANESBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## ON THE BALLOT

### → PROPOSITION 1: 2025-26 BUDGET

Vote on a \$20,686,000 budget for the 2025-26 school year.

### → PROPOSITION 2: SCHOOL BUS PURCHASES

Vote on a proposition to purchase two school buses at a cost not to exceed \$230,000. One bus will be a 30-passenger, gas-powered vehicle, and the other will be a small, four-wheel-drive SUV. Both vehicles will replace high-mileage buses used for out-of-district, CTE, and UPK runs.

### → PROPOSITION 3: ESTABLISH REPAIR RESERVE FUND

Proposition to establish a Repair Reserve Fund at a maximum amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of repairs of facilities or equipment that do not regularly occur annually or are unexpected.

### → BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Elect two candidates to serve on the board of education for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2025. Learn more about candidates at the DCPTA's Meet the Candidates Night at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS & EARLY VOTING

Qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot or participate in early voting if they are unable to vote in person on May 20. Voters must first fill out an application with the district clerk. There are separate applications for early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both. Applications are available on the district website or by contacting the district clerk, Serena Killenberger, at (518) 895-2279 ext. 241. Completed ballots must be received by the district by mail or drop-off no later than 5 p.m. on May 20. Go to the DCS website for more information and specific deadlines: <https://www.duanesburg.org/board-of-education/voting-info/>

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Wednesday, June 11 &  
Thursday, June 12**

DES Play "Tom Sawyer"  
Joe Bena Hall  
(6:30 p.m. performances)