



# Salmon River Central School District PROPOSED 2013-14 BUDGET

## A Message from the Superintendent and Board President:

On Tuesday, May 21, 2013, District residents will go to the polls to vote on a proposed \$29 million budget for the 2013-14 school year. In light of increasing obstacles, the Board has developed an educationally and fiscally responsible budget, working very hard to maintain current staffing levels through a combination of reasonable tax increases with responsible use of fund balance. During these tough fiscal times we have had to be creative and find ways to cut costs without cutting staff and maintaining all programs.

The 2013-14 tax levy increase is 2%, which remains below the NYS Tax Levy Cap. The Board did not follow the tax levy cap which would have been 11.37%. The Board understands that with the uncontrollable increases in the health insurance and retirement costs it is necessary to increase the tax levy. Therefore, the levy will only increase by 2%, not 11.37%, and the balance will come from the District's reserves.

The District is extremely mindful of the responsibility to provide an educational program that meets the needs of our students and is affordable. Throughout the budget process, we sought to identify reductions that would maximize the time and skills of our staff and allow us to sustain the caliber and breadth of learning opportunities we currently offer. We recognize the limit of the fiscal resources of our community, as well as NYS. It is a tribute to the efforts of the Board of Education, administrators, teachers and staff, that we have been able to preserve educational programs for students.

We are very proud of the academic rigor of our programs and will continue to challenge our top students with honors and advanced placement courses. We are also extremely proud of all our athletes' accomplishments, not only for their skill and ability, but also their sportsmanship and commitment to academics. We would like to congratulate Girls Volleyball and Girls Basketball who won Section X championships this year.

Go Shamrocks!!

Jane Collins, Superintendent of Schools  
Judy Stark, Board President

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ☑ Continuity of Existing Programs With No Staff Reductions
- ☑ 2013-14 Proposed Spending Plan Total: \$29,076,511
- ☑ Tax levy: \$1,950,881, An Increase Of 2%
- ☑ Tax Levy is Below New York State Tax Cap Formula of 11.37%

## BALANCING ECONOMIC REALITIES & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013 • 12:00-8:00 PM**  
**HS AUDITORIUM**



## OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS:

- ☑ Advanced Placement and Honors courses
- ☑ Art, Music, Library, and Physical Education at all schools
- ☑ Career and Technical Education
- ☑ Support for struggling learners
- ☑ Athletics and extracurricular activities

## OUR COMMITMENT TO PARENTS:

- ☑ High quality academic programming
- ☑ Achievement and success for ALL students
- ☑ Caring and safe environment
- ☑ Implementation of Common Core Learning Standards
- ☑ Enhance technology with 21st century instructional tools

## OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY:

- ☑ Use of reserves and fund balance to mitigate tax increases
- ☑ Awareness of the limit of fiscal resources of the community and NYS
- ☑ Long-term fiscal stability
- ☑ Property tax within legal levy limit



## News From the Middle School Library

The Salmon River Middle School's biannual book fair took place in March, transforming the library into the Story Laboratory. Contests and interactive displays, created by mad scientist and teacher, Mr. Barry Armstrong, were interwoven throughout the "shop" to encourage involvement. Sales of nearly \$2,000 set a new record at the Middle School. The earnings from the book fair, as well as, from participation in Scholastic's incentive programs, allowed for the purchase of 160 new books!

Lastly, our Middle School Library Media Specialist Mrs. Frey recently hosted two contests in observance of National Library Week (April 14-20). Throughout the week, students entered their best guess of how many



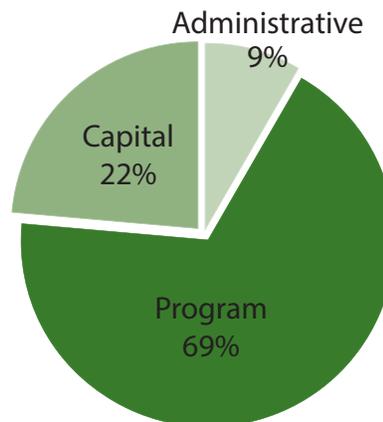
books are in the library. Colonie Gray (7th grade) and Jalen Cook (6th grade, pictured left) had the

closest guesses and received a library prize package featuring bookworms (gummy worms), new books, and school supplies.

Additionally, April was National Poetry Month, and the library participated in *Poem in Your Pocket Day*, which was held on April 18th. Everyone was encouraged to carry their favorite poem in their pocket and share it with others throughout the day. The library featured pockets of poems for those who did not have a favorite, as well as, interactive centers for reading and writing poetry.



Items on loan from the SRCSD science department helped to create eye catching displays.



2013-14 Three Part Budget		
	2012-13	2013-14
Administrative Component	\$ 2,357,731	\$ 2,485,604
Program Component	\$ 18,810,630	\$ 20,061,912
Capital Component	\$ 6,519,834	\$ 6,528,995

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### 2013 Valedictorian



The Salmon River Valedictorian for the Class of 2013 is Samantha Monette. Samantha is the daughter of Shawn and Janet Monette and is from South Bombay. She has taken a rigorous college prep program of advanced placement courses, including Honors Algebra/Trigonometry, AP History, Honors English, AP English, AP Chemistry, Honors Government, Calculus, and Physics. Her accomplishments are National Honor Society, University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Clarkson College Challenge Award, and the 4-H

Honor Award for Leadership. Samantha has spent her Saturday mornings taking classes at area colleges such as St. Lawrence University and Clarkson College. She has also spent two summers at Clarkson College at a camp for advanced students in math and science. When Samantha is not studying, she is in the band room playing the drums for the high school band. She performed at the New York State School Music Association competition. Samantha served others in the community through her involvement in the 4-H program, Meals on Wheels, Food Pantry, Mu Alpha Theta, and various other volunteer fundraising activities. Samantha has been accepted at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences where she will pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

### 2013 Salutatorian



The Salmon River Salutatorian for the Class of 2013 is Kaitlyn Pickering. She is the daughter of Preston and Bonnie Pickering and lives in Westville. While in high school, Kaitlyn has taken AP History, Honors Algebra/Trigonometry/Geometry, AP English, Honors Government, and Physics. She has excelled academically and has been a participant in athletics and extra-curricular activities as well. She is a member of the National Honor Society where she holds the position of secretary. Kaitlyn is on the Yearbook staff, Prom Committee, and a member of 4-H. She has been a valuable player on the varsity volleyball team, where she excelled on the court. Kaitlyn

sings in the high school chorus and participated in the New York State School Music Association. Kaitlyn has volunteered her time to help Westville on Clean Up days. She volunteered at Coville Bay to plant flowers and sing Christmas carols. She cleans kennels at a local animal shelter and served for the Salvation Army as a bell ringer. She is also a waitress to help raise money for people in need. Kaitlyn will be attending Nazareth University in the fall where she will be pursuing a Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

## GO SHAMROCKS!!

### Sources of Strength

Now in its fourth year at Salmon River, Sources of Strength is a best practice youth suicide prevention project that utilizes the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture and ultimately prevent suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. The program is designed to prevent suicide by increasing help-seeking behaviors and connections between peers and caring adults with a focus on *Hope, Help, and Strength*.

Students meet at least once a month with peer leaders from grades 9-12. Peer leaders are chosen by a member of the staff or by another peer leader.

The program helps students learn who the “trusted adults” in the school are. The key goal of SOS is to increase positive help-seeking behaviors among ALL students in school and break down “codes of silence” that often keep teens from seeking adult help when in crisis. University of Rochester provides training, technical support, and supplies.



Students have participated in the Akwesasne walk for Suicide and Addiction Awareness and have also recorded a suicide prevention public service announcement to run on CKON radio. The group has also done morning announcements and bulletin boards.

## Beginning With Books

Now in its 15th year, Beginning with Books is a free program for community children, designed to foster a love of reading through books, crafts, and other activities. The program is geared to children aged infant to school age. The story and craft hour is held on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the Elementary School.



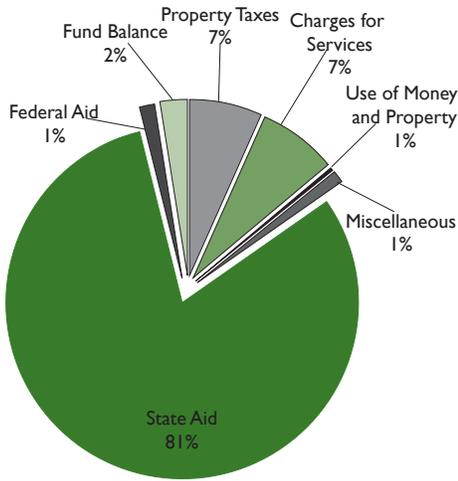
“This is a great program to help students get ready to attend school because they gain a familiarity with the school and what it is like to be in a school setting,” noted program leader Kim Russell.

According to Ms. Russell, students sometimes attend the program for 1-3 years prior to beginning school, which is helpful in providing an opportunity for young children to interact with others.

The program averages 10-14 children a week and high school seniors assist with crafts and snack time.



## Revenues 2013-14



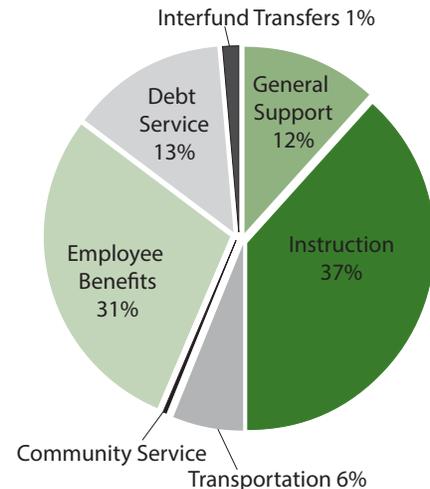
## Revenue Comparison

Category	2012-13 Budget	Proposed 2013-14 Budget	Difference
Property Taxes	\$ 1,927,628	\$ 1,965,881	\$ 38,253
Charges for Services	\$ 1,607,500	\$ 2,129,100	\$ 521,600
Use of Money and Property	\$ 93,000	\$ 88,000	\$ (5,000)
Miscellaneous	\$ 314,000	\$ 314,000	\$-
State Aid	\$ 22,673,850	\$ 23,528,308	\$ 854,458
Federal Aid	\$ 430,064	\$ 372,343	\$ (57,721)
Fund Balance	\$ 642,153	\$ 678,879	\$ 36,726
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 27,688,195</b>	<b>\$ 29,076,511</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,316</b>

## Expenditure Comparison

Category	2012-13 Budget	Proposed 2013-14 Budget	Difference
General Support	\$ 3,275,399	\$ 3,346,074	\$ 70,675
Instruction	\$ 10,625,993	\$ 10,891,591	\$ 265,598
Transportation	\$ 1,692,154	\$ 1,740,545	\$ 48,391
Community Service	\$ 28,800	\$ 28,960	\$ 160
Employee Benefits	\$ 7,995,356	\$ 9,146,213	\$ 1,150,857
Debt Service	\$ 3,750,493	\$ 3,703,128	\$ (47,365)
Interfund Transfers	\$ 320,000	\$ 220,000	\$ (100,000)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 27,688,195</b>	<b>\$ 29,076,511</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,316</b>

## Expenditures 2013-14



## Bus Purchase on Ballot

A proposition on May 21st will ask voters to approve the purchase of two (66) passenger buses at a cost not to exceed \$210,000. The state reimburses the District for 90% of bus purchases, therefore the local taxpayers' share of the total would be an average of \$4,800 for the next five years.

**Why does the District purchase buses on a regular basis?** The Salmon River Central School buses travel an average of 375,000 miles each year and carry 1,500 students daily. The District has an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to keep the bus fleet in safe, working order. New bus purchases replace old buses based on the vehicle's mileage, age, repair history, and condition. As buses age, they become more costly to maintain and less efficient to run. Older engines can average only about six miles per gallon; new buses should average about nine miles per gallon. That difference can add up to considerable savings given the number of miles our school buses travel each year.



*Happy to be riding the bus!*

## How is the Tax Rate Set?

School districts establish the tax levy, the total amount of money raised by local taxes to fund the school budget, but do not determine what portion of the tax burden is placed on any one town or property owner. Each year the actual tax rate increase/decrease varies from town to town due to changes in the assessed values and equalization rate, which are set by the Office of Real Property Services, and will not be finalized until August.

In late August, the District uses the total taxable assessed value of properties in each of its towns and the state equalization rates to calculate each town's portion of the school tax levy. The portion of the tax levy is then divided by the total assessed value of property in each town to determine the school tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value by town. Individual tax bills are printed and mailed to property owners.

## How do I estimate my school taxes for 2013-14?

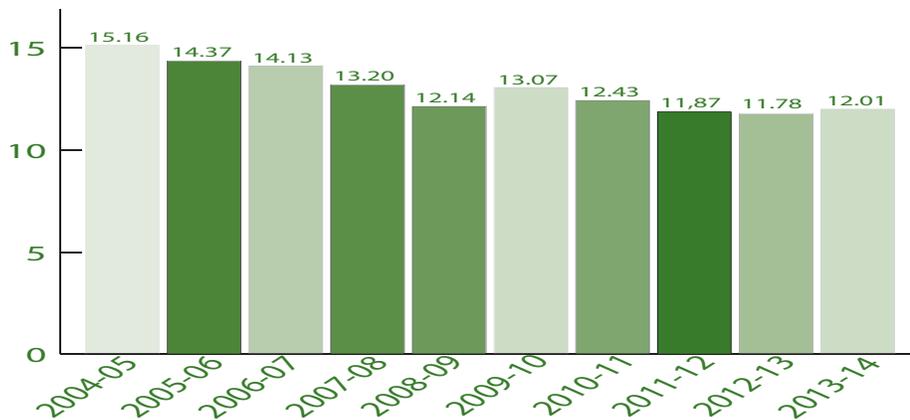
The amount of taxes collected by the District will change 2%. Using the formula below, you will be able to calculate your estimated school tax.

Assessed Value	÷ 1,000	X Tax Rate	- STAR =	School Tax
Example				
\$50,000	÷ 1,000	X \$12.01	- \$360 =	\$240.50
\$50,000 (Senior Citizen)	÷ 1,000	X \$12.01	- \$747 =	\$0.00
\$100,000	÷ 1,000	X \$12.01	- \$360 =	\$841.00
\$100,000 (Senior Citizen)	÷ 1,000	X \$12.01	- \$747 =	\$454.00

*Are the tax levy and tax rate the same thing?* No. There is a difference between a school district's tax levy and the tax rate set in August by the Board of Education. The tax levy is the total amount of money that a government entity, like a school district, collects each year in taxes from property owners. The tax rate is the per \$1,000 of assessed value figure used to compute tax bills and based on a home's individual assessment. It is determined by using town-wide assessments (the total value of all town property) and state equalization rates (release by the state in August by the Department of Taxation and Finance).

## True Tax Rate 2004-2014

*Why has the tax rate gone down?* Over the past nine years, the tax rate per thousand has gone down from \$15.16 per thousand in 2004-05 down to \$12.01 per thousand. This is caused by the increasing assessments from the towns. For 2013-14, the estimated property tax bill for the average \$50,000 home will increase \$19 and a senior citizen will see no increase in their property tax bill based on the current assessments.



## Our Mission

Salmon River Central School District values academic achievement, cultural diversity, and celebrates individuality within a safe, supportive learning environment.

## Our Vision

People  
Respecting  
Individuality,  
Diversity &  
Educational Achievement

## Budget Goals

- Continuous improvement
- Sustainable budget
- Support high quality programs
- Promotes achievement and success for all students
- Recognize the limit of fiscal resources of the community and NYS
- Maintains fiscal integrity

## Budget Challenges

- Limit budget growth
- Develop a budget within the legal levy limit
- Assure achievement for ALL students
- Prioritize scarce resources
- Meet the requirements of the new and challenging Common Core Learning Standards



## Robotics

The high school robotics team competed in the FRC "Ultimate Ascent" game this year. The team had six weeks to design, build, and program a robot to play ultimate frisbee. The team was awarded a couple of large grants this year, allowing for students to be able to build two robots (#229 and #4124). Both robots were designed to shoot frisbees across a court into targets and were built to hang from a horizontal bar on a tower for bonus points in the game.



In early March, students brought the twin robots to the FIRST Granite State Regional in Manchester, NH, where they competed against 43 other teams from all over the US and Canada. Robot 4124 was the 3rd best performing robot at the competition, was the #1 pick in the elimination matches, and was selected by the #1 robot to be in their alliance. Robot 229 went to Boston two weeks later to compete in the FIRST Boston Regional against 50 other teams from across the US, Canada, and Brazil. The team was seeded 10th at the end of the 84 qualifying rounds and was selected by the 5th seed team to go into the finals, and in the end, won the Judges Award for excellent engineering design!



## Community Use

The Salmon River School facilities are open for public use. Two programs that are offered to the community are Free Open Swim and Free Open Skating.

Free skating is offered from early October-March on Saturdays from 6-8 pm and Sunday 2:00-4:00 pm. In addition, the Parents with Tots program is available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Everyone is welcome; just bring your own skates.

A locker room is available for all public skating sessions, with small lockers to use as well. During this past ice season, there was an average of 24 participants during each two hour public skating session. The ice rink is also used by local youth organizations, including North Franklin Hockey and Shamrock Figure Skating, and is rented on a regular basis by several adult groups and other area youth organizations.

Free swimming is offered on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, during the school year. There is a certified lifeguard on duty and all are welcome!

## Did you know?

- ☑ The Girls Volleyball team won the Class C Championships and the Girls Basketball team won the Class B Championships and made their 2nd Final Four appearance. Also, last spring the Boys Lacrosse team won the Class C Championships.
- ☑ Abby Kelly scored 1,000 points, breaking the school record in scoring.
- ☑ During the fall and winter, 312 students participated in athletics at Salmon River Central - 162 boys and 150 girls - in grades 7-12.
- ☑ This spring, 200 students - 120 boys and 80 girls - will be participating on eight athletic teams.

**Did you know?** Swimming uses all the major muscle groups and water provides 12 times the resistance of air, which boosts muscle strength. A study at Indiana University found long-term swimmers aged over 40 who swam more than four times a week showed fewer signs of aging than the general population.



Becca Leroux (left) and Keira Brill (right), lifeguards in the Free Swimming program.

# Property Tax Report Card

	BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR	BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR	CONTINGENCY BUDGET FOR THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$27,688,195	\$ 29,076,511	\$ 29,017,722
Increase/Decrease for the 2013-14 school year		\$ 1,388,316	\$ 1,329,527
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.01%	4.80%
Change in Consumer Price Index		2.1%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$ 1,912,628	\$ 1,950,881	\$ 1,912,628
<b>Total Permissible Exclusions</b>			
	\$ 59,924	\$ 155,727	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Not including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 1,852,704	\$ 1,795,154	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, Not including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 1,926,590	\$ 1,974,402	
Difference: A-B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$ (73,886)	\$ (179,248)	
<b>Administrative Component</b>			
	\$ 2,357,731	\$ 2,485,604	\$ 2,477,254
<b>Program Component</b>			
	\$ 18,810,630	\$ 20,061,912	\$ 20,051,912
<b>Capital Component</b>			
	\$ 6,519,834	\$ 6,528,995	\$ 6,488,556

\* Assumptions have been made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of Education Law. Changes made from the proposed budget are in compliance with this law, should the proposed budget be defeated.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusions may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition	\$210,000

### BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings \$360.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2013-2014 by the qualified voters of the Salmon River School District, Franklin and St. Lawrence County, New York, will be held at the Salmon River High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the Salmon River High School auditorium at which time polls will be opened to vote by ballot.



Row 1: Samantha Ghostlaw, Jaiden Mitchell, Antwona Domino, Kwaz Laffin, Taryn Thomas-King, Vanna Thompson; Row 2: Asst. Coach Billy Cook, Asst. Coach Jocelyn Kelly, Jocelyn Martin, Taylor Francis, Abby Kelly, Aliyah Cook-Butler, Zaagaate Jock, Kwiiio King, and Coach Karen Francis.

## Salmon River Girls Basketball

The Salmon River Girls Varsity Basketball team completed the season with an overall record of 17-7. They won the Class B title for the third consecutive year in a row and went on to win the Regional Championship, earning them a spot in the Class B Final Four tournament on March 15th. Jocelyn Martin and Abby Kelly earned the All-Academic Award, and Zaagaate Jock won the Section X Sportsmanship Award.

In addition, Abby Kelly broke scoring records when she hit her 1,000th point on January 4th. She is the all-time girls leading point scorer with 1373 points. She also holds the record for most points scored in one game with 48 points. Abby earned 1st Team All-Northern as well as a spot on the All-State tournament team at the Final Four. Jaiden Mitchell was selected as the sportsmanship winner at the Final Four tournament.



## The best measure of the education Salmon River offers is the success of our students.

- ☑ Through the untiring efforts of the district administrators, pupil personnel services staff, faculty, and parents, the four year high school graduation rate as reported in the 2012 NYS Accountability Report, for all pupils, is 85%.
- ☑ Participation in band and chorus is strong again this year with 310 students participating in band and 181 students in chorus at the four schools. This spring, audiences were thrilled to see our own production of *The Sound of Music*.
- ☑ This year, 40 students have taken advantage of our recently re-introduced Advanced Placement courses in English, Biology, Global History, and US History.
- ☑ Abby Kelly scored a perfect score on the English Regents exam in January 2013. Great job!
- ☑ Nine high school students have perfect attendance for the 2012-13 school year.

## Don't Forget To Vote Tuesday, May 21, 2013 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM • HS Auditorium

- ☑ PROPOSITION #1: School Budget Total \$29,076,511
- ☑ PROPOSITION #2: Authorize a Non-Voting Student Representative
- ☑ PROPOSITION #3: Bus Purchase Total \$210,000
- ☑ PROPOSITION #4: Vote for Two Five-Year Terms  
Judith Stark • Emily Lauzon • Roger Lapage • Peter Ghostlaw

## Qualifications of Voters

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years old, a resident of the school district at least 30 days, and must not be prohibited from voting under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law, for example, as a result of having been convicted of a felony or adjudged mentally incompetent.

## Absentee Ballot

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 21st can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, stop in at the District Office or call District Clerk Natascha Jock at 358-6608. Applications must be received in the Superintendent's Office at least seven days prior to election (by May 14, 2013) for ballot mailing. All completed ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Judith Stark, President, June 2013  
 Emily Lauzon, V. President, June 2013  
 Greg Cunningham, June 2015  
 Linda Durant, June 2017  
 Robert Durant, June 2014  
 Matthew Mainville, June 2017  
 Christopher Nye, June 2014  
 Michael Sisto, June 2016

### DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Jane Collins, Superintendent  
 Natascha Jock, School Business Executive  
 Angela Robert, Director of Instruction  
 Allen Gravell, Director of Special Education  
 Alison Benedict, HS Principal  
 Tammy Russell, MS Principal  
 Kevin Walbridge, Elementary Principal  
 Sharlee Thomas, St. Regis Mohawk School Principal



Salmon River Central School  
 637 County Route 1  
 Fort Covington, NY 12937



TO: BOX HOLDER

Bulk Rate  
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