

The Comet's Tale



SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pecha, Soluri named top 2 of senior class



Sandy Creek Central School District is proud to announce its top academic honorees for the class of 2026.

Brody Thomas Pecha has been named valedictorian, and Haidyn Elizabeth Soluri has been named salutatorian. Both students have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and dedication throughout their high school careers.

Their accomplishments reflect the district's mission to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become self-directed, lifelong learners through a strong partnership among parents, staff, and the community. They also embody the district's vision of preparing students to be contributing members of their local community and the global society.

Congratulations to Brody and Haidyn on this outstanding achievement.

Battle of the Books Promotes Reading and Teamwork at Sandy Creek

Students in grades 3 through 12 at Sandy Creek Central School recently put their reading skills to the test during the district's annual Battle of the Books competition.

The quiz-style event challenged teams to demonstrate their knowledge of selected titles while building collaboration, confidence and a love of reading. Teams competed at multiple grade levels, with several advancing to the county competition.



Students who advanced to the county competition included Magnolia Bushie, Aubree Barker and Quinn Brimmer (grades 3-4); Gabe Vasquez, Dexter Waszkiewicz and Ashton Falso (grade 5); Emerson Spencer, Eva McGrath and Deek Decker (middle school); and Leia Wall and Maiah Owen (high school), with Haidyn Soluri and Jacoby Balcom serving as alternates.

Sandy Creek earned first place in the county's high school (grades 9-12) competition. Team members included Leia Wall, Maiah Owen, Haidyn Soluri and Jacoby Balcom.

The annual event continues to be a highlight for students, promoting reading engagement, collaboration and academic achievement.



Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 7, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Sandy Creek District Office Board Room

Budget Vote and Election

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Noon to 8 p.m.

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

Board Vacancy

Two (2) - Five (5) Year Term
Whitney Oak

Cori-ann Blodgett

Budget 26-27

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



sandycreeksd.org

The Comet's Tale

A Letter from the Superintendent

Sandy Creek Community,

As we prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, we are reminded of both continued challenges and renewed opportunities as we remain focused on supporting student growth and strengthening our educational programs. While financial pressures remain a reality for everyone, we are encouraged by the progress our students are making and are optimistic about our ability to thoughtfully reintroduce programming that supports their academic, social, and emotional development.

Over the past several years, the district has worked through the transition away from temporary federal funding while managing rising operational costs. Although we continue to face a gap between increasing expenses and available revenues, we have been intentional in identifying opportunities to restore select programs and supports that directly impact student success. Specifically, we are looking to reintroduce a limited elementary summer school.

The development of the 2026-2027 budget has required careful consideration. Costs related to salaries, benefits, transportation, electricity, and materials continue to rise at a rate that outpaces growth in state aid and other revenue sources. Despite these challenges, the Board of Education and administration have worked collaboratively to design a budget that prioritizes student learning, supports staff, and reflects our community's values.

On May 19, 2026, our community will be asked to vote on the proposed budget. This plan represents a balance between maintaining core programs, gradually restoring opportunities for students, and addressing the financial realities we face. As part of this effort, the proposed budget includes a 1.00% tax increase. This modest increase is necessary to help sustain our programs while remaining mindful of the impact on our taxpayers.

We remain committed to continuous improvement and to creating opportunities that allow all students to grow and succeed. Your continued support and engagement are critical as we move forward together. We encourage you to stay informed and participate in the upcoming budget vote.

Sincerely,

Kevin Seymour
Superintendent

Agriculture Day at Sandy Creek Highlights Seasonal Farming Lessons



Students at Sandy Creek Elementary welcomed a special visitor for Agriculture Day as Karen Ashworth, from Oswego County Cooperative Extension, led an interactive lesson on farming and the seasons.

Ashworth read the book "Seasons on the Farm," guiding students through a year on a working farm. The story illustrated how farming changes with each season and featured vivid images that helped students visualize the process.

Students learned that spring brings the return of birds, along with rain and occasional storms, and marks the time when seeds are planted. In summer, crops grow and fields flourish. Fall is the season for harvesting crops and pumpkins, while winter is a time for farmers to maintain and repair their equipment, including tractors.

Following the reading, students completed a hands-on project to demonstrate what they had learned about the seasonal cycle of farming.

Students walked away with a stronger understanding of how farming influences the food and resources they use every day.



Sandy Creek students show their school spirit with chants and cheers during the second annual winter pep rally.





Sandy Creek Central School Performs 'Anastasia' in Spring Production



Music, mystery and a journey to the past came to life on stage at Sandy Creek Central School as students performed the Broadway musical "Anastasia" for their spring production.

Inspired by the legend of Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov, the show follows a young woman searching for her identity and her place in the world.

"Anastasia" features a book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. The production is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

The cast included Lyndi Fitzgerald, Anya; Simon Preston, Dmitry; Brody Pecha, Vlad; Ryder Forss, Gleb; Karlie Ayers, Lily; Haidyn Soluri, Dowager; Amelia Crast, Little Anastasia; Adelle Harris, Tsarina; Layton Gibbons, Tsar; and Ewan Crast, Alexei.

Ensemble cast members included Ciara Allen, Peyton Brown, Alyssa Campbell, Haylee Coulter, Cordelia Crast, Lily Duncan, Mailei Fellows, Mia Howland and Lexxi Willson.

Career Day Inspires Dreams and Imagination



Sandy Creek Elementary School was filled with energy and imagination as students participated in Career Day. Hallways and classrooms featured students dressed for the careers they hope to pursue, from athletes and doctors to construction workers and more.

Several students chose to step into the shoes of their teachers, showing appreciation for staff while joining in the spirited festivities.

Career Day inspired students to dream big, express their creativity and look forward to what's possible, illustrating the school's dedication to nurturing curious, confident and engaged learners.



The Comet's Tale

Proposition #1:

Shall the proposed budget of \$28,501,863 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, 2026, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefor?



PROGRAM COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2025-2026	2026-2027
Curriculum, Administration & Planning	Includes all costs associated with staff development and costs directly associated with instruction	\$728,322	\$726,335
Regular School	All costs associated with Instruction, Library & Media, and Computer Technologies	\$6,375,233	\$6,866,352
Students with Disabilities	All costs associated with educating students with disabilities and related special education programs	\$2,619,256	\$2,468,467
Special Schools	All costs associated with BOCES Occupational Education and Summer School	\$1,356,169	\$1,497,589
Student Services	All costs associated with Guidance Services, Co-Curricular Activities, Interscholastic Sports, Transportation, School Food Service, and Census	\$2,784,947	\$2,755,212
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above program component salaries	\$6,546,782	\$6,479,657
TOTAL PROGRAM		\$20,410,709	\$20,793,612

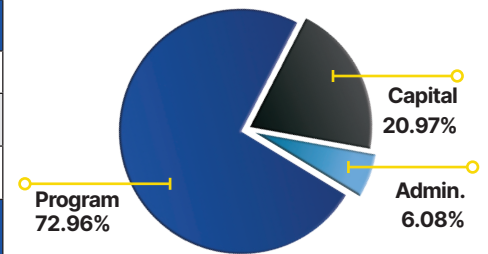


CAPITAL COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2025-2026	2026-2027
Special Item	Refunds of Real Property Taxes – Prior years	\$5,000	\$5,000
Operation of Plant	All costs associated with operating district buildings, including cleaning, utilities costs, and BOCES capital charges	\$1,538,551	\$1,628,861
Maintenance of Plant	All costs associated with maintaining district buildings and property	\$698,997	\$756,977
Transportation	Includes the purchase of (3) three large diesel buses and (1) one small gasoline bus	\$576,520	\$684,430
Debt Service	Includes the principal and interest costs for past capital projects, fiscal agent fees, and equipment purchases	\$1,956,688	\$1,993,942
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above capital component salaries	\$793,575	\$807,022
Interfund Transfer	Interfund transfer to the Capital fund for Capital Outlay 26-27: Replacement of window treatments and related improvements	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$5,669,331	\$5,976,232



ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2025-2026	2026-2027
Board of Education	All costs associated with the Board of Education, District Clerk and Elections	\$82,200	\$84,397
Central Administration	All costs associated with the Superintendent's Office	\$220,224	\$218,491
Regular School Supervision	All costs associated with the Supervision of Curriculum, Principals, Students with Disabilities and Computer Instruction	\$199,666	\$227,080
Finance	All costs associated with the Business Office, Auditing, District Treasurer, Tax Collection, and Liability Insurance	\$344,843	\$353,744
BOCES Administrative Costs	BOCES administrative and capital budgets, printing and planning	\$410,717	\$432,500
Employee Benefits	All employee benefit costs associated with above administrative component salaries	\$382,796	\$415,807
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE		\$1,640,446	\$1,732,019

BUDGET COMPONENTS	2025-2026	2026-2027	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
Program	\$20,410,709	\$20,793,612	72.96%
Capital	\$5,669,331	\$5,976,232	20.97%
Administrative	\$1,640,446	\$1,732,019	6.08%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$27,720,486	\$28,501,863	



PROJECTED REVENUES	2025-2026	2026-2027
Other Tax Items Collected Interest and Penalties on Real Property Taxes and Pilots (Payments in lieu of taxes)	\$34,442	\$37,664
Uses of Money and Property Interest Earnings and Commissions	\$124,250	\$304,250
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss Sales of Surplus and Lost Item reimbursements	\$15,000	\$39,000
Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures-BOCES and Other Sources BOCES contracted services expenses from prior year	\$195,000	\$240,000
Miscellaneous Other unclassified revenues, gifts and donations	\$0	\$0
State and Federal Aid NYS Education Aid, Federal Medicaid Reimbursement	\$18,431,667	\$18,744,055
Interfund Transfers and Uses of Reserves Transfers are from Debt Service, Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve, and Transportation Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$538,734	\$280,000
Appropriated Fund Balance Fund balance for use in the upcoming year	\$798,894	\$1,198,894
Estimated Tax Levy Estimated amount of Tax Levy	\$7,582,499	\$7,658,000
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES	\$27,720,486	\$28,501,863

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Panda-monium Takes Over Sandy Creek Stage



First-grade students in the Sandy Creek Central School District took the stage in a lively panda-themed musical performance, marking another successful year of the elementary music program.

Under the direction of Victor Correa, students prepared for the show through weekly rehearsals with each first-grade section, followed by a full week of practice with all participants together. The structured preparation helped students build confidence and bring energy to the final performance.

This year marked the third time the school has presented the production, which continues to be a favorite among students, staff and families.



Correa said his inspiration for the performance came from his admiration for pandas. "I chose pandas because I think that they are really cool animals. I was looking for a performance, and that one really spoke to me because of this unique animal," he said.

The performance also featured familiar music that added to the excitement.

"I believe that the performance was exciting because the main song, 'Pandemonium,' is taken right from the William Tell Overture, also used in other kids shows. Because they know the tune, it makes it fun for them to learn," Correa said.

The recognizable melody helped students engage more deeply with the music, resulting in an enthusiastic and entertaining show for the audience.

Correa serves as the seventh and eighth-grade band teacher, marching band director, and general music teacher for first through sixth grades at Sandy Creek Central School District.

Erin's Law Presentation Teaches Sandy Creek Students About Safety

Sandy Creek students participated in an Erin's Law presentation focused on personal safety, boundaries and the importance of speaking up. The session, led by the Oswego County Child Advocacy Center, taught students to know what's up, spot red flags, make a move, talk it up and understand that there is no blame and no shame when reporting concerns.

The program encouraged students to recognize warning signs of unsafe situations, act when needed, and communicate openly with trusted adults. By learning these strategies, students gained confidence in their ability to protect themselves and support others.



The Oswego County Child Advocacy Center provides Erin's Law presentations to schools across the county, helping students and educators create safer communities and fostering open conversations about personal boundaries and safety. Students left the session feeling informed, prepared and empowered.



SCCS NHS 25-26

Back Row (Left to Right): Maiah Owen, Emma Sue Euler, Tucker Nevills, Adam Trudell, Hudson Hunt, Simon Preston, Grant Harris, Jacoby Balcom, Brody Pecha

Third Row (Left to Right): Morgan Mears, Alyvia Brown, Willamina Babcock, Liam Wood, Marilyn Dewhirst, Cordelia Crast, Haidyn Soluri, Phoenicia Hathway, Madelyn Coe

Second Row (Left to Right): Emma Gibbons, Lola Tessier, Maggie Wallace, Lynn Dumas, Brayden Ashby, Rowen McCarthy, Allison Heft, Ryder Forss

Front Row (Left to Right): Leia Wall, Brynn Dreibelbis, Carli Norris, Payton Randall, Abby Peter, Abigail Jones, Corlee Phillips, Karlie Ayers



Authentic Learning Drives Covered Wagon Creations



Students at Sandy Creek Elementary recently wrapped up their unit on Westward expansion with a hands-on project focused on authentic learning: building their own covered wagons.

Students learned how families traveled West during the 1830s to 1850s, often facing long journeys and hardships while carrying their belongings. To bring this history to life, students created wagon models at home using any materials they could find, working alongside family members.

"The students were able to use their creative abilities to make the wagons with their families," said second grade teacher Judy Allen. "We asked that they use items around the house that they could find to build them."

Students were excited to share their projects, with many adding creative details like toy animals or drivers made from Legos.

"The kids love this project," Allen said. "They tell their friends what worked and what had to be changed. They also love doing it with a family member and are very proud of their work."

Sandy Creek students use art to build global and local connections



Students at Sandy Creek Central School District are demonstrating how creativity can make an impact both around the world and within their own school community.

High school art students recently participated in The Memory Project, an international initiative that connects young artists with children across the globe. Through the project, students created personalized portraits for children in Cambodia, using their artistic talents to foster empathy and cultural understanding beyond the classroom.

As part of their coursework, students explored how art can influence communities locally and globally, asking how their work could make a difference within their own school. That reflection inspired a schoolwide effort, when students in grades 6-12 created 356 handmade positivity notes to ensure every middle and high school student received a message of encouragement.

"At Sandy Creek, we believe our students are not only artists, but emerging global citizens," said art teacher Brooke Morse. "Whether reaching across the world or across the hallway, our students are discovering that art has the power to spread kindness, strengthen community and remind us that we all belong."

The initiative reflects the district's mission to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become self-directed, lifelong learners through high-quality education in partnership with parents, staff and the community. It also aligns with the district's vision of preparing students to contribute to their local community and global society.

By pairing international outreach with local acts of kindness, the district's art program supports its commitment to developing engaged, compassionate and globally minded learners.



"We had SNOW much fun this winter!"

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' Office: Ext. 1501
Transportation: Ext. 3330



Kevin Seymour
Superintendent of Schools

Cora Harvey
Business Administrator



Board of Education:
John Shelmidine
President

Michele Warner
Vice-President



Kevin Halsey
Andrea Harris
Ryan Jones
John Macklen
Heidi Metott

Leia Wall
Ex Officio Student
Member of the Board



Lauren Haley-Platt
Principal
Elementary School

Tonya Trudell
Principal
Middle/High School



Jessica Blair
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction & Data

James Hunt
Assistant Principal and 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 26-27



sandycreekcsc.org

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
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SAVE THE DATE



Family Fun Night!

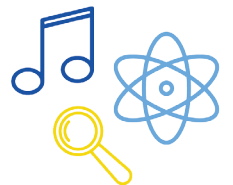
• SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • ARTS • MATH •

FREE EVENT

Tuesday, May 19

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Sandy Creek Elementary



sandycreekcsc.org