

The Comet's Tale

BUDGET EDITION

2020-2021

Budget Vote and Election

Tuesday,
June 9, 2020
Absentee Ballot Only
by 5 p.m.

Virtual Budget Hearing

Thursday,
May 28, 2020
6 p.m.



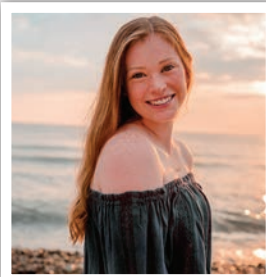
Sandy Creek Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced



Madison M. Brown

Two hardworking and determined young women who have been involved in numerous activities at Sandy Creek have earned the distinction of valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2020.

Madison M. Brown is the class valedictorian and Marley J. Yerdon has been named salutatorian, Sandy Creek High School Principal Kevin Seymour announced recently.



Marley J. Yerdon

"This distinguished achievement takes perseverance, dedication and resolve," Seymour said. "These outstanding and well-rounded students exhibit those qualities that have made them pillars of excellence within the Sandy Creek school community."

Each student has participated in a number of extracurricular activities while maintaining these phenomenal academic ranks.

Madison Brown, the daughter of Tiffany Bort and Erik Brown, plans to attend SUNY Geneseo to obtain her bachelor's degree in mathematics and her teaching certificate.

In her time at Sandy Creek, Madison participated in the Drama Club, Show Choir, All-County Chorus, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, SADD Club, Color Guard, Book Club, Battle of the Books and Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAY) League.

Her advice for the Class of 2020 is "I know our senior year has taken an unexpected turn. However, we have been able to adapt and conquer this tough situation with the support of our friends, family, and the entire community. Let this be a lesson that we have the ability to overcome any obstacle that stands in our way. We will go down in history as the class that prevailed during a pandemic and toilet paper shortage!"

Marley Yerdon, daughter of Andrea Yerdon and Corey Yerdon, will go to SUNY Canton for her bachelor's degree in nursing with hopes of becoming a registered nurse.

While at Sandy Creek, Marley was a member of varsity softball, varsity cheerleading, varsity basketball, varsity cross country, Student Council, National Honor Society, Voice of Democracy and OCAY League. She is also the Class President.

Her advice for the class is "Remember all of our experiences in high school made us stronger, better people. Know your worth, remember where you came from, and never be afraid to be yourself. You're all capable of amazing things! Go out and take on the world, you've got this."

Milk Giveaway

A number of staff members from Sandy Creek Central School District recently volunteered their time to help ensure those in need received milk to stock their fridge.

Pictured at the right is the district's Special Police Officer (SPO) Fred Baird holding two gallons of milk at the event, held at

the Oswego County Fairgrounds in Sandy Creek recently. Other district members were seen in photos and video from area media's coverage of the giveaway.

In all, thousands of gallons of free milk were given away to the public through a partnership between local dairy farmers and the Dairy Farmers of America.





Virtual Spirit Days Help Spread Comet Pride

Check out a gallery of our students and staff decked out in Sandy Creek clothing and colors for Virtual Spirit Days. Those who wish to participate submit photos and videos, which are shared via the district Facebook page to spread positivity and love. Check out our Facebook to participate in the next day!





A Message From Your Superintendent

Dear Community Member,

There is no question that this was one of the most difficult years any of us have had. The pandemic has forced us to completely change how we educate and provide for our students. At the same time, however, I could not be more proud of our teachers and staff with how they have come together during this crisis. On Sunday, March 15th a small group of administrators and supervisors met in our board room to plan how we would begin feeding our students and provide them with work. By the very next day we began bussing food out to our students. That same day our teachers came to work to begin working on packets that would be sent home to every student in the district. And for the next several months, we continued to feed and educate our students with some very creative and innovative strategies and techniques. That kind of commitment and dedication was overwhelming and not something I will ever forget.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has also made this become a budget crisis for school districts across the country. Sandy Creek is no exception. The Board of Education had to make some very difficult decisions as we were forced to make cuts during the process. We knew that we could not ask the community for a large tax increase given the current economic climate. Therefore, we are proposing a 2% increase which is far below our tax cap of 7.77%. We were forced to eliminate through retirement the following positions: 1 Data District Coordinator, 2 K-6 teachers, 1 reading teacher, and 1 technology technician. We also had to cut some current employees. These include: 1 driver education teacher, 1 art teacher, 1 special education teacher, 1 reading teacher, 1 PE teacher 1 teacher aide and 1 secretary position. However, Driver's Education will be delivered after school through BOCES, similar to other county schools. These were all heart breaking decisions that no one wanted to do but we simply do not have a choice in this situation.

This proposed budget uses \$798,926 of reserves to balance the expenditure plan with revenues. Our reserves are slowly decreasing and will soon be depleted. The District is very concerned about the future of State and Federal aid as it relies upon it for approximately 65% of its revenue. The Governor has state that this will not be a one -time fix/adjustment, the reductions in aid will continue for a few more years.

Accordingly, the District Administration and Board of Education Finance Sub-Committee will continue to re-examine and explore all levels of both expenditures and revenues for possibilities to assist our situation. Our end goal will be to provide sustainable student programming that both grants our students the ability to stay competitive in the future world as well as to continue to provide ample opportunities for all students.

In closing, we wish to thank you for your continued support of our students, staff and programming. We are constantly striving to maintain an updated platform for student programs and curricula while keeping you the taxpaying community member in mind.

Sincerely,

Kyle L. Faulkner
Superintendent of Schools

Comet Pride is Community Wide



Proposition No. 1:

Shall the proposed budget of \$23,240,836 for the Sandy Creek Central School District, Oswego County, New York as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefore?



PROGRAM COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2019-2020	2020-2021
Curriculum, Administration & Planning	Includes all costs associated with staff development and costs directly associated with instruction	\$451,164	\$474,966
Regular School	All costs associated with Instruction, Library & Media, and Computer Technologies	\$6,899,330	\$6,305,364
Special Education Programming	All costs associated with the Education of Students with disabilities/handicapping conditions	\$2,212,279	\$2,383,101
Special Schools	All costs associated with BOCES Occupational Education and Summer School	\$1,260,141	\$1,060,000
Student Services	All costs associated with Guidance Services, Co-Curricular Activities, Interscholastic Sports, Transportation, and School Food Service	\$2,150,659	\$2,283,954
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above program component salaries	\$5,234,565	\$5,317,632
TOTAL PROGRAM		\$18,208,138	\$17,285,017

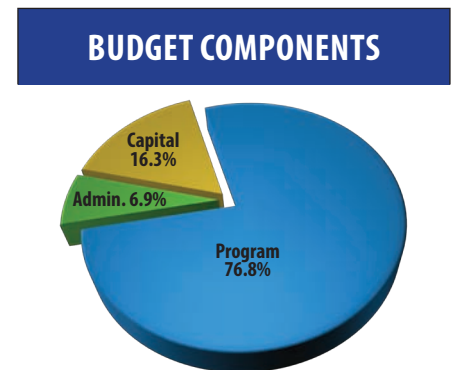
CAPITAL COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2019-2020	2020-2021
Special Item	Refunds of Real Property Taxes – Prior years	\$5,000	\$5,000
Operation of Plant	All costs associated with operating district buildings, including cleaning and utilities costs	\$1,043,924	\$1,059,610
Maintenance of Plant	All costs associated with maintaining district buildings and property	\$594,200	\$638,500
Transportation	Including the purchase of (2) 66 passenger buses for 19-20 and (2) 29 passenger and (1) 66 passenger bus for 20-21	\$290,429	\$276,035
Debt Service	Includes the principal and interest costs for the past capital project and fiscal agent fees	\$541,613	\$1,054,437
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above capital component salaries	\$553,997	\$673,364
Interfund Transfer	Interfund transfer to the Capital fund for 19/20 security and 20/21 safety and security	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$3,129,163	\$3,806,946

The Sandy Creek Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. The District's Title IX Compliance Coordinator is Shelley Fitzpatrick (124 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 | 315-387-3445).



ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2019-2020	2020-2021
Board of Education	All costs associated with the Board of Education, District Clerk and Elections	\$78,625	\$80,023
Central Administration	All costs associated with the Superintendent's Office	\$189,500	\$191,500
Regular School Supervision	All costs associated with the Supervision of Curriculum, Principals, Supervision of Handicap, and Computer Instruction	\$379,600	\$272,696
Finance	All costs associated with the Business Office, Auditing, District Treasurer, Tax Collection, and Liability Insurance	\$314,862	\$364,899
BOCES Administrative Costs	BOCES administrative and capital budgets, printing and planning	\$334,156	\$338,023
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above administrative component salaries	\$392,507	\$361,732
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE		\$1,689,250	\$1,608,873

BUDGET COMPONENTS	2019-2020	2020-2021	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
Program	\$18,208,138	\$17,825,017	76.8%
Capital	\$3,129,163	\$3,806,946	16.3%
Administrative	\$1,689,250	\$1,608,873	6.9%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$23,026,551	\$23,240,836	



PROJECTED REVENUES	2019-2020	2020-2021
Other Tax Items Collected Interest and Penalties on Real Property Taxes	\$24,000	\$25,000
Uses of Money and Property Interest Earnings and Commissions	\$7,000	\$8,500
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss Sales of Surplus and Lost Item reimbursements	\$19,000	\$16,000
Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures-BOCES and Other Sources BOCES contracted services expenses from prior year	\$195,000	\$190,000
Miscellaneous Other unclassified revenues, gifts and donations	\$1,000	\$1,000
State and Federal Aid NYS Education Aid, Federal Medicaid Reimbursement	\$15,014,292	\$15,099,955
Interfund Transfers and Uses of Reserves Transfers from the Debt Service Fund and other employee benefits reserves	\$801,107	\$798,926
Appropriated Fund Balance Fund balance for use in the upcoming year	\$150,000	\$150,000
Estimated Tax Levy Estimated amount of Tax Levy	\$6,815,152	\$6,951,455
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES	\$23,026,551	\$23,240,836



Absentee Ballot Instructions

1. Mark in pen or pencil.
2. Make a single cross X mark or single check mark in the voting square above the proposition and next to the board position candidate.
3. Any other mark or any erasure on this ballot is unlawful.
4. Fold and place in official envelope.
5. Fill out and SIGN official envelope.
6. Put official envelope in postage paid reply envelope and mail.

Budget Questions?

If you have questions regarding the budget please send them to:

Budgetquestions@sccs.cnyric.org

Additional budget information, including presentations and past data, can be found on the district's website:

sandycreekcsd.org/district/boe/budget

Food services, Transportation have supplied 50K meals to students since mid-March

The Sandy Creek food services and transportation teams have teamed up to make, package and distribute more than 50,000 meals to our students.

Each week, the teams work to prepare and deliver 6,070 meals per week through the initiative, which gets breakfast and lunch to the Sandy Creek students for each week day.

Cook Manager Tracy Sullivan, who oversees the Food Services aspects, and Transportation Supervisor Robin Cashel both say their staff and volunteers who've stepped up in these past months are nothing short of heroes.

"We have all pulled together to overcome challenges, whether it is with container issues, food shortages or just the overall stresses of life," said Sullivan. "We work well as a team through anything that comes up so we can focus on our top concern which is always making sure students have something nutritious and enjoyable to eat."

Cashel also applauded her hard-working team, adding that the drivers head out multiple times per week with meal deliveries.

"What I've seen day in and day out has been nothing short of inspiring," said Cashel. "You can tell how driven they all are to help out the kids and do their part in the community."

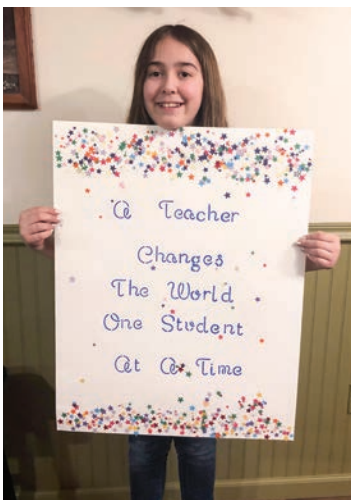
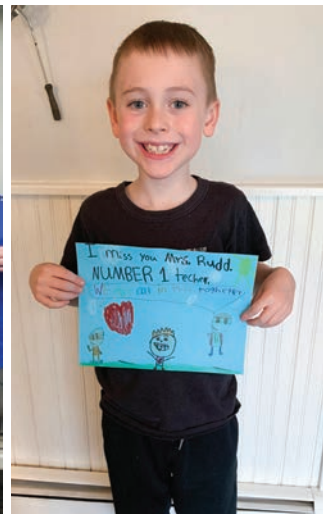
Both teams will carry on work to meet our students' needs, as it was recently announced meal programs through Sandy Creek would continue.





Teacher Appreciation Week

Students and administrators came together to send messages, create artwork and sing songs to honor their teachers from afar for Teacher Appreciation Week, held May 4-8. Students expressed how much they miss and love their teachers, emphasizing the important influence the educators and role models play in their lives. A video highlighting their efforts can be found via the Sandy Creek Facebook and website.



**Sandy Creek Central
School District**

P.O. Box 248
124 Salisbury St.
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Phone: 315-387-3445

Fax: 315-387-2196

District Office: Ext. 1510

Business Office: Ext. 1510

Elementary: Ext. 1110

Middle School/High School: Ext. 1910

Nurses' Offices:

Elementary - Ext. 1503; **HS** - Ext. 1505

Transportation: Ext. 3330

Non-Profit
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Zip Code 13145

Postal Patron

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**

2019-20 Board of Education
John Shelmidine, Pres.
Brian MacVean, VP
Deanna Soule
Mark Haynes
Joseph Hathway
Heidi Metott
Andrea Harris

Superintendent:
Mr. Kyle L. Faulkner

**Business Administrator/
District Clerk:**
Shelley H. Fitzpatrick

Dir. of Curriculum & Inst.:
Amy Howard-McCormack

Principals:
Elementary: Timothy Filiatrault
Middle School: Amy Molloy
High School: Kevin Seymour



**Budget Vote
and Election**

Tuesday, June 9th
Absentee ballot only
by 5 p.m.

**Virtual
Budget Hearing**

Thursday, May 28, 2020
at 6:00 p.m.

Online Voter Registration
(If not previously registered)
At DMV by May 26, 2020

<https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>

Board Vacancy One (1) - Five (5) Year Term

There is one position on the Board of Education on this year's ballot. The open position is for one (1) five-year term. Michele M. Warner is on the ballot.

To learn more about this year's candidate, visit our website at www.sandycreekcsd.org and click on the BOE candidate profile link.

"This is a challenging time in the history of education and I feel that I can contribute forward-thinking ideas without compromising what we have grown to love about traditional school settings. I believe that each student should have the platform to excel in whatever arena they desire. I am motivated to ensure that each student within the Sandy Creek School District has as many opportunities we can provide ..."

Michele M. Warner
BOE Candidate