



# NORWOOD-NORFOLK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2023-24

### From the Superintendent

Dear NNCS families, friends and neighbors,

The Norwood-Norfolk School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$28,848,942 on March 21. Full details regarding the proposed budget are available from the district office or on our website, [www.nncsk12.org](http://www.nncsk12.org).

The commitment by New York State Legislatures and Governor Kathy Hochul to fully fund state-aid has significantly impacted the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District's budget planning. As a traditionally underfunded school district, that is 70% funded by the state, we welcome this three-year plan to phase in aid. These funds will have a tremendous impact on our children and their educational programs.

For the tenth cumulative year, the district is able to present this budget with a 0% increase to the local tax share per \$1,000 assessed property value, while maintaining compliance with the tax cap formula. The 2023-24 full-value tax rate is the lowest it has been in twenty years, and the proposed budget presents a 0% increase to the local tax levy for the fifth year in a row.

In addition to the proposed budget, we are asking voters to approve the spending required to maintain our bus replacement schedule. Replacing our school buses on a seven-year cycle allows the district to save on maintenance costs and maximize trade-in values. The district will use the capital vehicle fund established in May 2022 to reduce borrowing costs. Additionally, the district has included propositions to establish two additional reserve funds that will help mitigate future expenses associated with transportation and construction.

At this time, Norwood-Norfolk Central School District's Board of Education, the guiding force behind all district operations, is seeking candidates to fill three open seats. In addition to details in

regards to the 2023-24 proposed budget, this newsletter will provide voters with information regarding the candidates seeking election.

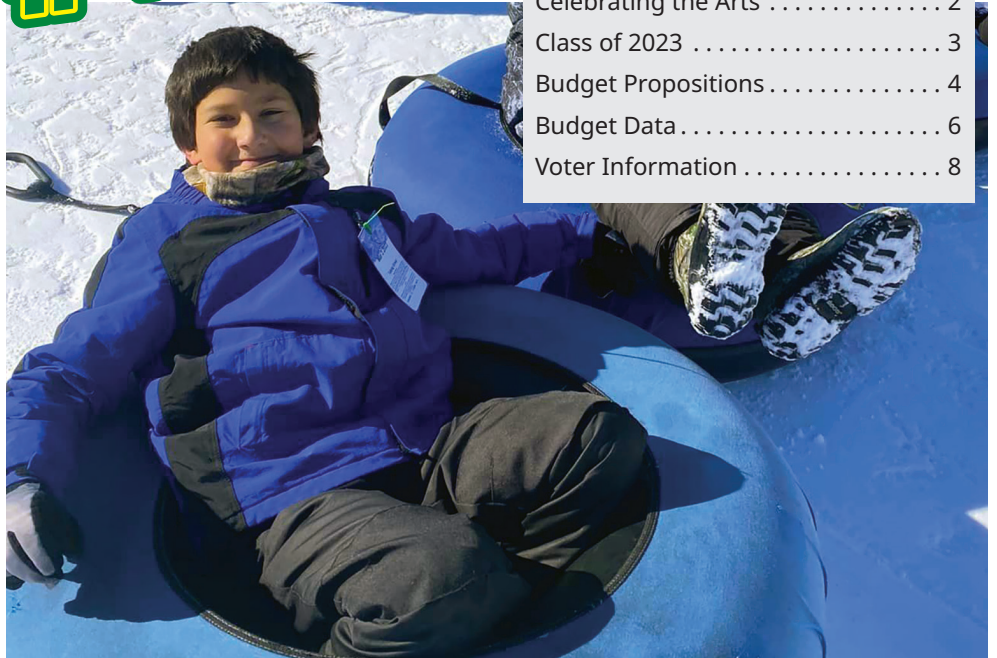
We ask that you carefully review all of the information provided in this newsletter, and to please participate thoughtfully in the voting process. Your informed involvement is imperative to the future of our district.

I would like to thank each of you for allowing me the opportunity to continue to serve the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District community. This is a special community, with many caring and devoted members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

My best,

James Cruikshank  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## #FlyerPride



### Budget At-A-Glance

#### Budget Hearing

Tuesday, May 2, 2023  
6:30 p.m.

District Board Room

#### Budget Presentation

Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
6:30 p.m.

District Board Room

#### Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
12:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

District Board Room

**Proposed Budget**  
\$28,848,942

**Budget Increase**  
\$2,875,535 | 11.07%

**Tax Levy Change**  
\$0 | 0%

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# CELEBRATING THE ARTS

## Art Awards

Several students in the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District were top performers at the 2023 Central NY Scholastic Art Contest. More than 4,000 works of art were submitted to the contest from across New York state, and of those, 1,155 were selected by a panel of judges for Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention awards. Norwood-Norfolk students represent 34 of those individual awards.

"This was a great showing by NNCS students," Superintendent James Cruikshank said, "We are so proud of these students' accomplishments. It's also noteworthy that so many of our award winners are underclassmen and middle schoolers." Cruikshank also congratulated the district's teaching staff for inspiring such amazing work.

### Award Winners:

**Portfolio Silver Key:** Dydre Liano

**Gold Key:** Stella Arquiett, Drawing & Illustration (3); Madelyn Elliott, Drawing & Illustration; Lauren Kent, Photography; Liam Miller-Lynch, Photography; Lily Mittelstaedt, Digital Art; Arianna Ostroski, Drawing & Illustration; Emelia Palmer, Photography; Brielle Smith, Drawing & Illustration; Mercedes St. John, Photography.

**Silver Key:** Naveah DeShane, Photography; Madelyn Elliott, Printmaking (2); Liam Hellinger, Photography; Autumn Masuk, Photography; Liam Miller-Lynch, Photography; Arianna Ostroski, Drawing & Illustration; Kayden Robert, Photography (2); Serenity Sharpe, Photography (2).

**Honorable mention:** Emma Baxter, Kerisa Burns, Breawna Eckstein, Madelyn Elliott, Levi Forney (2), Luci LaPlante, Lillian Moore, Brielle Smith, Mercedes St. John, Ella Tatom.

All works of art submitted by Norwood-Norfolk Central School District students can be viewed in a slideshow by scanning the QR code below.



## NNCS Drama Club Presents "Grease"





# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SENIOR CLASS OF 2023!



*Lance Bradley and Anthony Fiocco*

## Valedictorian — Lance Bradley

Lance Bradley, the son of Allen and Julie Bradley of Norfolk, NY, is the Valedictorian of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School Class of 2023 with an average of 97.40. Lance is a hard-working student, and has taken a suite of challenging classes throughout his high school career including; AP Calculus, AP Biology, English Composition 101, Statistics, Physics and more. Lance's dedication to academics

will result in his graduation with an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors, Mastery in both Math and Science, in June.

In addition to his academic success, Lance is a member of the ADP Program, National Honor Society and Spanish Club. He has completed many hours of community service, and has served in an officer role for multiple clubs. Lance is also an active athlete, running cross country in grades 7-12. Lance will continue his education at SUNY Canton where he plans to continue his cross country running career and receive a degree in the field of Nursing.

## Salutatorian — Anthony Fiocco

Anthony Fiocco, son of Marena and Mike Fiocco of Norwood, NY, is the Salutatorian of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School Class of 2023 with an average of 97.31. Anthony is a bright student who has taken a number of rigorous courses throughout his high school career including AP Calculus, AP Biology, U.S. History and college-level Spanish. This year, Anthony is enrolled in The Clarkson School, an early college program through Clarkson University, where he has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship. It is at Clarkson that Anthony is currently majoring in Biology, whilst on the Pre-Medical track.

In addition to his academic achievements, Anthony is a three-season athlete and has participated in many sports including cross country, outdoor and indoor track, hockey and basketball. Upon graduation in June, Anthony will continue his cross country career on the Men's cross country team at Clarkson, where he will continue his education.

## Senior Honors

Congratulations to the following seniors who will be graduating with an average of 90 or above:

- Jessika Bullock
- Lucienne Burns
- Bethany Diederich
- Hannah Dominy
- Stormy Fiocco
- Gabrielle Hartigan
- Hannah Hartigan
- Joshua Jarvis
- Haley Morgan
- Sara Miller
- Caroline Nguyen
- Caryn Peretta
- Makyla Phillips
- Zachery Roi
- Samuel Rousset
- Camden Stefhon
- Ella Tatom
- Kylie Tebo

# BUDGET PROPOSITIONS

## Proposition I, Budget

Shall the proposed budget for the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefore.

## Proposition II, Transportation

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase four (4) student transportation vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$640,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for such vehicles by using \$640,000 from the District's Capital Vehicle Reserve.

## Proposition III, Capital Reserve Fund – Vehicles

Shall the Board of Education of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District, be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be titled "2023 Vehicle Reserve Fund" for a ten-year term in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, to be used for school vehicle and bus purchases, such reserve fund to be funded from (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund, (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

## Proposition IV, Capital Reserve Fund

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Norwood Norfolk Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund for financing the cost of acquisition, construction or reconstruction of District buildings and grounds and other capital projects pursuant to Education Law section 3651, in an ultimate amount not to exceed \$5,000,000. The likely term of the fund is 10 years. The Board of Education is further authorized to pay into the fund (i) in the 2022-2023 school year an amount (from the unreserved unappropriated fund balance) to be determined by the Board of Education (ii) in the 2023-2024 school year and annually thereafter funds of the District in an amount determined by the Board of Education each year, and in addition (iii) state aid reimbursement to the District on account of capital projects to the extent determined appropriate by the Board of Education for the purposes of the fund, and (iv) such other monies as the voters may direct.

Except as otherwise provided by law, expenditures from this Reserve Fund shall be made only for the purpose for which the Reserve Fund is established. No expenditure shall be made from this Reserve Fund without the approval of this governing board and such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by Section 6-c [6-g] of the General Municipal Law or other law, including a permissive referendum if required by subdivision 4 of Section 6-c [subdivision 7 of Section 6-g].

## Proposition V, Board of Education Member Vote

To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education for three (3) year terms (7/1/23 – 6/30/26). The seats are presently held by Marela Fiacco, Jonathan Hunkins and Amy LaCroix.

## BUDGET & A

### Q What's different in the proposed budget?

A The 2023-24 budget proposal increases spending by \$2,875,535 or 11.07% over the current year. Much of that increase is driven by rising costs associated with federal mandated programs and services, as well as salaries, employee pensions and benefits.

### Q What is the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate?

A The tax levy is the total amount of money a school district raises in taxes each year from all property owners in the district. Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value in the community. Tax rates are affected by changes in both municipal assessments and state equalization rates, which are determined in August.

### Q What happens if the budget is voted down?

A Districts have three options if a school budget is voted down — (1) put the same budget before voters a second time, (2) put a revised budget before voters, or (3) move to a contingent budget.

If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a district must adopt its contingent budget.

Under a contingent budget, an additional \$767,643 would be cut from the \$28,848,942 budget, leading to reductions that would have a direct impact on student education.

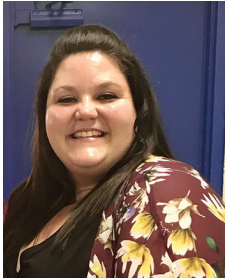




# Meet the Candidates

## School Board Election on the May 16 Ballot

There are three candidates running for three open seats on the NNCS Board of Education. Board members are volunteers elected to three-year terms. The terms of the individuals elected this year will begin on July 1, 2023.



### Heaven Simons

Mrs. Heaven Simons is a 2003 NNCS graduate, and has served on many hiring committees for the school district as a parent representative. In addition, Mrs. Simons has served on local youth sports boards, and is a member of the Norwood Kiwanis Club, and is an elected board member for Norwood Kiwanis.

Mrs. Simons enjoys volunteering and serving her community. She believes that she would serve as an unbiased asset to help maintain a level of excellence in education that our students deserve at Norwood-Norfolk Central School, while keeping community taxpayers in mind. She hopes to maintain and expand a shared vision among community members and educational staff while focusing on what is best for all students in the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District community.



### Amy LaCroix

Ms. Amy LaCroix is a lifelong resident, alumna, and parent in the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District. Ms. LaCroix is a graduate of both North Country Community College and SUNY Canton, and has served on the NNCS Board of Education for the past three years. Ms. LaCroix wants to continue to serve on the board and hopes to see students continue to thrive academically. She believes that it is critically important for the district to continue to provide a safe

learning environment for all students in order to help them succeed in their education, and to provide not only the best academic opportunities, but extra-curricular opportunities as well.



### Marela Fiacco

Dr. Marela Fiacco is a 20-year resident of Norwood, and has two sons, Anthony and Dominic, enrolled in the school district. Through her sons' education, Dr. Fiacco has developed relationships with teachers and staff, and firmly believes that the Norwood-Norfolk Central School is an exceptional school environment. Dr. Fiacco has been a professor at SUNY Canton for the past 17 years, and believes teaching—her own passion—to be one of the greatest professions.

Dr. Fiacco has served on the NNCS Board of education for the past three years and says, "I am committed to public education, and the school board ensures our youth receive the best education possible...We must focus on mental health challenges that our students are experiencing, academic progress and new curricular programming, and financial stability in the long term. The board's work is crucial as we move forward to provide our students with a better learning environment and academic experience."

## IMPETUS Coaster Build Competition

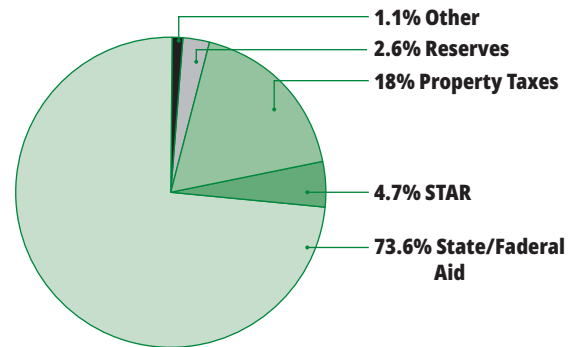
NNCS students participated in the IMPETUS Coaster Build Competition held at Clarkson on Wednesday April 5.

Teams were required to use given materials to complete their build, including a mystery item that was not shared with them until they arrived (which turned out to be a plastic dustpan). Extra points were awarded for successful loops.

Each team picked their own theme. With thunder booming and lightning flashing, our NNCS team built their coaster with the theme "Idiom Island", incorporating small Lego figures with idioms such as "when pigs fly", "break a leg", and "take a seat". It was very nice to see our students demonstrating their creativity, perseverance, and problem-solving skills to create their coaster in a limited time frame!



Revenue	2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	\$Change
Real Property Taxes	\$5,186,108	\$5,186,108	-
STAR Reimbursement	\$1,348,648	\$1,348,648	-
State/Federal Aid	\$18,673,514	\$21,227,887	\$2,554,373
Other	\$337,059	\$324,099	\$(12,960)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$305,878	-	\$(305,878)
Reserves	\$122,200	\$762,200	\$640,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$25,973,407</b>	<b>\$28,848,942</b>	<b>\$2,875,535</b>



## Budget Breakdown

### Administrative

This component includes expenses necessary to manage district affairs including the Board of Education, Superintendent, District Clerk, business office operations, legal/auditing fees, and building-level supervision.

### Program

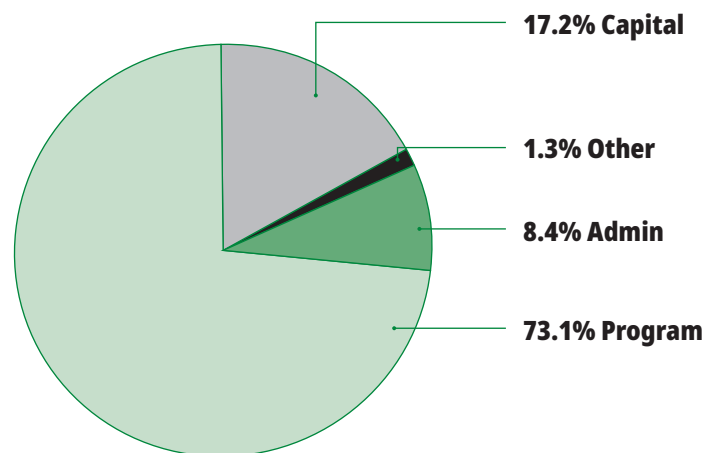
This component includes expenses necessary to educate students. Included in the program budget are expenses for classroom instruction, educating students with special needs, library services, nurses office, computer-assisted instruction, guidance/counseling services, athletics and extracurricular activities, and transportation.

### Capital

This component includes all expenses necessary to operate and maintain school facilities. This includes maintenance and custodial staff, utilities, and debt payments for building projects.

### Other

This component includes the reservation of funds in a Capital Project Reserve Fund for future use.



Administrative Component	2022-23	2023-24	Change
Employee Benefits	\$430,840	\$431,877	\$1,037
Instruction	\$28,430	\$27,800	\$(630)
Supervision - Regular School	\$421,737	\$430,895	\$9,158
Special Items	\$965,356	\$990,691	\$25,335
Other Central Services	\$2,780	\$3,102	\$322
Public Information	\$7,715	\$10,390	\$2,675
Personnel	\$21,765	\$22,200	\$435
Legal Services	\$875	\$875	-
Finance	\$265,385	\$277,490	\$12,105
Central Administration	\$197,401	\$203,430	\$6,029
Board of Education	\$12,151	\$19,824	\$7,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,354,435</b>	<b>\$2,418,574</b>	<b>\$64,139</b>
Program Component	2022-23	2023-24	Change
Transfer to Other Funds	\$70,000	\$70,000	-
Employee Benefits	\$6,904,551	\$7,332,556	\$428,005
Contract Trans	\$3,000	\$3,000	-
Bus Garage	\$126,455	\$136,548	\$10,093
Transportation	\$946,154	\$1,077,346	\$131,192
Instruction	\$11,467,922	\$12,386,187	\$918,265
Other Central Services	\$52,819	\$58,941	\$6,122
Legal Services	\$16,625	\$16,625	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,587,526</b>	<b>\$21,081,203</b>	<b>\$1,493,677</b>
Capital Component	2022-23	2023-24	Change
Debt Service	\$2,438,469	\$2,740,495	\$302,026
Employee Benefits	\$494,562	\$388,032	\$(106,530)
Bus Purchases	-	\$640,000	\$640,000
Special Items	\$1,000	\$1,000	-
Maintenance	\$250,008	\$278,454	\$28,446
Operation of Plant	\$847,407	\$903,393	\$55,986
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,031,446</b>	<b>\$4,951,374</b>	<b>\$919,928</b>
Other	2022-23	2023-24	Change
Capital Project Reserve Fund	-	\$397,791	\$397,791
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$397,791</b>	<b>\$397,791</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$25,973,407</b>	<b>\$28,848,942</b>	<b>\$2,875,535</b>

# School District Budget Notice

2023 - 2024

## OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$25,973,407	\$28,848,942	\$28,081,299
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$2,875,535	\$2,107,892
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		11.07%	8.12%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$6,534,756	\$6,534,756	
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	-	-	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$6,534,756</b>	<b>\$6,534,756</b>	<b>\$6,534,756</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	-	\$15,851	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,815,589	\$6,848,680	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,534,756	6,518,905	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$280,833	\$329,775	
Administrative Component	\$2,354,435	\$2,418,574	\$2,415,355
Program Component	\$19,587,526	\$21,081,203	\$21,008,279
Capital Component	\$4,031,446	\$4,951,374	\$4,259,874
Budgetary provisions for other purposes	-	\$397,791	\$397,791

\*In the event voters reject a district's proposed budget twice, the Board of Education must enact a contingent budget consisting of "ordinary contingent expenses" which is subject to a cap on the administrative portion of the budget, with no increase in tax levy over the prior year. Assumptions have been made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law. Changes made from the proposed budget are in compliance with this law. Should the proposed budget be defeated, the responsibility for determining which items in a school district fall under the concept of "ordinary contingent expenses" rests with the board of education. New equipment purchases totaling \$762,350 and exempt salary increases of \$5,293 are eliminated under the contingent budget.

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$690
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Voting on the 2023-24 budget and annual election of candidates for the Board of Education will be held by the qualified voters of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York, on May 16, 2023 in the District Board Room in said district between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., prevailing time in the District Board Room, 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.

## Kindness Week

Students celebrated the value of being kind to one another by dressing in various themes throughout the last week of January. Kindness Week has become a beloved annual tradition here at NNCS!







**NORWOOD-NORFOLK**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
7582 State Highway 56 Norwood, NY 13668

PRST, STD.  
ECRWSS  
US. POSTAGE PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

#### Board of Education

Artie Frego, *President*  
Stephen Markum, *Vice President*  
Robert Barlow  
James Dillon  
Marela Fiacco  
Suzanne Fiacco  
Jonathan Hunkins  
Amy LaCroix  
Mary Ellen Todd

#### Administration

James Cruikshank, *Superintendent of Schools*  
George Biffer, *High School Principal*  
William Lint, *Middle School Principal*  
Nate Plantz, *Elementary School Principal*  
Kate Williams, *CSE Chairperson*  
Jill Weaver, *District Clerk*  
Lisa Mitras, *Business Office Manager*

## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

8 **NORWOOD-NORFOLK** Central School District

## Voter Information

### Eligibility to Vote

To be a qualified voter, a person must be a U.S. Citizen who is 18 years of age or older, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

### Absentee Ballots

Qualified voters may apply for absentee ballots through the District Clerk's office. To request an absentee ballot application, please contact Jill Weaver, District Clerk, at (315) 353-6631, ext. 38733, or email [jweaver@nncsk12.org](mailto:jweaver@nncsk12.org).

A list of persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available for inspection in the District Clerk's office during each of the five days prior to the day of election, except on Sunday. To be issued an absentee ballot, the District Clerk must receive a valid ballot application no later than May 9, 2023 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or May 15, 2023 if requested and received in person.

### Polling Site

Voting on the 2023-24 budget and annual election of candidates for the Board of Education will be held in the District Board Room on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

