

## AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed Budget:  
**\$125,850,000**

Tax Levy Increase:  
**0.92%**

Spending Increase:  
**7.93%**

BUDGET 2023-2024 EDITION

# VALLEY CENTRAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT



**VOTE ON**  
**MAY 16, 2023**

**6:00 am - 9:00 pm**  
Valley Central High School  
Gymnasium

**VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
DAY**

**May 9, 2023**  
**1:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
Valley Central  
Administration  
Building

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

- ☒ U.S. citizen
- ☒ School district resident for at least 30 days
- ☒ 18 years of age by May 16, 2023
- ☒ Registered to vote with the School District and/or County Board of Elections

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots are available on the District website or from the Office of the District Clerk.

**MORE INFORMATION**

**VCSDNY.ORG**



A high school student who is part of the "Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers" program reads a book to an elementary class.



Each year, WES students all learn the "Cotton-Eye Joe" dance, which they perform as an entire school on their playground.

## VC PROUD • VIKING STRONG



**Evette Avila**  
Superintendent  
of Schools

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

District residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 16th to vote on a proposed \$125,850,000 budget for the 2023-2024 school year. With the proposed tax levy at 0.92%, the budget requires a simple majority for approval. We have worked diligently to develop a fiscally responsible, balanced budget that supports educational programs, accounts for rising costs, preserves an adequate fund balance and is mindful of the financial impact to taxpayers, while at the same time ensuring the stability and the long-term health of our schools. The proposed budget will provide numerous extracurricular activities, athletic programs and continue to provide culturally inclusive educational programs and services that meet the needs of all our students.

This year, the voters will consider multiple propositions. Proposition 1 is the yearly budget. Proposition 2 and Proposition 3 are capital project propositions. Proposition 2 focuses on health and safety, including new security vestibules, necessary facility upgrades, and improvements at each school at no tax impact to the community. Proposition 3 includes renovations to the science classrooms at the High School and technology classrooms at the Middle School, additional renovations at Berea Elementary school that will relocate the main office and Kindergarten classrooms to provide for

enhanced security, upgrades to the library at Montgomery Elementary School, and additional facility upgrades at other District buildings. Proposition 2 must pass in order for Proposition 3 to pass. These capital project improvements will enhance our students' learning environment, address security and safety concerns, and benefit the community for years to come. Since the District receives approximately 76% building aid on eligible project expenses and will utilize reserve funds and fund balance, both capital project propositions totaling \$46,595,000 are estimated to cost the average homeowner less than \$2.00 per month. Proposition 4 will establish a new capital reserve which can be funded up to \$15,000,000 for up to 10 years. This new reserve will help the District save for future capital expenditures.

We have accomplished a great deal this year. District administrators, faculty and staff have worked to provide the best possible instructional programs and extracurricular opportunities for all of our students. We again look forward to an exciting summer school program this year, across all grade levels, for both enrichment and to address learning loss due to the pandemic that some of our students have experienced.

At Valley Central, we work diligently every day to create a school district that the community can be proud of – a great place for children. Thank you for your continued support of our students, faculty and families. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16th, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Valley Central High School.



The information provided below is the "School District Budget Notice" as required by state law.  
School districts must distribute this notice, as prescribed, to all district residents.

## REQUIRED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

VC PROUD • VIKING STRONG

| 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  | \$ 116,600,000                             | \$125,850,000                               | \$124,739,503                                    |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year   |  | \$9,250,000                                 | \$8,139,503                                      |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget   |  | 7.93%                                       | 6.98%  |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index  |  | 8.0%  |  |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount   | \$66,358,363                               | \$66,968,860                                |  |
| 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)  | \$66,358,363                               | \$66,968,860                                | \$66,358,363                                     |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions   | \$630,438                                  | \$870,044                                   |  |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions  | \$67,480,345                               | \$69,689,050                                |  |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$65,727,925                               | \$66,098,816                                |  |
| I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **             | \$1,752,420                                | \$3,590,234                                 |  |
| Administrative Component  | \$9,812,560                                | \$11,070,877                                | \$10,518,877                                     |
| Program Component   | \$94,991,074                               | \$101,654,761                               | \$101,811,764                                    |
| Capital Component   | \$11,796,366                               | \$13,124,362                                | \$12,408,862                                     |

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law, the Board of Education will comply with all laws and regulations relative to declaring ordinary contingent expenses in the event of a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year. Salaries for professional educators and support personnel will be declared contingent expenses as well as costs necessary to maintain mandated educational programs, maintain and preserve District property, as well as costs to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

| Description  | Amount       |
|--|--------------|
| Proposition 2 - Renovation and Reconstruction of School District Facilities            | \$31,980,000 |
| Proposition 3 - Additional Renovation and Reconstruction of School District Facilities | \$14,615,000 |
| Proposition 4 - Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund with a limit of \$15,000,000     |              |

\*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscomts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscomts@nysed.gov)

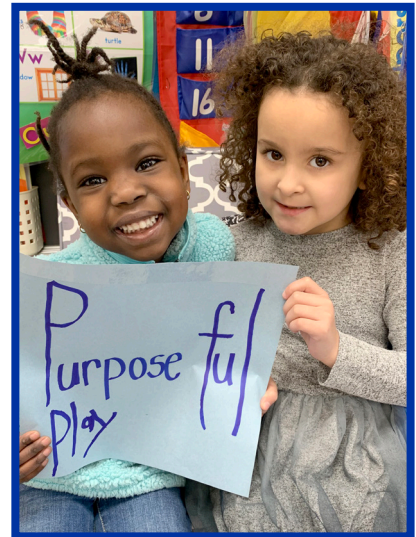
|   |   |
|---|---|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year |
|   | \$746   |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Valley Central School District, Orange County, New York, will be held at the Valley Central High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



Class of 2023 Valedictorian, Femi Yussuff (right) and Salutatorian, Codi Rumsey (left).



Purposeful Play promotes social skills, physical activity and boosts cognitive development and promotes problem solving for our kindergarten students.

## BUDGET EXPENDITURES | TOTAL BUDGET \$125,850,000

### PROGRAM COMPONENT: \$101,654,761 PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 81%

The program component provides funding for the salaries and benefits of all teachers, guidance counselors, aides, monitors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and speech therapists. The program component also includes the costs associated with all the instructional and extra-curricular programs, transportation and athletic activities.

### CAPITAL COMPONENT: \$13,124,362 PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 10%

The capital component provides funds for the operation and maintenance of Valley Central's school buildings, debt service, property tax refunds, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, and the salaries and benefits for the maintenance and custodial staff.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT: \$11,070,877 PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 9%

The administrative component provides funding for the overall general support and management activities of the district, including the salaries and benefits of all professional members who spend 50 percent or more of their time in administration and supervision, curriculum development, clerical staff, public information, business office operations, and legal and auditing services.

# VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



**VOTE ON MAY 16, 2023**

**6:00 am - 9:00 pm**  
Valley Central High School Gymnasium

## ★ THE BOTTOM LINE ON TAX IMPACT

**2023-24 Average Cost to Taxpayer Based on Proposed Tax Levy**

| Full Value       | Senior/STAR |        | STAR    |        | No STAR |        |
|------------------|-------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
|                  | Monthly     | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual |
| <b>\$200,000</b> | \$1.67      | \$20   | \$2.42  | \$29   | \$2.83  | \$34   |
| <b>\$300,000</b> | \$3.08      | \$37   | \$3.83  | \$46   | \$4.25  | \$51   |
| <b>\$400,000</b> | \$4.50      | \$54   | \$5.25  | \$63   | \$5.67  | \$68   |

**The chart to the left is broken down into three categories:**



A senior citizen homeowner **receiving Enhanced STAR** (based on an \$81,400 equalized value exemption)



A homeowner **receiving STAR** (based on a \$30,000 equalized value exemption)



A homeowner **without STAR** (usually the case for a non-primary residence)

*This estimate is for illustrative purposes only and is an estimation based on full equalized value.*

**For information on the STAR Program: [www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star)**

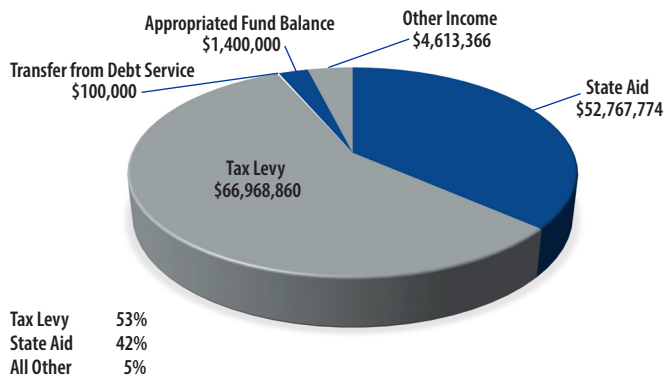


The Valley Central School District offers a **Senior Citizen Tax Exemption** for senior citizens within a qualifying income range. For more information about applying for this exemption, please contact the Town of Montgomery Assessor's Office.

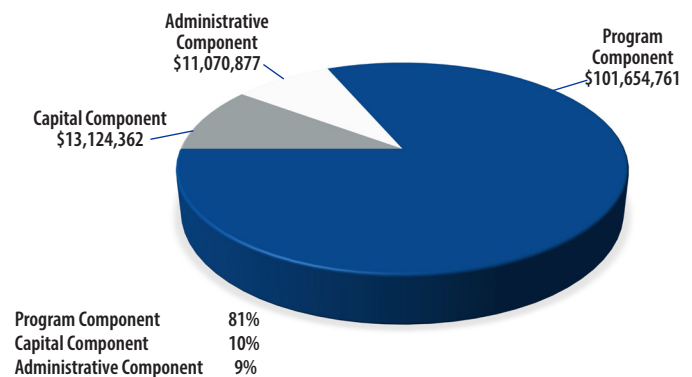


The Valley Central School District offers a partial **Veterans' Tax Exemption** to disabled veterans and veterans who served during wartime or were in combat. For more information about applying for this exemption, please contact the Town of Montgomery Assessor's Office.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS



## THREE PART BUDGET



MES students created a banner for Veterans on the Honor Flight.



VCHS A Cappella group, The Voxtones, competed in an international competition this winter.



## 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

THERE WILL BE **FOUR PROPOSITIONS** ON THE BALLOT

**Proposition #1:** The Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

**Proposition #2:** Renovation/reconstruction of district building facilities

**Proposition #3:** Additional renovation/reconstruction of district building facilities  
(Proposition 3 is dependent on the passage of Proposition 2)

**Proposition #4:** Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund 2023

**TRANSFER TO CAPITAL CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT**

The proposed budget includes a transfer of \$500,000 to the capital fund for a capital outlay project. Capital outlay projects allow for repair needs to be addressed without incurring borrowing costs. The capital outlay project included in the 2023-2024 budget includes resurfacing of the high school track. After years of wear, the track's rubberized coating is deteriorating. This restoration will extend the life of the track.

The source of the funds for these projects is fund balance. Passage of the school budget constitutes an approval of a transfer of general fund monies to the capital fund in the amount of \$500,000 for the capital outlay project together with necessary furnishings, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith.



The track is used by our Modified and Varsity Track teams and is enjoyed by the community. Visible cracking is prevalent across many areas of the track.

**PROPOSITION 1  
HIGHLIGHTS OF  
2023-2024 BUDGET****LOWEST TAX LEVY  
IN LAST 5 YEARS**

- + Maintains all elementary/secondary programs while staying below tax levy limit
- + Continued Curriculum Development and Professional Learning
- + Increased CTEC spots (OU BOCES)
- + Educational Field Trips
- + Three new HS Courses: Sports Management, Music Technology and Senior Seminar (ALC)
- + Behavior Intervention Specialist MS/HS
- + Leadership Development
- + District Grant Writer
- + Data Consultant
- + Additional Security Personnel

**AT 0.92%, THE VC PROPOSED TAX LEVY IS BELOW THE TAX LEVY LIMIT.**

The proposed 2023-2024 budget includes a tax levy of 0.92% which is below the calculated tax levy limit of 6.33%.



MES Kindergartners kick up their heels on the 50th day of school.



Valley Central basketball fans fill the stands at home games.



The East Colderham garden gives students an opportunity to learn lessons in science, math, social studies and English.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED TO STUDENTS IN VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

- ✚ Science 21 in Grades K-5
- ✚ NYS Science Required Elementary and MS Science Investigations
- ✚ Enhanced Elementary STEAM Program
- ✚ Math Fluency Kits in Elementary
- ✚ Supplies and Materials for Critical Thinking in Mathematics
- ✚ Fountas & Pinnell Book Club Collections
- ✚ Patterns of Power
- ✚ Diverse and Inclusive Books

### SECONDARY PROGRAMS

- ✚ Addition of the Seal of Civic Literacy
- ✚ Work Based Learning
- ✚ First Year of Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers
- ✚ CTEC - increased spots
- ✚ Enhanced Secondary STEAM Programs
- ✚ Introduction to Education Courses
- ✚ Foot and Consumer Science Initiatives
- ✚ Assessment and Development in Science and Social Studies
- ✚ World Language Model
- ✚ Rosetta Stone for ENL Teachers
- ✚ Music and Arts Programs
- ✚ Engaging Electives to Meet the Needs of All Students

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- ✚ Yale RULER-SEL Program
- ✚ SEL Assemblies
- ✚ Diverse Books for Instruction
- ✚ Panorama Climate Tool- Playboo and Check-ins
- ✚ Training on Implicit Bias/Student Narratives
- ✚ Training on Restorative Practices
- ✚ Check and Connect

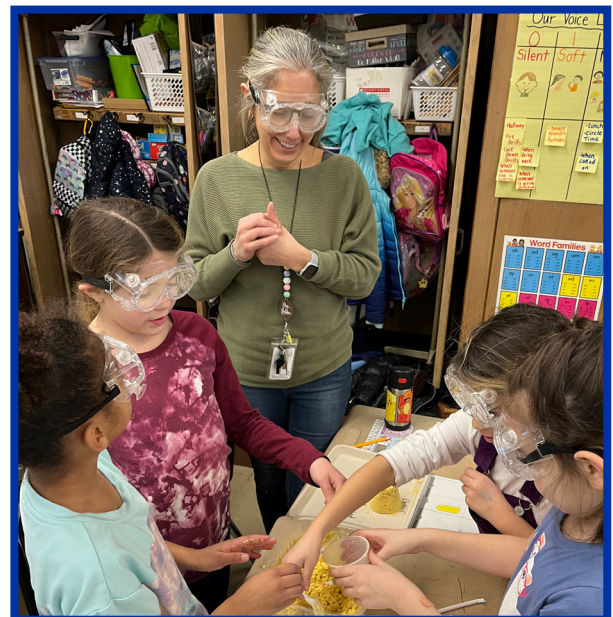
**Valley Central students attend BOCES for various career and technical or special education programs. In October of 2022, the voters of the county approved a capital improvement project for Orange-Ulster BOCES. As a result, all component schools of the BOCES are responsible to fund the project. The estimated budget impact to Valley Central for the 2023-2024 year is \$538,862 and is included in the proposed budget.**



*VCMS musicians participated in the NYSSMA Solo Festival.*



*Girls Flag Football has hit the ground running at Valley Central this spring. Many Lady Vikings have taken on the role as trailblazers in the inaugural season.*



*Elementary teachers utilize the PNW Science 21 curriculum in our classrooms.*



# PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

## PROPOSITION 2 HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Safety and Security

- + New security vestibules district-wide
- + Replace select fire alarm systems

### Infrastructure

- + Renovate select toilet rooms
- + Install emergency lighting in select areas
- + Improve building signage and wayfinding
- + Replace high school tennis courts
- + Remove stepped flooring in classrooms
- + Upgrade toilet rooms for ADA compliance
- + Repair sidewalks
- + Replace 1968 electrical panels
- + Stabilize retaining wall at Walden Elementary School
- + Relocate 4th grade classrooms at Walden Elementary School

### HVAC

- + Replace boilers
- + Replace unit ventilators
- + Replace pneumatic with digital controls
- + Replace chillers
- + Install air conditioning in select areas
- + Replace select air handling units
- + Replace radiators, piping, and ductwork at East Coldenham Elementary School

### Building Envelope

- + Repair exterior walls, columns, and masonry
- + Replace select windows
- + Replace exterior doors
- + Upgrade exterior stairs for improved life safety

## PROPOSITION 2 FUNDING FACTS

- + NO TAX IMPACT on taxpayer
- + Will not exceed \$31,980,000
- + Expect to receive approximately 75.8% in STATE AID
- + Capital reserve funds of \$9,750,000 will be applied
- + Fund Balance of \$935,000 will be applied



Draft rendering

To enhance building security, Proposition 2 will create security vestibules at all schools. This will provide a double set of doors with an enclosed greeter window within the vestibule for personnel to check visitor credentials before allowing entry.



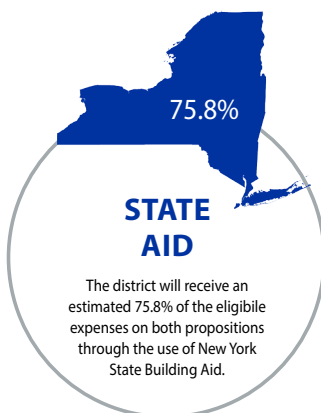
The boilers within several school buildings are beyond their useful life and require a complete replacement.



This project will replace the tennis courts at Valley Central High School as two of the six courts are shut down due to cracking and deterioration of the court surface. This replacement will provide a safe, level playing surface for athletes, physical education classes, and community use.



+



+





## CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSITION 3



**AVERAGE COST TO TAXPAYER**  
17-YEAR MATURITY SCHEDULE  
FOR \$14,615,000 CAPITAL PROJECT  
(YEARS 2026-2041)

| Full Value       | Senior/STAR<br>\$81K Equalized Value Exemption |             | STAR<br>\$30K Equalized Value Exemption |             | No STAR<br>Non-Primary Residence |             |
|------------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
|                  | Monthly  | Annual      | Monthly                                 | Annual      | Monthly                          | Annual      |
| <b>\$200,000</b> | <b>\$0.58</b>                                  | <b>\$7</b>  | <b>\$0.83</b>                           | <b>\$10</b> | <b>\$1.00</b>                    | <b>\$12</b> |
| <b>\$300,000</b> | <b>\$1.08</b>                                  | <b>\$13</b> | <b>\$1.33</b>                           | <b>\$16</b> | <b>\$1.50</b>                    | <b>\$18</b> |
| <b>\$400,000</b> | <b>\$1.58</b>                                  | <b>\$19</b> | <b>\$1.83</b>                           | <b>\$22</b> | <b>\$2.00</b>                    | <b>\$24</b> |

*This estimate is for illustrative purposes only and is an estimation based on full equalized value.*

## PROPOSITION 3 CAN ONLY BE ENACTED IF IT PASSES AND PROPOSITION 2 ALSO PASSES

The total maximum cost for both propositions is \$46,595,000 which is estimated to cost the average homeowner less than \$2 per month. Currently, the District receives 75.8% building aid on eligible project expenses. If approved, the district would use \$9,750,000 from the District's Capital Reserve and \$3,945,000 from fund balance to reduce the impact on taxpayers.

## PROPOSITION 3 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND ENHANCED SECURITY

### Educational Programming

- ✚ Renovate second floor high school science classrooms
- ✚ Renovate middle school technology classrooms

### Safety and Security

- ✚ Relocate main office at Berea Elementary School
- ✚ Relocate kindergarten classrooms to current main office at Berea Elementary School

## PROPOSITION 3 FUNDING FACTS

- ✚ Will not exceed \$14,615,000
- ✚ Expect to get back approximately 75.8% in STATE AID
- ✚ Fund balance of \$3,010,000 will be applied
- ✚ If Proposition 3 is approved, the impact on a taxpayer with a full value home of \$400,000 is estimated to be less than \$2 per month.



*The middle school technology classrooms are outdated and have not been updated since the early 1990s. These classrooms will be renovated to better reflect the rapid changes in technology, align with New York State Technology Standards, and provide flexible spaces that support 21st century learning.*

## ESTIMATED MONTHLY IMPACT FOR FULL VALUE HOME OF \$400,000

|                      | TOTAL COST   | MONTHLY TAX IMPACT      |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>PROPOSITION 2</b> | \$31,980,000 | NO TAX IMPACT           |
| <b>PROPOSITION 3</b> | \$14,615,000 | LESS THAN \$2 PER MONTH |



**SCAN HERE FOR  
ADDITIONAL CAPITAL  
PROJECT DETAILS AND  
AN INFORMATIONAL  
VIDEO.**

## PROPOSITION 4 ESTABLISH A NEW CAPITAL RESERVE FUND 2023

Establish the VCSD Capital Reserve Fund 2023 with a cap of \$15 Million to expire in ten years.

*The 2019 Capital Reserve Fund was established with a limit of \$10 Million which is being expended for Capital Project- Proposition #2 to cover the local share of the project. Since it would be expended, the district would need a new Capital Reserve Fund to continue to save funds for future Capital Projects.*

**Questions regarding the proposed 2023-2024 budget, the proposed Capital Project or the proposed Capital Reserve Fund 2023 should be directed to School Business Official Brad Conklin: (845) 457-2400 ext. 18122 or [brad.conklin@vcsdny.org](mailto:brad.conklin@vcsdny.org).**



# VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## 2022 - 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Bond,  
*President*  
Sarah Messing,  
*Vice-President*  
Katie McKnight  
Diana Revoir  
Jane Samuelson  
Angela Terralavoro

## BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

**✓ VOTE ON  
MAY 16, 2023**

**6:00 am - 9:00 pm**

Valley Central High School Gymnasium

There are three seats open  
for election, two for a three-  
year term and one to fill the  
unexpired term from  
May 17, 2023 - June 30, 2024

- Katie McKnight
- Barney Zipkin
- Joseph Bond
- Frances Fox-Pizzonia



VCBS Presented "Curtains: School Edition" for this year's musical production.

## VALLEY CENTRAL DID YOU KNOW?

**115**  
CLUBS  
  
Elementary through High School

**560,000**  
SQUARE FOOTAGE  
OF BUILDING SPACE  
 **396**  
ACRES

VC WRESTLER TOOK  
  
**1<sup>ST</sup>** PLACE IN NYS

**380**  
VARSITY SCHOLAR ATHLETES

**92%**  
GRADUATION RATE

**~1,000**  
PEOPLE EMPLOYED

**4,059**  
STUDENTS SERVED BY  
THIS BUDGET

**26**  
COURSES OFFERING  
OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN  
COLLEGE CREDIT

**VC PROUD • VIKING STRONG**