



**UNION SPRINGS**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# SPRING BOARD

**BUDGET 2023**

**Dear Community Member:**

Just over a decade from now, our school district as it is currently configured, will enter its second century of serving students. Through the Great Depression, the Second World War, societal changes, economic upheaval, and most recently, a global pandemic, our district has met the moment for each generation of students, because of the commitment our community has shown for education. The work we do each and every school day to support our students as they learn and grow, simply would not be possible without your continued support.

The proposed 2023-2024 school budget and accompanying propositions, speak to the work that is before us as a district on course to meet the challenges and demands of our upcoming second century. However, economic headwinds tied to inflation, rising costs of items from bus fuel to the eggs used in preparing school lunch, increased healthcare expenses, and demonstrable student needs have placed budgetary pressures on our district that have not eased over the course of the past few school years. The Board of Education has done significant work to increase revenue to offset these expenses by seeking out higher interest rates for our deposits, applying for grants, advocating for additional aid, identifying savings and cutting expenses where possible, and expending federal relief funds where applicable. All of this work has coalesced into the 2023-2024 proposed budgetary expenditure of **\$21,392,539** with a proposed tax levy increase of **1.31%**. The proposed levy increase is the same as it was in 2022-2023, and represents an increase of approximately \$100,000 year over year.

To maintain our institutional momentum, this proposed 2023-2024 increases the number of math teachers to provide intervention and support from elementary through the secondary level, refurbishes our outdated digital computing devices at the elementary and middle level, provides additional adult support in our classrooms and after school, sends over 50 students to BOCES to earn Career and Technical Education credentials, continues our robust college credit offerings, and sustains our programming across the educational continuum. We are excited for the year ahead and all the opportunities this budget affords our students as they pursue their dreams and potential.

**Proposition two** is a proposal regarding our plumbing infrastructure. All too often plumbing is the focus of our conversation. Clogged pipes, broken mains, flooding, leaks, smells, and closed bathrooms have become part and parcel of our lived experience. While we have done a significant amount of capital work in recent years, the scope of need for plumbing improvements and replacement is enough to warrant its own capital project. Plumbing is not glamorous, it mainly lives under parking lots, floors and inside walls, and usually takes an out of sight, out of mind sort of approach. But when it fails, the level of disruption, expense, and work it takes to keep the building

operational is not insignificant. Over the past few years, the district has acknowledged that our current plumbing trajectory is not sustainable, and that significant work must be done to keep our nearly 90-year-old building functioning with regard to its plumbing needs. Proposition two constitutes phase one of our plumbing infrastructure rehabilitation and mainly focuses drainage away from the building, maintaining the integrity of our foundation by limiting water from coming into the building, replacing sanitary mains, our water main, expanding sump pump capabilities, regrading lawns and storm water areas to aid in site drainage, mill and overlay our parking lots that will be disrupted by the plumbing work, close up leaks in our steam heating system, and take on some critical bathroom work in just a few of our bathrooms.

Proposition two is in the amount of \$3,210,000 and authorizes the district to appropriate \$615,000 from its capital reserve fund to reduce the expense. In order to pay for the project, the district is asking the voters to consider a 0.37% tax levy increase to offset the remaining cost of the project. The revenue this additional levy will generate will help cover the expense of the project not covered by our capital reserve fund or state aid funding. This proposed levy, on average, equates to \$4.44 per \$100,000 of assessed home value before STAR per year. We would not ask for this levy to support the project if we didn't have to, and appreciate your consideration in helping us improve our plumbing infrastructure.

**Proposition three** authorizes the district to be able to lease a truck for the support of our maintenance department. We use our trucks to plow, move items across the district, maintain our fields and playgrounds, trailer mowers, and pick up deliveries that are needed for our operations: in-field mix, mulch, dirt, etc. By leasing a truck, we can divide up the cost of the vehicle over three years, and by using the NYS purchasing program available to schools, the district can buy the truck at the end of the lease for \$1. By leasing the vehicle we will save on maintenance expenses, and at the end of the lease, own the truck with a significant resale value, that can be used to offset future replacement costs.

The proposed propositions are designed to continue to raise achievement and promote ways to operate efficiently to minimize the tax impact to our school community. As we continue to work to ensure the educational, fiscal, and structural health of our district for years to come, your help and continued support are critical components to our success. Please vote on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from noon to 9 p.m. in the MS/HS gym lobby.**



Sincerely,

**Jarett S. Powers, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent



**DATE OF ELECTION**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

**TIME:** 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** MS/HS Gym Lobby

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** MS/HS Library

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) from the District Clerk beginning **Friday, April 21, 2023**. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on May 16, 2023.

To request an application/ballot: Call District Clerk, Valerie Castiglia at 315-889-4100 or e-mail: [vcastiglia@unionspringscsd.org](mailto:vcastiglia@unionspringscsd.org).

### ESTIMATED REVENUE

	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROJECTED
TOTAL STATE AID	\$11,384,067	12,198,580
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	\$659,168	\$693,103
FUND BALANCE	\$360,000	\$150,000
RESERVES/TRANSFERS	\$0	\$200,921
LOCAL PROPERTY/TAX LEVY	\$7,778,810	\$7,879,935
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$19,393,804</b>	<b>\$21,392,539</b>

### SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS

	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROJECTED
ADMINISTRATION	\$2,302,184	\$2,431,886
PROGRAM	\$14,460,938	\$15,044,477
CAPITAL	\$3,418,923	\$3,916,176
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$20,182,045</b>	<b>\$21,392,539</b>

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROJECTED
BOE	\$33,569	\$35,104
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$254,740	\$275,217
FINANCE	\$395,950	\$401,064
STAFF	\$321,800	\$310,627
SPECIAL ITEMS	\$316,497	\$321,782
DISTRICT RESEARCH & PLANNING	\$113,896	\$147,737
SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$469,201	\$574,484
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$396,531	\$365,871
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,302,184</b>	<b>\$2,431,886</b>

*The Administrative Component provides for overall general support and management activities including Board of Education, central administration, business office, and legal and auditing services. Costs for administration and supervision of each of the district's schools are also included in this component.*

**CAPITAL COMPONENT**

	<b>2022-2023 BUDGET</b>	<b>2023-2024 PROJECTED</b>
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$1,604,606	\$1,458,180
\$100K CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT	\$0	\$0
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$43,042	\$61,939
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$237,687	\$281,636
DEBT SERVICE	\$1,533,588	\$2,114,421
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,418,923</b>	<b>\$3,916,176</b>

*The CAPITAL COMPONENT of the budget deals with all equipment, supplies, materials, and personnel for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. It also includes any judgments and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments on principal and interest on short and long-term debt.*

**PROGRAM COMPONENT**

	<b>2022-2023 BUDGET</b>	<b>2023-2024 PROJECTED</b>
TEACHING-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$5,897,791	\$6,127,080
PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS W/ DISABILITIES	\$1,800,260	\$2,308,214
LIBRARY	\$224,006	\$141,555
COMPUTER IT	\$1,198,579	\$950,017
GUIDANCE	\$388,259	\$417,151
HEALTH SERVICE	\$119,851	\$155,609
PSYCH SERVICES	\$184,341	\$193,021
ATHLETICS	\$327,236	\$395,892
TRANSPORTATION	\$993,382	\$1,079,142
BENEFITS	\$3,327,233	\$3,276,796
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$14,460,938</b>	<b>\$15,044,477</b>

*The PROGRAM COMPONENT includes salaries of all teaching staff, as well as pupil transportation and employee benefits.*

**Union Springs CSD Mission Statement**

The Union Springs Central School District is an organized body (composed of students, parents, staff, and community members) that nurtures all learning and recognizes individual differences in a challenging environment.

ALL MEMBERS positively and respectfully encourage one another to succeed, inspiring pride in accomplishments. With everyone ultimately responsible for his or her life-long learning and behavior, the pursuit of excellence is our mission.

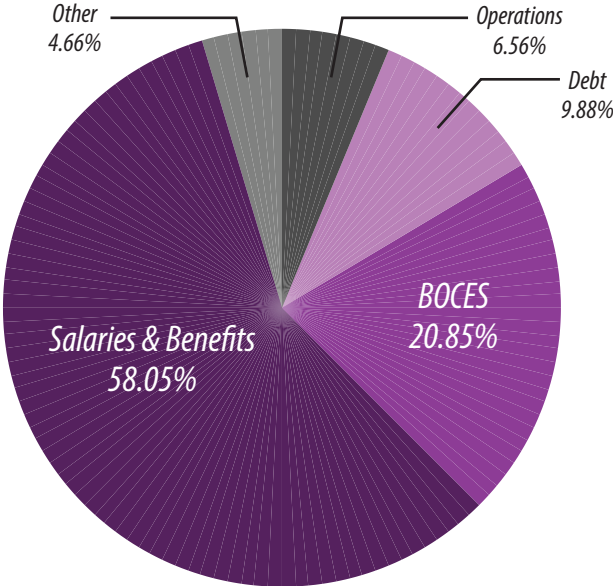
### PROPOSITION #1 BUDGET VOTE

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Union Springs Central School District shall be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the budget for the 2023-2024 school year in the total amount of \$21,392,539, and to assess and levy upon the taxable property of the District the necessary tax thereof.

### PROPOSITION #2 CAPITAL PROJECT

Shall the Board of Education undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof, the purchase of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection with the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used, all to include site, access, parking, demolition, utility, mechanical, plumbing and electrical improvements as well as payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work, and expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$3,210,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for the project by using \$615,000 from the Capital Reserve approved by the District's voters in May of 2022 and by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted for the project in the amount of \$2,595,000, subject to available State Aid, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$2,595,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due?

### Cost Categories and Percentage of Total Budget



**QUESTIONS?**  
Please call the District Office at (315) 889-4100.

### PROPOSITION #3 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

**RESOLVED**, (a) That the Board of Education of the Union Springs Central School District, in the County of Cayuga, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to lease various vehicles for use by the district for the facilities and maintenance department; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$75,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted to finance such cost, such a tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education.

### PROPOSITION #4 SPRINGPORT FREE LIBRARY

Shall the sum of \$92,000 dollars, an increase of \$3,500.00, from \$88,500.00 be raised by an annual tax levy upon the taxable real property within the Union Springs Central School District for the purpose of funding the Springport Free Library?



## Proposition 2 - Plumbing Infrastructure Capital Project

In proposition two of the 2023 budget vote, the district is proposing a capital project in the approximate amount of **\$3.2 million** to help us improve our plumbing infrastructure. This project would be funded through the use of capital reserve funds, as well as a proposed **0.37% tax levy**.

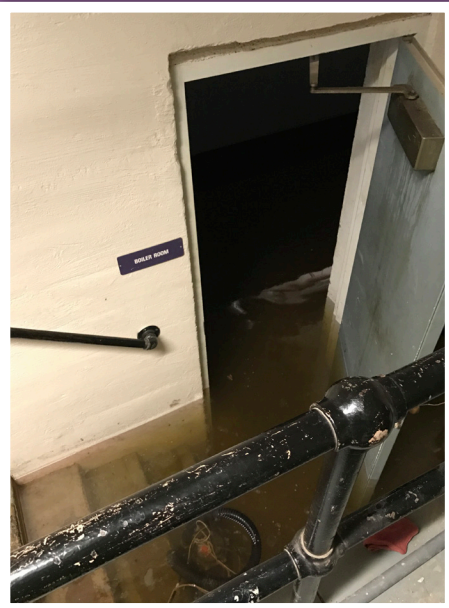
Much of the plumbing infrastructure at the high school is outdated and/or compromised, resulting in substantial damage and ineffectiveness. This includes concerns within the building, as well as exterior concerns, such as flooding on the roof and near the foundation of the building.

Our main building, built in 1936 is 87 years old and the pipes are clogged, compressed, corroded, or broken, and seemingly a source of continuous repair. There is a significant amount of work that will need to be undertaken to update our plumbing in the years ahead. This proposed project with its associated levy, will help us to begin this work to protect the infrastructure of our school building."

We anticipate several phases of plumbing improvements in order to fully bring our plumbing up to its necessary state. By phasing the elements of this project over successive school years, it will allow us to rotate the work and continue to have the full use of our facilities.

**This capital project will result in an additional 0.37% increase on the tax levy, which would equate to an approximate tax increase of \$4.44 on a home assessed at \$100,000.**

## A Look Into the Interior Plumbing Concerns



*One of the major concerns regarding the plumbing issues at Union Springs MS/HS is the high flooding that occurs in the basement and boiler room.*



*Shown above, water is pooled up in the basement and resting directly on the foundation of the building.*



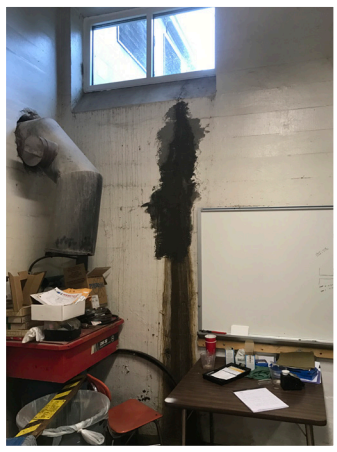
*Flooding at Union Springs MS/HS isn't just experienced in the basement. As shown, these issues are felt in areas that students utilize on a daily basis.*

***Continued on pg. 6***

## A Look Into the Interior Plumbing Concerns

## A Look Into the Exterior Plumbing Concerns

*Continued from pg. 5*



*Water issues have caused cracks, leaks, stains, and mold to develop throughout the foundation of the building.*



*Bathrooms have been closed due to clogged, compressed, or broken pipes.*



*Some pipes throughout the building are completely clogged, causing major issues related to water pressure and water quality.*



*Plumbing concerns have required swift and necessary repairs that severely compromise the grounds at Union Springs MS/HS. Pictured below, workers seek to repair a large crack in a pipe outside of the MS/HS.*



*As seen above and below, flooding can be seen at the base of the foundation at the MS/HS. Not only does this create flooding concerns inside the building, but also causes damage to the foundation itself.*



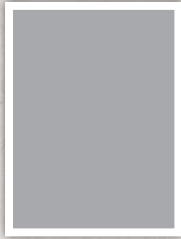
*Flooding concerns do not only occur at the foundation of the building. Pictured, large pools of water develop on roof of the building as well, causing damage and unnecessary weight to develop.*



*As seen from above, many potholes have developed throughout the parking areas surrounding the building due to plumbing concerns.*

# Candidates for Board of Education:

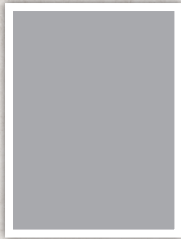
Voting for 3; (3) three year terms



Name



Name



Name



## Pre-K Registration Information

Pre-Kindergarten registration packets have been sent out to eligible students. Please return as soon as possible to the AJ Smith Elementary office.

If you did not receive a packet and have an eligible student, please call the school's office.

Eligible students need to turn 4 years old by December 1, 2023.

# Union Springs High School Amazes During Showings of 'Emma: A Pop Musical'



## AJ Smith Elementary Celebrates Positivity Project (P2) With Fun Assembly



## Union Springs CSD Announces Val & Sal for Class of 2023



### Valedictorian Ava Smith

Ava Smith was recently named the Valedictorian of the Union Springs High School Class of 2023.

Smith said she was relieved when she learned that she was the valedictorian and that she was happy that all her hard work had paid off. She wished to thank her parents, sister, friends, and pets for supporting her throughout the years.

She also has some advice for incoming freshman.

“Don’t be too hard on yourself,” Smith said. “Your best will always be enough.”

Smith plans to attend Vassar College in the fall where she will major in earth science and minor in environmental science. She plans on becoming an environmental conservationist.



### Salutatorian Katherine Gilmore

Katherine Gilmore has been named Salutatorian of the Union Springs High School Class of 2023.

Katherine said when she learned that she was Salutatorian she felt a sense of contentment.

“I must have done something right if I got this far,” Smith said.

Academically, she is proud of her ranking.

“Being in the top 10 percent of my class makes me eligible for more scholarships,” Gilmore said.

“I would like to thank my mom, Mr. Charles, Mr. Persad, Mr. Fabian, Mr. Stone, my fellow seniors and friends,” Gilmore said. “My success would not be possible with their support!”

Gilmore has been very actively involved in the art program throughout her high school career. Most recently she learned she will be honored with a National Scholastic Art Award Gold Medal for one of her ceramic pieces. Only one percent of submissions receive this prestigious award.

Gilmore would like incoming freshmen to remember that everyone learns differently and that trying is what’s most important.

“Be confident and please ask questions,” Gilmore said. “Also, be involved! Keeping these things in mind will help you have a successful high school experience.”

Gilmore will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall to study graphic design. She would like to work for a graphic design firm in the future, especially in a collaborative environment blending technology and creative ideas.



## Union Springs Celebrates Read Across America Day

Students and staff from throughout the district participated in Read Across America Day, which is held each year on Dr. Seuss' birthday to encourage reading.



## Union Springs Students Take First Place at Regional OOTM Competition

Four students from Union Springs CSD went to the regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES with the goal of having fun. They walked away as first-place winners.

Students Claire Baliva, Riley Kozub, Brynn Akins, and Carter Smith tackled Problem 1: The Pirates and the Treasure. They were tasked with creating and building their own vehicle, as well as making an original script and props for a performance that tells a classic pirate tale.

In their version of the story, the Pirate Captain, his son Junior, and first mate Clamilton journey to save the queen at the request of her butler. After departing on their self-made pirate ship, they battle a sea monster, discover a necklace treasure, and do a little fishing for fun. Upon returning to the Queen's Castle it is discovered that the sea monster was in fact the lost queen! She transforms into a sea monster when she is without her necklace.

The team's performance met the requirements of the problem and successfully told the story under the time constraints.

"For their first year together as a team, they showed an incredible amount of maturity and cooperation. They surprised me with their creativity and sense of humor throughout the process of working together. I am so proud of their efforts and I hope they have a blast at the state competition," said coach Alec Targett.

The team will now go on to compete at the state competition held at the NYS Fairgrounds.



## Hailee Smith Signs Letter of Intent to Attend Alfred State

Union Springs senior Hailee Smith has signed her letter of intent to play women’s softball, and study veterinary technology, at Alfred State College of Technology.

Choosing the right college was a big decision for Smith, as she was looking for the right fit both academically and athletically. Smith said she focused on finding a school that had a major in veterinary technology.

“Alfred State has a farm on campus where students can work with animals in a hands-on setting. And then when I met the coach, I knew it was where I belonged,” she said. “It’s very exciting because I worked hard to be able to play collegiately. It was just a big relief to find a place to go,” Smith said.

Smith, who always had many pets growing up, said she is interested in the caretaking of animals. A degree in veterinary technology would offer the opportunity to work in a lot of different settings, including in a zoo or in an animal rehabilitation facility.

As for being a softball pitcher, Smith is dedicated to her craft.

“You need to have a little niche for pitching, and for me it all kind of fell into place. Pitching is not something you can do once a month. It’s a full-time commitment,” Smith said.

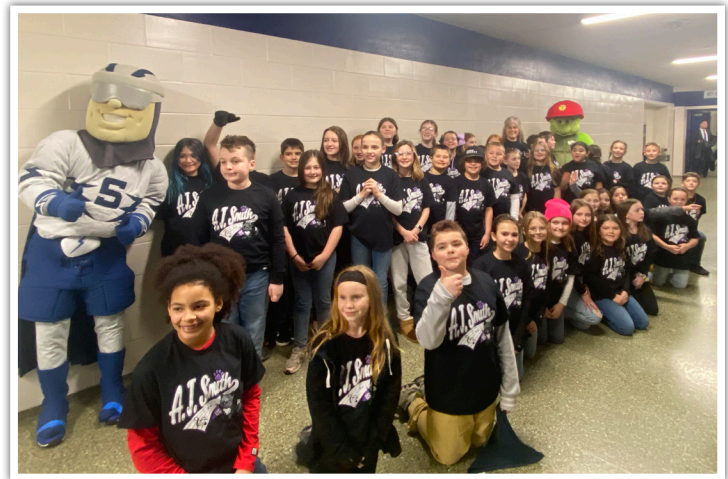
Smith is excited for her upcoming senior season. Last year the team won the IAC League, but this year Smith wants to go further in sectionals.

“We have a younger team, so we have a lot of new talent coming up. I think it’s going to be a fun year,” Smith said.



## Girls’ Bowling Team Enjoyed Successful Season

*The Union Springs/Port Byron girls’ bowling team finished third in the NYSPHSAA Star Championship Tournament. The team also won the IAC Large School Division Title for the third consecutive year. Pictured from left, Coach Marianne Viscardi, Delaney Kimball, Caroline Snead, Colleen Jump, Hali Gray, Bethany Jump and Jenna Jump.*



## AJ Smith Students Perform at Professional Hockey Game

*Students from AJ Smith Elementary School recently performed the National Anthem prior to a Syracuse Crunch game. The students performed right on the ice before thousands of fans!*

## Girls' Basketball Team Enjoyed Magical Season

The girls' varsity basketball team had a season for the history books. The team would go on to win the Section IV Class C Championship, as well as a NYS Regional Championship.

Prior to departing for their NYS Final Four game, the team stopped by A.J. Smith Elementary where students and staff cheered the team on as they walked through the hallways.

Congratulations on an unforgettable season. You made the Union Springs Community proud every step of the way!



## Catherine Gilmore to Receive Gold Medal Art Award

Union Springs senior Catherine Gilmore has won a respected Gold Medal from the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for one of her ceramic pieces.

The Nationals Scholastic Art Awards, which began in 1923 is one of the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens.

Union Springs High School art teacher Jason Charles said there were more than 500,000 pieces of artwork submitted for review this year and that only one percent of submissions receive a national award. Receiving a gold medal puts Gilmore and even more rare company.

"This is a very high honor for a very deserving student," Charles said.

National Scholastic Art Award judging begins at the regional level. Gilmore had several pieces of work receive silver and gold key awards this year. Regional award-winning pieces were placed on display at OCC and those that received gold key awards were evaluated in-person by national judges.

Gilmore said she was ecstatic when she learned that her piece won a gold medal.

"Honestly it was one of those 'what if' moments. Like, 'Oh, that would be nice.' But then it actually happened!" Gilmore said.

After taking studio art her freshman year, Gilmore said she was hooked on art.

"I knew I wanted more art opportunities," Gilmore said.

Since then, she has taken drawing 1 and 2, graphic design, ceramics, and a portfolio class. Currently, she enjoys working with oil paint and is painting a self-portrait.

Gilmore intends to pursue her art. This fall, she will attend RIT to study graphic design and said that she would like to work for a graphic design firm in the future. She likes the idea of working in a collaborative environment blending technology and creative ideas.

On June 8, Gilmore, her mother, and Mr. Charles plan to travel to New York City to receive her award. The national non-profit organization that presents the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards will honor winners at a gala celebration at Carnegie Hall.



# Mark Your Calendars

<b>May 8</b>	<b>Budget Hearing</b>
<b>May 8</b>	Board of Education Meeting
<b>May 11</b>	Curriculum/Concert Night K-1
<b>May 13</b>	Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Budget Vote</b>
<b>May 16</b>	Curriculum/Concert Night Grades 2 & 3
<b>May 20</b>	Junior Prom
<b>May 22</b>	Board of Education Meeting
<b>May 29</b>	Memorial Day - No School
<b>June 1</b>	MS/HS Spring Band Concert
<b>June 6</b>	Scholarship Dinner
<b>June 8</b>	Curriculum & Concert Night 4th Grade
<b>June 12</b>	Board of Education Meeting
<b>June 14</b>	Spring Sports Awards
<b>June 19</b>	Juneteenth - No School
<b>June 25</b>	Graduation



**FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VIEW OUR CALENDAR ON [WWW.UNIONSPRINGS.ORG](http://WWW.UNIONSPRINGS.ORG)**

# Home of the Wolves!



**Dr. Jarett Powers**  
Superintendent

**Valerie Castiglia**  
Secretary to the Superintendent

**Mike Wurster**  
Assistant Superintendent

## Board of Education

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**Board President**

Daniel Testa,  
**Vice President**

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Ann Marie Daum

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Carol Quill  
Barry Schwarting

Erin Tones

## CONTACT US:

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Union Springs, NY 13160  
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## FOLLOW US:

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**UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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Union Springs, NY 13160

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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

# Rural Route or Boxholder