The STOLE



SCCS Elementary celebrates Earth Day!



Thanks to the 2025 Plant-a-Tree (PAT) program, all 398 of our elementary students received a pine tree along with educational materials and

follow-up activities to help them learn about planting and caring for their trees. The PAT program is coordinated by the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District and



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County 4-H, with support from Constellation and the Oswego County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

SCCS Studio Art students create meaningful portraits for **Honduran orphans**

Studio art students at Sandy Creek Central School have taken their talents beyond the classroom, creating artwork that will leave a lasting impact. As part of a special partnership with an orphanage in Honduras, students in grades 9-12 participated in the Memory Project, a nonprofit organization that connects young artists with children around the world who have faced significant life challenges.

Through this program, SCCS students created heartfelt portraits of the Honduran children, providing them with a treasured keepsake that represents love, connection and the power of art. Once completed, the portraits were sent to their new homes, delivering joy and a sense of belonging to the children.

"The Memory Project gave my students the unique opportunity to promote world kindness while having fun and using their artistic abilities," said art teacher Brooke Morse. "It's more than just a portrait; it's a message of compassion and hope that transcends borders."

The Memory Project invites art teachers and students to create portraits for

children worldwide who have endured adversity — including neglect, abuse, loss of parents, violence, war and extreme poverty. The goal is to help these children feel valued and important while also giving student artists the chance to practice kindness and global awareness in a creative way.

For more information about the Memory Project, visit www.memoryproject.org.









Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 8, 2025 6 p.m.

Sandy Creek District Office Board Room

Budget Vote and Election

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 Noon to 8 p.m.

Sandy Creek District Office Board Room (absentee and early voting ballots by request)

Board Vacancy

One (1) -Two (2) Year Term One (1) - Five (5) Year Term

> Michele Warner Ryan Jones

See Candidate Profile at www.sandycreekcsd.org/district/boe/surveys









The Comet's Tale

A Letter from the Superintendent

Sandy Creek Community,

Each academic year brings its own unique challenges and opportunities, and the 2024-2025 school year has certainly had its share of both. This year, however, has been particularly impacted by financial pressures. One of the biggest challenges we've faced has been developing a responsible 2025-2026 school budget that meets the needs of our students, staff and community. Despite our continued commitment to providing quality programming while being fiscally responsible, we are navigating a budget gap, which is primarily due to the conclusion of federal funding and rising operational costs across the board.

Over the past few years, Sandy Creek Central School was able to offer enhanced programming and additional staffing thanks to temporary pandemic-related funding. Those resources provided meaningful support during a critical time. As that funding has now ended, we're in a position where we must make some difficult, yet necessary, decisions. Looking toward the 2025-2026 school year, we anticipate adjustments to after school and summer programming, as well as some reductions in staffing due to budget constraints.

On May 20, 2025, our community will be asked to vote on an expenditure plan designed to balance these financial realities with our educational

mission. The Board of Education and administration have worked to craft a budget that reflects our mission while acknowledging the fiscal challenges. Although some reductions will be necessary, we remain focused on providing those core educational experiences and supports our students rely on.

Each year, the cost of running the district increases due to factors largely beyond our control, such as rising salaries, insurance costs, and the overall inflation of supplies and services. At the same time, increases in state, federal and local funding have not kept pace. As a result, we are proposing a modest 2.00% tax increase for the 2025-2026 school year to help sustain our core programs.

We appreciate the continued support and understanding of our community. Your engagement is important as we work to navigate this together and ensure our students continue to have access to strong educational opportunities. We encourage you to stay informed and participate in the upcoming budget vote.

Sincerely,

Kevin Seymour Superintendent of Schools



Shoutout to our amazing Elementary Student Council for making a big difference!

Throughout February, student council members collected donations for All Creatures Big and Small Pet Rescue!
Thanks to the generosity of our school community, they were able to donate a \$200 check along with dog and cat food, toys, treats, towels and more!

District winners represent SCCS at county-wide Battle of the Books competition









Ewan, Gabe and Eloise (Team Overlords) placed fourth in the third and fourth grade battle!

Deek, Teghan and Emerson (Team Best Readers Forever) placed second in the fifth and sixth grade battle.

Finn, Cooper and Caroline (Team IDK) placed second in the seventh and eighth grade battle.

Jacoby, Haidyn, Leia and Maggie placed third in the high school battle.







Elementary and MSHS students brought the energy during our district's inaugural winter pep rallies!



[Co.R.E.] Robotics Teams wrap up stellar season

The [Co.R.E.] Robotics teams capped off an exciting and successful season with standout performances at the Northern New York State Championship, held March 5. Competing against the top teams in the region, all three teams demonstrated determination, technical skill, and sportsmanship.

Team T overcame early challenges to finish 15th in their division. They were selected by Team 14895D from Wellsville as the seventh seed for the finals but were narrowly eliminated in the Round of 16. Team S placed 11th in their division and were chosen by Team 64820A from Cuba-Rushford as the eighth seed, advancing to an impressive quarterfinal finish.

The highlight of the day came from Team Z, which secured second place in their division and partnered with Team 64040B from Lake George to battle their way to the semifinals.

In recognition of their positive attitude and collaboration, the [Co.R.E.] Robotics team received the coveted Sportsmanship Award — an honor presented to a team that embodies respect, cooperation, and team spirit. Known for their helpfulness and grace under pressure, the team continues to be a model for others at every competition.



"We're incredibly proud of what our students accomplished this season." said advisor Charles Worden. "This was a fantastic event, a memorable season, and a true tribute to their hard work. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's competition!"

NDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The [Co.R.E.] Robotics program extends heartfelt thanks to Mr. English and all the volunteers who helped make the event a success, as well as the donors and community members who continue to support the team's journey.

S Team: John Darou, Simon Preston and Sophie Harris

T Team: Matt Davis, Charlie Marshall and Colton Bushie

Z Team: Ethan Hawn, Micah Burns, Sam Tessier

and Audrey Clark





The Comet's Tale

Proposition #1:

Shall the proposed budget of \$27,720,486 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, 2025, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefor?



DESCRIPTION 2024-2025		2025-2026
Includes all costs associated with staff development and costs directly associated with instruction	\$718,687	\$728,322
All costs associated with Instruction, Library & Media, and Computer Technologies	\$ 6,569,258	\$6,375,233
All costs associated with the Education of Students with disabilities/special education	\$2,272,261	\$2,619,256
All costs associated with BOCES Occupational Education and Summer School	\$1,310,964	\$1,356,169
All costs associated with Guidance Services, Co-Curricular Activities, Interscholastic Sports, Transportation, School Food Service, and Census	\$2,706,189	\$2,784,947
All employee benefit costs associated with above program component salaries	\$6,313,929	\$6,546,782
	\$19,891,288	\$20,410,709
	Includes all costs associated with staff development and costs directly associated with instruction All costs associated with Instruction, Library & Media, and Computer Technologies All costs associated with the Education of Students with disabilities/special education All costs associated with BOCES Occupational Education and Summer School All costs associated with Guidance Services, Co-Curricular Activities, Interscholastic Sports, Transportation, School Food Service, and Census All employee benefit costs associated with above program	Includes all costs associated with staff development and costs directly associated with instruction All costs associated with Instruction, Library & Media, and Computer Technologies All costs associated with the Education of Students with disabilities/special education All costs associated with BOCES Occupational Education and Summer School All costs associated with Guidance Services, Co-Curricular Activities, Interscholastic Sports, Transportation, School Food Service, and Census All employee benefit costs associated with above program component salaries \$718,687 \$6,569,258 \$2,272,261 \$1,310,964 \$2,272,261















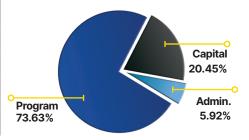
CAPITAL COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2024-2025	2025-2026
Special Item	Refunds of Real Property Taxes – Prior years	\$5,000	\$5,000
Operation of Plant	All costs associated with operating district buildings, including cleaning, utilities costs, and BOCES capital charges	\$1,452,317	\$1,538,551
Maintenance of Plant	All costs associated with maintaining district buildings and property	\$664,500	\$698,997
Transportation	Includes the purchase of (2) two large diesel buses, (1) one small gasoline bus, and (1) one gasoline SUV	\$543,440	\$576,520
Debt Service	Includes the principal and interest costs for the past capital project and fiscal agent fees	\$2,111,599	\$1,956,688
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above capital component salaries	\$745,591	\$793,575
Interfund Transfer	Interfund transfer to the Capital fund for Capital Outlay 25-26: exterior digital communication marquee and window reconstruction	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$5,622,447	\$5,669,331



SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2024-2025	2025-2026
Board of Education	All costs associated with the Board of Education, District Clerk and Elections	\$78,770	\$82,200
Central Administration	All costs associated with the Superintendent's Office	\$199,950	\$220,224
Regular School Supervision	All costs associated with the Supervision of Curriculum, Principals, Supervision of Handicap, and Computer Instruction		
Finance	All costs associated with the Business Office, Auditing, District Treasurer, Tax Collection, and Liability Insurance	\$296,138	\$344,843
BOCES Administrative Costs	BOCES administrative and capital budgets, printing and planning	\$393,889	\$410,717
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above administrative component salaries	\$403,300	\$382,796
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE		\$1,574,987	\$1,640,446

BUDGET COMPONENTS	2024-2025	2025-2026	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
Program	\$19,891,288	\$20,410,709	73.63%
Capital	\$5,622,447	\$5,669,331	20.45%
Administrative	\$1,574,987	\$1,640,446	5.92%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$27,088,722	\$27,720,486	100%









PROJECTED REVENUES	2024-2025	2025-2026
Other Tax Items Collected Interest and Penalties on Real Property Taxes and Pilots (Payments in lieu of taxes)	\$33,568	\$34,442
Uses of Money and Property Interest Earnings and Commissions	\$ 49,250	\$124,250
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss Sales of Surplus and Lost Item reimbursements	\$15,000	\$15,000
Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures-BOCES and Other Sources BOCES contracted services expenses from prior year	\$193,058	\$195,000
Miscellaneous Other unclassified revenues, gifts and donations	\$0	\$0
State and Federal Aid NYS Education Aid, Federal Medicaid Reimbursement	\$ 18,146,265	\$18,431,667
Interfund Transfers and Uses of Reserves Transfers from the Debt Service Fund and other employee benefits reserves	\$ 418,867	\$538,734
Appropriated Fund Balance Fund balance for use in the upcoming year	\$798,894	\$798,894
Estimated Tax Levy Estimated amount of Tax Levy	\$7,433,820	\$7,582,499
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES	\$27,088,722	\$27,720,486

The Comet's Tale

Sandy Creek Elementary students brush up on dental hygiene knowledge



Second-grade students in Miss Walbroehl's class at Sandy Creek Elementary School recently brushed up on their dental hygiene knowledge, thanks to a collaborative effort between the school and Ward & Coalter Dental.

As part of their lesson, students explored the history of dental care through Scholastic News, gaining insight into how oral hygiene has evolved over time. The Ward & Coalter Dental office, based in Watertown, donated goodie bags filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, and flossers, ensuring each student had the tools needed to maintain a healthy smile.



In addition to the items from Ward

& Coalter Dental, students also were treated to an engaging dental health-themed lesson led by librarian Rachel Allen, which featured Robert Munsch's book, "Andrew's Loose Tooth!"

"We are so grateful to Ward & Coalter Dental and our library staff for making this such a memorable learning experience," said Miss Walbroehl. "The students were thrilled to receive their new supplies and are now well-equipped to take care of their teeth."



Congratulations to the SCCS Varsity Cheer Team on an incredible season!

After dominating the Frontier League and earning the title of Section III Class D Champions, the team

went on to place third overall at the New York State Championship — a tremendous accomplishment that makes the entire district proud!





SCCS Drama Club Wows Audiences During Spring Musical

The SCCS Drama Club brought mystery and laughs to the stage with their 2025 production of the classic whodunnit, "Clue!"



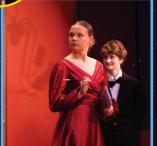




















Introducing our 2024-2025 SCCS NHS Inductees!

ANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

New members are (Left – Right, Bottom to Top):

Brynn, Abbygail, Willamina, Emma and Kylie-Ann Maddenleigh, Destiny, Phoenicia, Madelyn, Margaret and Jacoby Alyvia, Emma Sue, Lola, Leia, Haidyn and Adam Seth, Grant, Hudson, Brody and Simon

Leia Wall earns third place in New York State for Voice of Democracy speech



Leia Wall, a junior at Sandy Creek Central School, placed third overall in the New York State Voice of Democracy (VOD) competition, earning a \$1,000 cash prize for her outstanding essay.

VOD advisor Rob Ferguson praised Leia's accomplishment, stating, "We are incredibly proud of Leia and honored to have her represent our district."

A program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VOD provides high school students with the opportunity to express their thoughts on democracy and patriotism through written and recorded audio essays.

Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th-grade students from across the country compete for their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The 2024-2025 competition theme was

"Is America Today Our Forefather's Vision?" Students wrote and recorded an essay responding to this prompt.

Wall's speech began by highlighting the importance of change in shaping the nation's future:

If there is one thing that I can say I have learned in my 16 years of life, it is this; change is inevitable. Not only is it inevitable, but it is mandatory for success. Change is found all throughout history, it is the backbone of life as we know it. Species change to adapt to their environment. Humans change to adjust to day-to-day life. Countries change to better themselves. The United States of America changes every day to better itself

Students at SCCS have been participating in the VOD competition under the leadership of Ferguson since 2006. For more information on the program, visit vfw.org

Sandy Creek Central School students recognized for accomplishments in CTE programs



The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi) recently celebrated the remarkable accomplishments of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Top 3 students across various programs.

CiTi school counselor Ryan Warner expressed his pride in the students, stating, "Our honorees have consistently demonstrated a commitment to learning and growth; not just in the classroom, but also in the qualities that will serve them well in their future careers and endeavors."

Each student recognized at the ceremony showcased exceptional academic achievement, maintaining a grade-point average of 85 or above in their courses. The event not only celebrates their academic success but also emphasizes their readiness for careers.

Sandy Creek Students recognized were:

Ezekiel Wimpfheimer Jayden Guile Lyndi Fitzgerald Emma Becker Lexxi Willson Corlee Phillips Emma Sue Euler Olivia Euler Ceanna Reff Emma Gibbons Peter Ryerson Katerina Bartlett

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' Office: Ext. 1501 Transportation: Ext. 3330

Kevin Sevmour

Superintendent of Schools

Cora Harvey

Business Administrator

Board of Education:

John Shelmidine President

Michele Warner

Vice-President **Kevin Halsev** Andrea Harris

John Macklen **Heidi Metott**

Timothy Filiatrault

Elementary School

Steven Newcombe

Principal Middle/High School

Jessica Blair Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Data

James Hunt

Assistant Principal Athletic Director

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 Cora Harvey (124 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 315-387-3445).

Budget 2025





Non-Profit US Postage Paid Permit No. 7 Zip Code 13145

Postal Patron



Family Fun Night!

* SCIENCE * TECHNOLOGY * ENGINEERING * ARTS * MATH *

FREE EVENT

Tuesday, May 20

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Sandy Creek Elementary

Free dinner (Little Caesars pizza & cookies) served from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Prizes!

Student Artwork will be on display 5th Grade Science Fair Projects

Coding with Mr. Parish

sandycreekcsd.org



