

SALMON RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

2025-2026

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. STANLEY HARPER

Looking forward to the 2025–2026 school year, I want to share an overview of our proposed budget and its impact on our Shamrock Community. Despite some funding uncertainties at the state and federal levels, this budget prioritizes our students while ensuring responsible use of taxpayer money.

Our students are always our focus. Each year as we develop the budget, we ask: “How will this help our students learn and achieve their aspirations?” The proposed budget for 2025–26 reflects this dedication by supporting excellent teaching, investing in our team, and maintaining secure and welcoming learning spaces. We’ve carefully balanced resources to advance academic success while addressing increasing costs in areas like staffing, health benefits, utilities, transportation, and technology.



MAINTAINING PROGRAMS

The budget also preserves all existing academic, arts, athletics, summer school and extracurricular offerings. We are committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience that nurtures both academic and personal growth for all students. From the classroom to the stage to the field, this is how we live out our Shamrock PRIDE every day.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

As part of a broader, long-term vision for the district, we are ensuring that our resources, staffing, and facilities align with the evolving needs of today’s students and tomorrow’s challenges. Our goal is to make sustainable decisions that position Salmon River for continued success while being responsible stewards of public funds. It’s about building a future our students—and our entire Shamrock community—can be proud of.

TAX LEVY IMPACT

The proposed budget includes a 2% increase in the tax levy, which remains within the district’s allowable limit under New York State’s tax cap law. As a result, it requires only a simple majority for approval. We believe this proposal strikes the right balance—addressing immediate priorities while planning strategically for the future. It’s a responsible, student-focused approach that ensures continued progress for our district.

Your voice matters in this process, and we encourage you to review the full budget proposal and additional resources available on our website at www.srk12.org/budget-finance. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or to provide feedback.

Together, we can ensure a bright future for all Salmon River students.



BUDGET:
\$41,444,974



**2% TAX LEVY
INCREASE**

**7.17% BUDGET
INCREASE**

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE	Budget Adopted for 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 School Year	Contingen- cy Budget for 2025-26 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 38,673,194	\$ 41,444,974	\$ 41,134,974
Increase/Decrease from 2024-25 School Year		\$ 2,771,780	\$ 2,461,780
% Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.17%	6.37%
Change in Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 1,996,719	\$ 2,036,653	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$ 1,996,719	\$ 2,036,653	\$ 1,996,719
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,031,434	\$ 2,093,752	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt, and/or permissible exclusions (E - B - F +D)	\$ 1,996,719	\$ 2,036,653	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Notes Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$ 34,715	\$ 57,099	
Administrative Component	\$ 3,508,472	\$ 3,707,341	\$ 3,707,341
Program Component	\$ 27,210,629	\$ 29,336,459	\$ 29,326,459
Capital Component	\$ 7,954,093	\$ 8,401,174	\$ 8,101,174
*Assumptions have been made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2024 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		\$ 650,000
Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year			
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings			\$ 231

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Salmon River Central School District, Franklin and St. Lawrence County, New York, will be held in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the Salmon River Board Room, at which time polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

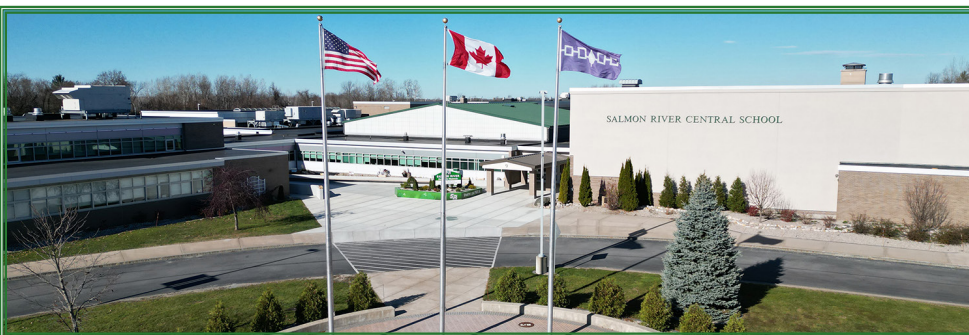
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Category	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	Difference
General Support	\$ 4,848,821	\$ 4,893,351	\$ 44,530
Instruction	\$ 16,386,755	\$ 17,180,155	\$ 793,400
Transportation	\$ 3,176,500	\$ 3,243,342	\$ 66,842
Community Service	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -
Employee Benefits	\$ 9,843,814	\$ 11,267,345	\$ 1,423,531
Debt Service	\$ 3,908,304	\$ 4,351,781	\$ 443,477
Interfund Transfers	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -
Total Expenditures	\$ 38,673,194	\$ 41,444,974	\$ 2,771,780



REVENUE SUMMARY

Category	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	Difference
Property Taxes	\$ 2,011,719	\$ 2,067,185	\$ 55,466
Charges for Services	\$ 7,061,872	\$ 7,683,239	\$ 621,367
Use of Money and Property	\$ 213,175	\$ 183,175	\$ (30,000)
Miscellaneous	\$ 297,190	\$ 272,190	\$ (25,000)
State Aid	\$ 27,864,292	\$ 29,576,650	\$ 1,712,358
Federal Aid	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Balance	\$ 1,224,946	\$ 1,662,535	\$ 437,589
Total Revenues	\$ 38,673,194	\$ 41,444,974	\$ 2,771,780



The state requires school districts to present their annual budgets in three parts: administrative, program and capital. Below is the breakdown of SRCSD's three part budget.

PROGRAM BUDGET

2025-26 \$ 29,336,459 70.78%

2024-25 \$ 27,210,629 70.36%

1 Program costs include salaries and benefits for teachers and staff delivering pupil services. Also included: textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular activities, BOCES program costs, and all transportation costs except bus purchases.

CAPITAL BUDGET

2025-26 \$ 8,401,174 20.27%

2024-25 \$ 7,954,093 20.57%

2 Capital costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, bus purchases, utilities, general insurance, tax certiorari, and other court-ordered costs.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

2025-26 \$ 3,707,341 8.95%

2024-25 \$ 3,508,472 9.07%

3 Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of all certified staff who spend 50% or more time in administration. Also included are: clerical staff, school board costs, curriculum costs, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing, BOCES administrative costs, research, planning, and evaluation.

GUNNER MITCHELL: CLASS OF 2025 VALEDICTORIAN

Salmon River Central School District announces this year's valedictorian, Gunner Mitchell, son of Aaron and Julie Mitchell. A dedicated student with a 101.27 weighted GPA, Gunner will graduate with a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math and Science.

Beyond academics, Gunner excelled in cross country and track. He is a member of the National Honor Society and

a talented musician playing trumpet and French horn. Outside of his academic and extracurricular activities, Gunner enjoys a variety of hobbies. He is an avid fan of Rubik's Cubes, with a collection of over 40. He has achieved a personal best solving time of 8.99 seconds!

Gunner will pursue computer engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology and plans to join the United States Navy via Officer Candidate School. Congratulations to Gunner on this achievement; the District wishes him success in his future.



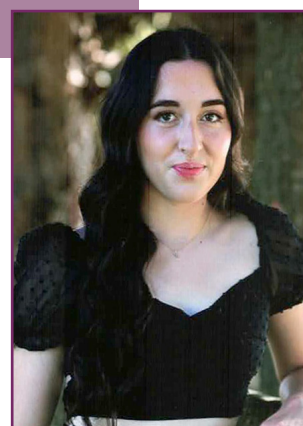
KELSEY BARKLEY: CLASS OF 2025 SALUTATORIAN

The Salmon River Central School District proudly announces Kelsey Barkley, daughter of Benjamin and Katherine Barkley, as this year's salutatorian

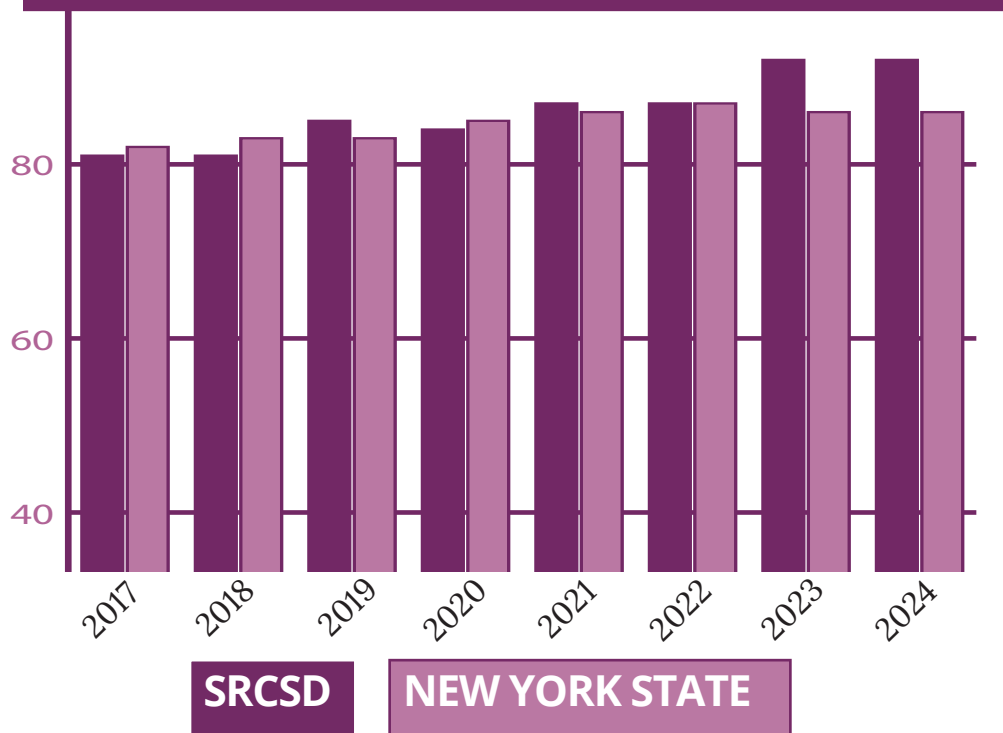
With a distinguished academic record, Kelsey is anticipated to graduate with a 100.64 weighted GPA and a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Science. Kelsey

will pursue a biology degree at Clarkson University, and aspires to attend the University of Buffalo for dental school, aiming to serve her North Country community.

Kelsey also excelled in soccer, earning First and Second Team All Northern league honors while captaining the Salmon River team. Kelsey is involved in Varsity Club, Student Council, and Sources of Strength. Congratulations to Kelsey; the District celebrates her achievements and wishes her continued success.



GRADUATION RATE STAYS STRONG!



The Salmon River Central School District maintains a strong emphasis on regular attendance, recognizing its crucial role in student learning. For the 2020 cohort, the four-year graduation rate (by August 2024) was an impressive 92%. This reflects the district's commitment to seeing its students successfully complete their high school education. With an enrollment of approximately 1,385 students in grades Pre-K through 12, the District maintains a student-teacher ratio of 9 to 1.

DRONE SOCCER: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

The SRCSD Drone Soccer team has wrapped up its second exciting year! This innovative program allows high school students to compete in drone-based soccer, a thrilling mix of robotics and sportsmanship.

Fueling our success: We're proud to partner with the New York Power Authority (NYPA)! In March, NYPA representatives visited Salmon River, showcasing cutting-edge drone and robotic technology to students of all ages and highlighting potential career paths in this dynamic field. Our talented team finished out the year, competing against schools from across NYS at SUNY Polytechnic Institute.



ATHLETICS OPPORTUNITIES AT SALMON RIVER

Salmon River's Athletics Program continues to expand, offering new opportunities for our Shamrocks. Recent additions include bowling and wrestling, demonstrating the school's commitment to diverse athletic experiences. The bowling team competes against four regional schools, with matches held at Little Town Lanes in Moira. All necessary equipment is provided, making it accessible for interested high schoolers and select eighth graders.



SHAMROCK RIVER OF KINDNESS

The Shamrock River of Kindness campaign brings positivity to Salmon River by inviting students to paint uplifting messages on rocks, forming a kindness "river" near Door 9. Salmon River Sources of Strength initiated the project, and now all students can contribute. The campaign is made possible by support from Salmon River FFA, Bonesteel's Landscaping, the SRMT Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Program, and the Native Connections Grant. Students are encouraged to add their own messages to spread goodwill throughout the school community. This initiative aims to foster positivity and compassion within Salmon River.



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE: SHAPING OUR SCHOOL'S TOMORROW - VOTE MAY 20TH!

Get ready, Salmon River Central School community! Exciting changes are on the horizon that could significantly enhance our learning environment and prepare us all for a brighter future. The Foundations for the Future Project is a comprehensive plan designed to upgrade and modernize our school facilities and resources, addressing crucial needs that will directly impact our daily school lives and our long-term success.

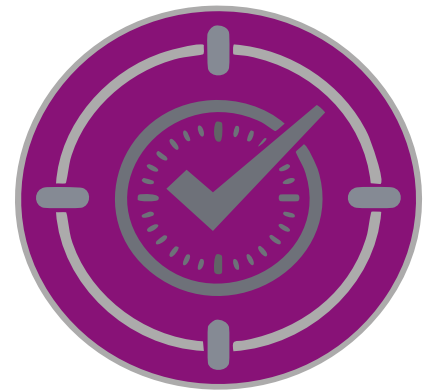
Funded through a combination of New York State building aid, Native American building aid, and district reserves, the \$47 million capital improvement plan focuses on upgrading and modernizing facilities across the district.

The Foundations for the Future Project is an investment in our future and a commitment to providing the best possible education for your Salmon River students. A modern and well-equipped school can attract and retain excellent teachers, further enhancing the quality of education our students receive. Investing in our schools is investing in the future of our community.

This Project is a chance for all of us to come together and build a stronger foundation for the next generation of Salmon River students. It's about creating a learning environment where everyone can thrive and reach

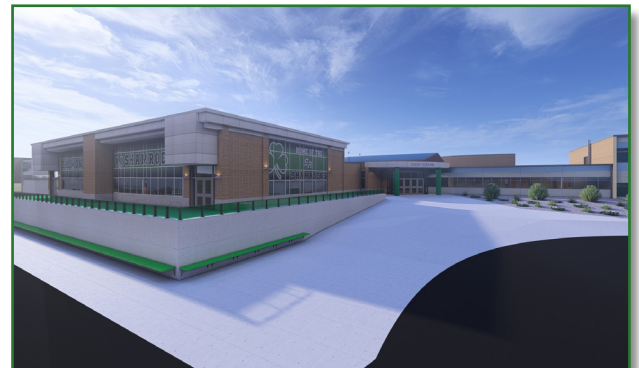
their full potential.

Let's work together to ensure that Salmon River Central Schools continue to be a place where we can all learn, grow, and succeed. Our future is in our hands – let's build a strong one together! Remember to vote on May 20th!



SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **LEARN MORE:** Visit the project website at <https://www.srk12.org/foundations-for-the-future-project/> to get all the details about the proposed upgrades and their benefits.
- **TALK ABOUT IT:** Discuss the project with your friends, family, and teachers. Share the positive reasons why you think it's important.
- **ENCOURAGE OTHERS:** Let your friends, family and other eligible voters know why you believe voting for the Foundations for the Future Project is crucial for our school's future.



Redesign door 13 entrance/outdoor space at cafeteria to provide outdoor dining for students. Photos show architectural renderings of proposed project.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING TIMELINE & FUNDING SOURCES

May - Sept.
2025 Design
Phase

Sept. 2025 -
April 2026
NYSED Review
Phase

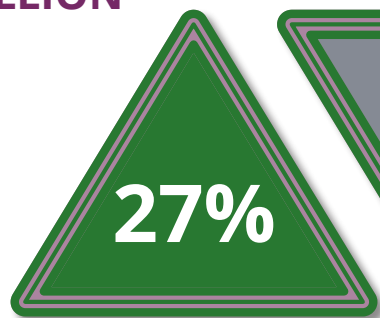
Summer 2026
Construction
Begins

Fall 2027
Construction
Ends

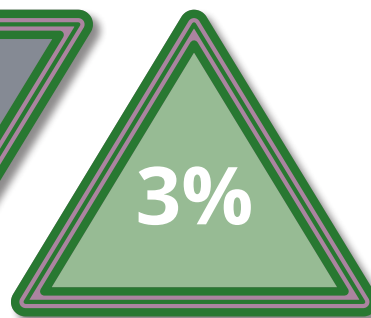
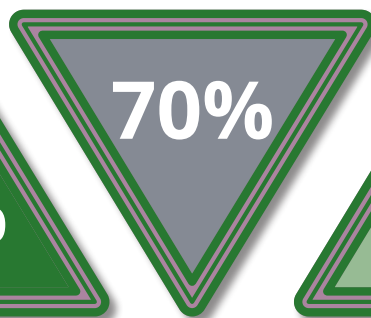
**TOTAL PROJECT
COST**
\$47 MILLION

**NEW YORK STATE
BUILDING AID**
REIMBURSED OVER 15 YEARS

**NEW IMPACT ON
TAXPAYERS**
\$0



**NATIVE AMERICAN
BUILDING AID**



DISTRICT RESERVES
DISTRICT RESERVES WILL COVER
\$1.5 MILLION.

SAVE THE DATE!

SHAMROCKIN' **AT THE** **RIVER**

2nd Annual Shamrock Community Day

- Shamrock Shuffle 5K Walk/Run/Shuffle
- Alumni Games
- Classes and Activities
- Community Resources
- Craft Fair
- Fire Trucks
- Food Trucks
- Student Performances

**SATURDAY
JUNE 7, 2025**

Salmon River Central School Main Campus



SALMON RIVER
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



PROJECT GOALS

→ COST EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY:

Improving long-term operational efficiency by investing in new HVAC systems, LED lighting, additional geothermal well fields that reduce dependency on fossil fuels as well as costs over time.

→ SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Addressing safety concerns with new roofs, improved lighting, sewage plant upgrades and upgrading fire systems. Upgrades to electrical, roof and doors at Bus Garage.

→ ENHANCED COMMON AREAS:

Improve cafeteria and outdoor learning spaces with more calming, modern concepts to promote more positive experiences for students.

PHOTOS SHOW EXISTING CONDITION OF EQUIPMENT.

Mandated upgrades to the district's sewage treatment plant.



Expand geothermal wells to provide additional heating and cooling.



Outdated HVAC systems installed prior to 2010.



Upgrades to the bus garage, including to the overhead doors, electrical, water heaters, roofs and parking lot.





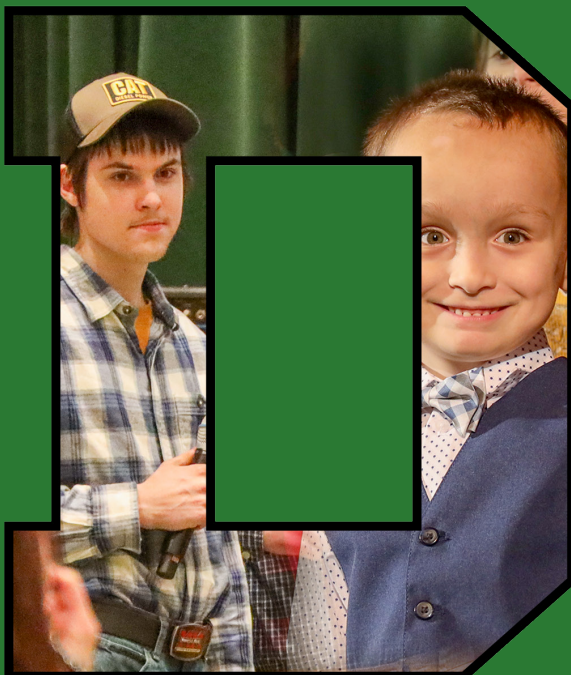
Upgrade cafeteria, locker rooms, and remaining classrooms built in 2010. Middle and High School Cafeteria upgrades include more accessible meal lines and an updated seating area with new walls, flooring and seating. The proposed project includes replacing flooring in the 2010 classrooms. Many of these classrooms have rusted floor tiles due to the previously installed material.



New roofs on the additions installed prior to 2010.



Construction of athletic storage/ concession stand at the stadium field. Photo of the proposed site of the athletic storage/concession stand.



ELECTION PROCESS

In person voting will be held in the Board Room, located at Door 4 in the Elementary school from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Tuesday May 20th.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

QUALIFIED VOTERS ARE

- At least 18 years old
- A U.S. citizen
- A District resident at least 30 days prior to the vote

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

To vote by absentee ballot because you are unable to attend the in-person vote, you must fill out an application. Please contact the District Clerk at 518-358-6614. If you want a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received seven days before the vote. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received one day prior to vote. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 20, the day of the vote.



WEATHER WONDERS AT SALMON RIVER

Students across the North Country experienced the excitement of broadcast meteorology firsthand thanks to visits from the WPTZ NBC5 First Warning Weather team. Meteorologists took their expertise and even their mobile weather lab directly to local schools, sparking curiosity and inspiring young minds about the science of weather.

Salmon River Central School District had the special opportunity to host the WPTZ team not once, but twice this school year. In



November, My NBC5 meteorologist Marissa Vigevani brought their "Weather at Your School" program to Salmon River students. They shared insights into weather forecasting and the technology used to keep the community informed.

Adding to the weather excitement, Salmon River also welcomed NBC5 First Warning Meteorologist

Andrew Grautski last month. During his visit, Andrew engaged with 3rd-6th graders, discussing various weather phenomena and answering their insightful questions. Students were particularly thrilled to get an up-close look at NBC5's impressive Weather Lab vehicle, a mobile studio packed with forecasting technology.

These visits provided invaluable learning experiences for the students, bringing the often-abstract concepts of meteorology to life. The hands-on exploration of the Weather Lab and the chance to interact directly with broadcast professionals like Andrew and Marissa

undoubtedly left a lasting impression, potentially inspiring the next generation of weather enthusiasts and scientists. The Salmon River Central School District extends a big thank you to the entire

WPTZ NBC5 First Warning Weather team for their engaging and educational visits.



GROWING TOGETHER: AGRICULTURE AT SALMON RIVER!

Agriculture plays a vital role in our community, and Salmon River students are actively engaged in hands-on learning experiences that foster this connection. Guided by dedicated teacher Michelle Oakes, students are involved in a range of exciting hands on projects.

Enhancing Our School Environment: For the past two years, students, under the direction of Ms. Oakes and former educator Bruce Bonesteel, have undertaken landscaping projects that have enhanced the entrances of both the Main campus and the St. Regis Mohawk School.

Developing a Community Resource: Middle and high school students are currently developing a community garden behind the Middle School, which will feature flower beds and other student-designed elements.

Exploring Agricultural Literacy: FFA students participated in Ag Literacy Week at the SRE library. Activities included reading "The Pie that Molly Grew," planting pumpkin seeds, and experiencing the process of making pumpkin milkshakes using a bicycle-powered blender.

Learning Ornamental Horticulture: This past winter, agriculture students focused on local evergreens as part of their ornamental horticulture unit, learning to craft wreaths. With instruction from Ms. Oakes and Bruce Bonesteel, and with materials generously provided by Jesse Rockhill, students created wreaths to decorate district buildings.



GROWING GOOD FOOD: SALMON RIVER'S FARM-TO-SCHOOL SUCCESS



This year, Salmon River students are enjoying exciting new menu options thanks to Salmon River Food Services' commitment to student preferences and local partnerships. Popular "build-your-own" bars featuring parfaits and nachos now appear on select days, giving students more control over their nutritious meals.

Salmon River's strong Farm-to-School initiative continues to thrive, bringing fresh, healthy ingredients from local North Country farms to school kitchens. The monthly Harvest of the

Month engages students with taste tests of innovative local dishes like beet brownies and maple glazed carrots. Approved items find their way onto the menu, supporting local farmers and providing students with the freshest flavors. Collaborations with organizations like Cornell Cooperative Extension and valued local vendors—including Meier's Cheese, Pat & April's Pork, and Whitten Family Farms—are key to this success. Adding to this local effort, students in the Agricultural Inquiry Class are growing lettuce, and the upcoming district greenhouse promises even fresher, on-campus produce.



637 COUNTY ROUTE 1
FORT COVINGTON, NEW YORK 12937
(518) 358- 6600

Superintendent of Schools,
Dr. Stanley Harper
Assistant Superintendent,
Angela Robert
School Business Executive,
Natascha Jock

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Jason Brockway, Vice President
Peter J. Burns, Member
Agnes “Sweets” Jacobs, Member
Shelley Jacobs, Member
Craig Jock, Member
Jordan Lauzon, Member
Shawn McMahon, Member
Scott Premo, Member

BULK RATE
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID

Fort Covington, NY 12937
PERMIT NO. 6

RURAL ROUTE
OR
BOX HOLDER



ON THE BALLOT • MAY 20TH 12PM - 8PM • ELEM SCHOOL DOOR 4

BUDGET: \$41,444,974

Shall the annual school budget, in the amount of \$41,444,974 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as prepared by the Board of Education and filed at its office, be adopted and the requisite portion thereof be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the district?

The School Board election will be held on May 20 to elect three members of the Board of Education as follows: two members to five-year terms commencing on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2030, an one member expiring June 30, 2027.

PROPOSITION ONE: Student Transport Vehicles

RESOLVED, that the Salmon River Central School District is hereby authorized to purchase and finance student transport vehicles, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$650,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof.

PROPOSITION TWO: \$47,000,000 Capital Improvements

Voters will be asked to authorize a capital project to renovate and upgrade facilities at a cost not to exceed \$47 million. These renovations will ensure an environment that is safe and secure for our students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION:

MEMBER, BOARD OF EDUCATION

5-YEAR TERM	5-YEAR TERM	2-YEAR TERM
Last-elected incumbent, Emily Lauzon	Last-elected incumbent, Jordan Lauzon	Last-appointed incumbent, Scott Premo
Vote for One Maryellen Cooke	Vote for One William Black OR Niles DuPont	Vote for One Kim Lauzon McElwain