Laying the Groundwork for the Future of Learning

The proposed budget for the 2024-2025 academic year is designed to balance fiscal responsibility with ongoing support for the sound educational programming that is the hallmark of the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District. In developing the budget, the Board, Superintendent, and staff have recognized and responded to the fiscal challenges posed by increasing costs and changes in state education funding.

Several factors contribute to additional cost pressures.

**Inflation:** General cost increases affect each school and department.

**Employee Support:** Attracting, retaining, and supporting excellent employees is more challenging than ever.

The proposed budget accounts for the rising cost of fuel, energy, technology, software, supplies, and equipment, as well as employee salaries and benefits.

**Employee Support:** Attracting, retaining, and supporting excellent employees is more challenging than ever.

Despite these challenges, our budget process remains focused on supporting students throughout their time in the District. The Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District remains dedicated to the belief that the most important endeavor in any community is the cooperative effort of parents, community members, and educators to provide a quality education to its children.

Working collaboratively with students, families, staff, and the community, our purpose remains clear: to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and character qualities needed for success in an ever-changing world. The proposed spending plan maintains existing academic and extra-curricular programs and addresses emerging needs through additional technology support and continuing learning for students and staff. For further information, please check out the District's budget video series, "HF-L Oversimplified Season Three," which is available on the HF-L website. Feel free to explore the full budget video series for a deeper understanding of the District's financial plans!

Gene Mancuso, Superintendent

Caralyn Ross, Board President

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**2024-2025 Budget at a Glance**

| Proposed Budget: $61,086,686 |
| Proposed Budget Increase: 1.93% |
| Proposed Tax Rates: $18.52 |
| Proposed Tax Levy Increase: 3.07% |
| Projected Tax Increase for Owner of $200,000 Home: $110.30 |
| Levy Increase Below Tax Cap: YES |

The proposed budget accounts for the rising cost of fuel, energy, technology, software, supplies, and equipment, as well as employee salaries and benefits.

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**HF-L Calendar**

- **May 13**
  Last Day to Receive Application for Absentee Ballot by Mail

- **May 14**
  Public Budget Hearing & Meet the Candidates Night, H.S. Cafe., 6 p.m.

- **May 20**
  Cougar Creations, K-12 Student Art Exhibit, H.S. B-Gym, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

- **May 21**
  District Budget Vote & Board Member Elections  
  - Cougar Creations, K-12 Student Art Exhibit, H.S. B-Gym, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
From the Board of Education

The Role of the Board of Education

The HF-L Board of Education has an ongoing goal to help community members understand the roles and responsibilities of a school board member. School board members in most districts, aside from the big city schools, are unpaid volunteers. We are a corporate body, elected by our community, and we only have decision-making power while at the board table, working together.

What are the primary legal functions of school boards?
School boards adopt policies, consistent with state and federal law, which govern the affairs of their respective school districts. Ultimately, school boards are responsible for educating the children of the school district. This responsibility can be broken into a few general areas:

Students
- Adopting policies governing the admission, instruction, discipline and grading of the children residing in the district.

Employees
- Selecting, hiring, and evaluating a superintendent.
- Setting parameters for collective negotiations and approving the collective bargaining agreements governing the employment of staff agreed upon by the district's negotiators and various unions.

Overseeing school buildings, grounds and equipment
- Providing the space where instruction occurs by purchasing, leasing, maintaining and insuring school buildings.
- Providing the necessary equipment and supplies (e.g., computers, textbooks, desks).

School boards must annually adopt and present to the voters a proposed budget for the next school year which includes estimated expenditures to carry out the activities described above.

Aside from providing oversight to the district, the board also governs itself. Annually, the board elects a President and Vice President. These members represent the rest of the board and depending upon which role they serve, determines their accountability.

The Board President sets the tone on how the school board will function. This member is the leader of the board who envisions, plans, organizes and motivates; they preside over the board meetings, works with the superintendent on agendas, maintains order and announces results; and communicates, listens and speaks on behalf of the board.

The Vice President often works closely with the President and Superintendent and will preside at board meetings when the President is unavailable. The Vice President assumes the office of President in the event of a vacancy until a new President is elected.

The Board also has three primary committees that aid in overseeing their district responsibilities as well as governing themselves.

1. Audit Committee - this committee meets on a regular cadence to review the district finances. Reports are submitted to the entire board for review and are placed on the meeting agenda for approval.

2. Policy Committee - meets regularly to review policy language. This may include changes to regulatory language, internal process changes or adoption of new policies when needed. Policies are reviewed and discussed as needed during board meetings.

3. Governance Committee - generally meets 3-4 times a year to work on governance items related to board functions. They are also accountable for maintaining the Board Policy and Procedures Manual. This manual describes the processes and procedures the board utilizes to conduct its business.

The HF-L Board of Education is extremely active within the school community. We present the Cougar Pride award, attend concerts, sporting events, musicals, school building events and you might even see us marching in the Fall Weekend parade!
Proposed 2024-25 Expenditure Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023-24 Budget</th>
<th>2024-25 Proposed</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. General Support</td>
<td>$6,148,236</td>
<td>$6,367,388</td>
<td>3.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Instruction</td>
<td>$29,180,282</td>
<td>$30,270,090</td>
<td>3.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Transportation</td>
<td>$3,057,240</td>
<td>$3,140,090</td>
<td>2.71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV. Community Education</td>
<td>$624,414</td>
<td>$650,682</td>
<td>4.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Census</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$15,461,291</td>
<td>$15,819,849</td>
<td>2.32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII. Debt Service</td>
<td>$5,291,287</td>
<td>$4,670,587</td>
<td>-11.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Interfund Transfers</td>
<td>$165,000</td>
<td>$165,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$59,930,750</td>
<td>$61,086,686</td>
<td>1.93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed 2024-25 Revenue Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023-24 Budget</th>
<th>2024-25 Proposed</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Property Tax</td>
<td>$32,119,723</td>
<td>$33,105,447</td>
<td>3.07%</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. State Aid - Program</td>
<td>$14,796,122</td>
<td>$15,048,762</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. State Aid - Capital Projects</td>
<td>$5,419,139</td>
<td>$4,568,906</td>
<td>-15.69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV. State Aid - Transportation</td>
<td>$2,614,966</td>
<td>$2,851,742</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. PILOT Payments</td>
<td>$141,800</td>
<td>$99,829</td>
<td>-29.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. County Sales Tax</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Appropriated Fund Balance</td>
<td>$840,000</td>
<td>$840,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Reserve Funds</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Community Education</td>
<td>$627,000</td>
<td>$638,000</td>
<td>1.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. Medicaid Revenue</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>XI. Other Revenue</td>
<td>$722,000</td>
<td>$1,284,000</td>
<td>77.84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$59,930,750</td>
<td>$61,086,686</td>
<td>1.93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Outlay Project

HF-L seeks to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the District’s tax dollars. Continuing a strategy from previous years, a mini-renovation project is again being proposed this year that will include main entry doors and window treatment replacement at Manor Elementary School.

This mini-renovation project takes advantage of capital project aid from the state. If this work was not performed as part of a capital project, the district would incur the full cost of the work. By including the $100,000 budget for this work in a mini-capital project within the proposed annual budget, the District will receive approximately $79,000 in additional aid during the 2025-26 school year. This is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year will continue to fund additional mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the District’s budget.
The Proposed Budget includes a proposed 3.07% increase in the tax levy. This yields an estimated tax rate increase of 55 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. The estimated average True Value Tax Rate is $18.52 per thousand dollars. Estimated rates are based on current tax roll data and do not include expected changes in assessments or equalization rates, which are not finalized until after July 1st.

### Tax Levy Increase

**Why is the tax levy increase higher this year?**

The property tax cap formula is a complex, multi-step calculation with many variables. This year, the variables that had the largest impact on the tax levy calculation were:

- The Allowable Levy Growth Factor, sometimes referred to as the inflationary factor, which was 2.0%
- The Tax Base Growth Factor, which measures the growth of the local tax base, which was 0.89%
- The unexpected termination of the District’s largest PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement. When a PILOT is terminated, the property is added onto the tax rolls as a taxable property and the revenue is accounted for in the tax levy.

Those factors combined for a larger tax levy increase than the District has experienced in recent years.

**Is the District staying within the property tax levy limit?**

Yes. HF-L is again staying within the NYS property tax levy limit. This means the District needs a simple majority vote of 50%+1 on May 21, 2024, for the budget to pass.

## Overall Expenditure & Revenue Charts

### 2024-25 Estimated Expenditures

- Employee Benefits: 26%
- Instruction: 50%
- Debt Service: 8%
- General Support: 10%
- Interfund Transfers: 0%
- Community Education: 1%
- Transportation: 5%

### 2024-25 Estimated Revenues

- Property Tax: 54%
- State Aid: 37%
- Other Revenue: 2%
- Restricted Reserves: 1%
- Community Education: 1%
- Sales Tax: 3%
- PILOT Payments: 0%
- Appropriate Fund Balance: 1%
## What the Budget Supports by Site

### Lima Primary (Gr. K-1)
The Lima Primary budget supports student achievement through:
- Maintaining rigorous learning without losing emphasis on the whole child. Each child will be provided a safe, respectful, and caring environment.
- Having each child interact with grade level curriculum through inquiry, problem solving, hands-on learning, and cooperative activities.
- Engaging teachers in Professional Learning Communities to analyze data to inform instruction for all students to learn at high levels.
- Maintaining Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) to ensure students are supported and challenged.
- Continuing to build understanding and application of the Habits of Mind.
- Continuing to provide Professional Learning in the Science of Reading.
- Maintaining materials, supplies, and technologies that support current instructional programs.

### Manor School (Gr. 2-5)
The Manor School budget supports student achievement through:
- Continuing the integration of social emotional resources such as ReThinkEd and the Habits of Mind.
- Increasing our handicap-accessible play areas and increase our universal access in all environments.
- Linking lessons, skills, and assessments together to help teachers prioritize, focus, reinforce, and place learning in new contexts.
- Empowering students through individual goal setting, targeted instruction and strategies to achieve their goals.
- Increasing opportunities for science, math and engineering practices 2-5 (STEAM).
- Engaging in Professional Learning Communities led by teachers to ensure that all students are learning at high levels.
- Developing our Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to ensure students are supported and challenged.

### Middle School (Gr. 6-8)
The Middle School budget supports student achievement through:
- The continuation of current programs and staff members.
- Continued multi-year furniture replacement process in the cafeteria.
- Continued support of staff professional development in the area of Professional Learning Communities and Curriculum Writing.
- Continued integration of social emotional resources such as ReThinkEd.

### High School (Gr. 9-12)
The High School budget supports student achievement through:
- Sustaining existing staffing and programming.
- Ongoing backing for professional development, curriculum opportunities, and the integration of ReThinkEd.

### Physical Education & Athletics
The Physical Education & Athletics budget supports:
- Uniform replacement plan.
- Equipment replacement.
- Utilizing the music software Neptune.
- Continuing the use of technology in P.E.

### Transportation
The Transportation budget supports:
- Continuing to focus on the Transportation Department's safety goals, efficiency, and customer satisfaction.
- Providing transportation to and from school for over 2,139 students attending 36 different schools.
- Maintaining a sound school bus replacement program based on a comprehensive data driven process which includes adding one more bus.
- A regular program of cleaning and disinfecting the bus fleet.
- Developing a program of providing on-board navigation for school bus drivers.
- Including transportation resources to support the District's academic and athletic programs.
- Providing resources to comply with new federal regulations for driver training, and to support recruitment and retention of school bus drivers.

### Facilities/Safety & Security
The Facilities/Safety & Security budget supports:
- Continuing to focus on sanitation, deep cleaning, and disinfection to support learning.
- Maintaining vehicle and equipment modernization and replacement plan.
- Increased collaboration and teamwork with the Transportation, Technology, Food Service, and Athletic departments.
- Promoting ongoing training, maintenance, and repairs of all District buildings and grounds related systems (civil, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, structural).
- Providing a safe and inviting learning environment.
- Districtwide Student Support Partners.
- Livingston County Student Resource Deputy at Lima Primary School.
- Emergency preparedness training for staff.
- Safety equipment purchases and maintenance of security infrastructure.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is funded in the proposed 2024-25 budget?

A. This year's budget sustains funding for our academic programs and the student support initiatives implemented in recent years. It ensures a quality education and robust educational opportunities for our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our community.

Q: What is new in the 2024-25 budget?

A: New in the 2024-25 school budget:
  • Technology infrastructure enhancements as well as funding for data analytics, AI enhancements and software
  • A district-wide social worker
  • A part-time School Resource Deputy located at Lima Primary School

Q: Why does the district need an additional school bus this year?

A: The district has seen a large increase in the number of students who require transportation to locations outside of our school district. This has resulted in district buses traveling to more destinations outside of our district boundaries than we have in recent years. In addition, our students’ transportation needs have grown significantly, and we are in need of an additional bus to meet these needs. In recent years, we’ve had to borrow a wheelchair bus from a neighboring district. While we are grateful for their help, and we will continue to look for ways to partner with our neighbors, we need to provide our students with a dependable, long-term solution. The additional bus will allow us to safely and efficiently meet the transportation needs of all of our students. After this purchasing cycle, we will go back to our usual fleet rotation plan of 6 buses.

Q. Is the 2024-25 budget below the tax cap?

A. Yes. The proposed budget is below the cap.

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Early Mail Voting

Starting in 2024, all New York school districts are now required to offer early mail ballots for their elections. This change aims to enhance accessibility and encourage broader participation in the process. Any qualified voter within the HF-L school district is eligible to vote via early mail ballot. While the process resembles absentee voting, there is no obligation to provide a reason for being unable to vote in person. Here’s how it works:

Application Request:
  • Voters must request and submit a written application form to the District Clerk.
  • An application can be requested in person, by phone, email or found on the District’s website.

Application Submission:
  • Applications must be returned to the District Clerk no later than Tuesday, May 14, 2024, if the applicant requests the early mail ballot to be mailed to them.
  • Applicants are allowed to request the application in person at the District Clerk's office up until the day before the election.

Mailing of Early Mail Ballot:
  • Once your application is received, the District Clerk will promptly mail the early mail ballot and the accompanying official early mail ballot envelope to you.
  • This process ensures that you have sufficient time to receive and complete your ballot.

Returning Your Ballot:
  • Official ballots, enclosed within the official early mail ballot envelope, must be returned to the District Clerk by the date of the vote: Tuesday, May 21, 2024, no later than 5:00 PM.

If you would like an early mail voting application or have further questions about the early mail voting process, please visit https://www.hflcsd.org/o/hflcsd/page/2024-25-budget-information or contact the District Clerk, Christina Amorese, at Christina.Amorese@hflcsd.org or 585-624-7010.
Debunking The Myths

Common Budget Misconceptions

In the world of school budgets, misinformation can often cloud understanding, leading to misconceptions that impact decision-making processes within our communities. It’s crucial to separate fact from fiction when it comes to these financial matters, as they directly influence the resources allocated to education and ultimately shape the quality of our schools.

When it comes to school budgets in New York State, there are several common misconceptions.

Misconception #1: The Board can submit the budget to voters as many times as needed.

Fact: In reality, the Board of Education can submit the budget and/or propositions to voters no more than two times. If the budget fails to gain approval after the second submission, the Board must adopt a contingency budget. This means they operate under a restricted spending plan.

Misconception #2: The budget deadline is the third Tuesday in May.

Fact: While the deadline for reporting the property tax report card information is 24 days before the budget vote, the Board of Education must finalize their budget 28 days before the vote. This earlier deadline ensures timely preparation and distribution of military, absentee, and early mail ballots.

Misconception #3: The property tax cap is 2% so that’s the most my taxes can go up.

Fact: The tax cap law requires schools to use an eight-step formula to determine the maximum allowable increase in their tax levy each year. This formula considers factors such as the rate of inflation, exemptions, and other adjustments. Two percent is only one number in that 8 step formula. In summary, the “2% tax cap” is a simplified way to describe the law, but the actual calculations consider various factors, leading to different outcomes for each school district.

Misconception #4: Towns, counties, and schools all have the same rule: If the municipality wants to break the tax cap, a super majority, (or 60% of voters) must approve the budget.

Fact: That’s not true. Only school districts are required to hold a public referendum on the annual budget. Towns, counties, villages, and other local governments can break their cap with a super majority vote of its Board, not its taxpayers. For example, a town board of five would only need three members to break the cap. In HF-L, where we average one thousand voters a year, we would need 600 votes (or at least 60%) of voters to approve a super majority.

Clearing up these misconceptions helps ensure a better understanding of the complexities surrounding school budgets, enabling informed decision-making within our communities.

For any questions relating to the 2024-25 budget, contact Colin Pierce, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, at colin.pierce@hflcsd.org.
Jackie Martin and Chandra Taggart Win Golden Apple Award

Congratulations to Jackie Martin and Chandra Taggart on winning the News 8 Golden Apple Award!

“To know that parents appreciate the work that teachers do is the most rewarding part of the job, to know that they trust us with their babies all day and in our small community a lot of times we have connections with these people and that means even more,” said Martin.

Martin has been teaching for 15 years and has been in the HF-L school district for four years.

When asked what her favorite part of the job is, Taggart replied, “Working with the kids. Getting hugs every day, seeing those smiles every day, and watching those lightbulbs go off,” said Taggart.

Taggart has been teaching for 26 years and has been in the HF-L school district for 13 years.

For all Martin and Taggart have done for her son at Lima Primary, parent, Karen Hatch, nominated them for a Golden Apple Award through News 8.

“These two have both gone above and beyond what they need to, and they are both very caring people,” said Hatch. “It makes me feel amazing to know that we have teachers like this in our district and it gives me confidence moving forward.”

Subscribe to ENewsNotes via ParentSquare

Follow these steps to receive messages from the District through the “District-wide ENews Notes Group” in ParentSquare:

1. Visit https://www.parentsquare.com/community_signups/554f875c-0ae7-4256-92f7-d19ee69605e2/new and enter your name and email address, select “District-wide ENews Notes Group” and click “Submit.”
2. You will receive an email from ParentSquare to activate your account. Click on the link that says, “Activate Your Account” in the email.
3. This will bring you to a screen where you will need to establish a password and accept the terms and conditions. After those are done, click “Register.”
4. This will bring you to a screen where you will need to verify that the account information is your own. If so, click “Yes, This is Me.” You will again be asked to verify that you would like to move forward.
5. This will bring you to the home page where posts/messages from the district will be displayed. Your account is active.

Download the ParentSquare mobile app
Send and receive school communications on the go
### Student Engagement

#### Young Leader Takes Helm of Principal for a Day

Amelia, a fifth-grade student at Manor School, recently had the extraordinary opportunity to step into the shoes of the school principal for a day, thanks to a special raffle organized by the Make a Difference (MAD) Committee.

One of Amelia’s first acts as Manor School Principal was to meet with Superintendent Gene Mancuso to discuss the importance of school safety and her plan to survey fellow Manor students on problem solving.

Amelia's day didn't just involve meetings; she actively participated in decision-making processes. Joining Joey Weaver, Manor School Principal, in an architect's meeting, she even had a hand in selecting the color of the gym mats, staying on-brand, she chose black.

Amelia also ensured the school remained prepared for emergencies by running a fire drill.

Through surveys, she sought the opinions of her fellow students on improving Manor School. The results were insightful; students expressed a desire for more recess time and even suggested the possibility of bringing their pets to school.

This unique opportunity marked the first time Manor School implemented such an initiative, made possible through the MAD Committee fundraiser. Not only did it offer a glimpse into the responsibilities of school leadership, but it also raised funds for a worthy cause, the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

According to Amelia, the best part of the day was meeting the Superintendent. And though she would like to do it again, she learned that being the Principal is very hard.

Looking ahead, Manor School plans to continue this tradition annually, allowing future students to step into the role of principal, fostering leadership skills and community engagement.

Amelia’s day as principal was not just a personal achievement; it was a testament to the school’s commitment to empowering its students to make a difference. As she returned to her fifth-grade class, her brief tenure left a lasting impact, inspiring her peers to dream big and seize opportunities to lead.

#### Habits of Mind International Conference

Habits of Mind (HOM) took center stage at the first International Habits of Mind Conference held in San Diego, California, on April 5th - 6th. HF-L is currently in its second year of K-12 incorporation of the Habits of Mind. The event drew educators and professionals from across the globe.

HOM is comprised of 16 dispositions, that serve as a cornerstone of HF-L’s mission to instill character qualities necessary for success in an ever-evolving world. The conference aimed to equip attendees with practical strategies to effectively implement HOM within their school communities.

A highlight of the conference was the session led by Joey Weaver, Manor School Principal, who shared insights in her presentation titled “Hard Data, Soft Skills.” Weaver’s focus on making the seemingly immeasurable aspects of HOM quantifiable resonated deeply, offering valuable tools for teaching and reflection in the classroom.

“‘This experience reminded me how important it is to teach problem-solving, perspective taking, creating a greater world view and looking forward to a world that we may not fully understand yet,’” said Weaver. “‘Not to mention, I got to meet both of the authors and share in their passion for making the world a better and braver world.”

Accompanying Weaver was Andrea Schilstra, a first-grade teacher, who has been instrumental in designing the HOM student and teacher rubrics used at Manor School. Schilstra’s classroom perspective enriched the workshop discussions, highlighting the practical application of HOM in daily teaching practices. Paige LaBarr, Middle School Assistant Principal, attended as well.
The Story of the Library Student Staff Club

At the Middle School, a new club has emerged and is bursting in popularity—a club where minds converge, friendships blossom, and creativity thrives. This club is none other than the Library Student Staff (LSS), a club born out of a simple idea and fueled by the passion of its members.

The LSS Club was inspired by a 7th-grade student who always talked about books, school, and life in general, with the Middle School Library Teaching Assistant. Recognizing the shared enthusiasm among peers, the after-school club was born in October of 2022. Led by an advisor whose dedication and rapport with students paved the way, the club embarked on a journey of exploration and camaraderie.

“I was the advisor by default since it was kind of my idea, and the students all seemed to enjoy chatting with me,” said Aubrey MacIntyre, Middle School Library Teaching Assistant. “I enjoy spending time talking about books, school, and everything else with the students, and they enjoy it as well. The snacks I provide help, I think!”

Members of the LSS Club were asked to describe the atmosphere, and the most frequently shouted words were creative, chaotic, and energetic.

“I don’t disagree, although I think “chaos” might be overstating it a bit. I keep the atmosphere casual and allow the members to work on projects or brainstorm at their own pace and in their own ways,” said MacIntyre. “The club members choose the projects we take on, I give advice as the adult and representative of the school, and they adjust the course as needed. I ensure the atmosphere is always respectful for everyone and everyone is free to express their ideas.”

Central to the club’s identity is its democratic approach to decision-making. Members have the autonomy to propose and select projects, with MacIntyre offering guidance and support along the way. From crafting introductory flyers to organizing community initiatives like book drives, the club embodies a spirit of empowerment and initiative. Through initiatives like the Blind Date with a Book project, where students wrap their favorite library books in brown paper and label them with a few adjectives to describe them. Setting up a Blind Date with a Book encourages people to look past the cover and try out a new read.

“The club members said that LSS helps them make new friends and connections and feel more comfortable in school. This is something I have noticed, too,” said MacIntyre. “Many of the members excel in school and sports, and a few are going to the National Day of History competition with their group. I cannot take credit for this, but I do appreciate that they take time out of their day to be in the club! In addition to the fine athletes and scholars, LSS has some incredible artists and writers among its members.”

Looking ahead, the LSS Club would like to accomplish more in the school and the community; the club members are interested in running fundraisers so that the club can have lanyards, new stickers, buttons, and other swag.

Other staff members have taken notice of the popularity of the LSS Club, and when asked why the club seems to be so popular, MacIntyre replied, “I think it’s because it’s a club for book nerds (and all nerds) run by a nerd, a place where it’s okay to love what you love. The members also think that it’s because the club is fun, quirky, accepting, and friendly, and it lets them connect with each other and make new friends.”
Aiden McLean, 17, stands as a shining example of dedication, talent, and leadership within the halls of the Honeoye Falls-Lima High School. McLean's journey through music, academics, and extracurriculars paints a picture of a young individual who not only excels but also inspires those around him.

McLean has been playing the trombone since fourth grade and plays the piano as well.

A pivotal moment for McLean came during his sophomore year when he joined the HF-L High School Jazz Band, and was the second trombone under Dan Atkinson, an experience that ignited his love for jazz even further.

“Dan taught me a lot about jazz,” said McLean. “Being able to have that experience made me love jazz even more.”

Aiden's dedication and talent were soon recognized on a statewide level when he earned a coveted spot in the All-State Jazz Band in Albany.

“People audition from across the state and there are only four trombone spots available,” said McLean. “We played two concerts as a group and performed for members of the State Congress. It was a really cool experience and I played with some really talented musicians.”

McLean also competed as first trombone in All-County in March, and competed against other schools at Virginia Beach in April where he won outstanding soloist. He will also participate as a member of the HF-L Jazz Band at the Jazz Festival in Rochester in June.

“I'm so excited about the leadership and improvisation skills that Aiden has developed in jazz ensemble over the last three years,” said Dr. Ken Kreuzer, High School Band Teacher. “He has great control over his instrument and plays with such great style and inspiration. He has become a driving force in the success of our band.”

Beyond his musical achievements, McLean is a model student and leader. McLean is an Eagle Scout, a member of the Student Council, a member of the National Honor Society, the Vice President of the STEM Club, plays Varsity Soccer, and is the Captain of the Varsity Tennis Team.

“Balancing academics, music, and extracurriculars can get a little out of hand sometimes, but staying organized is key,” McLean advises, reflecting on his busy schedule. “I've learned the importance of perseverance and sticking with what you love, even when it gets tough.”

As he prepares to embark on the next chapter of his life, McLean has been accepted to Northeastern University to study Physics. He plans to join a jazz band at Northeastern.

“Jazz has taught me so much about leadership and discipline,” he reflects. “It's been a central theme in my life, and I even wrote my college essay on how jazz has shaped me as a person, especially playing under the top trombonist in the country.”

Despite his busy schedule and upcoming endeavors, McLean remains grounded in his roots at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School. “The teachers here have been incredibly supportive throughout my journey,” he says warmly. “Dr. Kreuzer, in particular, has been a mentor to me for the past nine years. His dedication to his students is truly inspiring.”

McLean's influence extends beyond the classroom, as he encourages his younger brother, Jack, to follow in his footsteps and explore the world of jazz.

“Jack plays the trombone as well and I like to think that he looks up to me,” said McLean.

To his brother Jack, McLean encourages, “Join jazz next year, it's more difficult but it pays off in the end if you stick with it.”

As McLean reflects on his time at HF-L, he expresses gratitude for the friendships forged and the lessons learned.

“The HF-L Music Program is really out of the ordinary, especially the jazz program. It's a complex genre. It's not just about playing, it's learning about it,” said McLean. “The teachers do a really good job at engaging us with the music.”

McLean has been an HF-L student since kindergarten and warmly shares, “The teachers at HF-L are amazing. They really care about the students and want to make sure that they succeed. Dr. Kreuzer is a big part of that. He has helped teach me about jazz and it has become really important to me. I have known him for nine years and he has spent a lot of time with me, he does a great job making sure that every student is motivated to play.”

As he continues to harmonize his love for music with his academic pursuits, Aiden McLean is poised to leave a lasting impact, both on and off the stage.
Spring Athletics

Baseball

The 2024 Varsity Baseball Team will lean heavily on our six seniors as we look to defend our 2023 Sectional Championships: Aidan Neenan, Matt Meacham, Andrew Wänzenthed, Landon Hammond, Paul Iacobucci, Kyle Burdett. The team will also look for contributions from the following returning players: Conor Finn, Mitch Martini, Mike Meisenzahl. Also joining the team will be Jack Farabell, Carson Mechan, Harrison Houle, Holden Kamm, Emmett Landt and Sophomore Jake Weber. The team is looking forward to an exciting season on our beautiful turf field.

Softball

The Varsity Softball team is looking forward to a great 2024 season. The team has many returners and now veteran players that will contribute to our success this season! Seniors this year include: Madison Schubach, Maia Gathercole, Kate Dailor, Gia Bills, Meg Gruschow and Mollie Finn. The HF-L Cougars have both returning pitchers, Maia Gathercole and Emma Dunman. Underclassmen in the squad include: Jenna Fowler, Morgan Dunman, Sophia Woodcock, Abby Maylin, Alyssa Richards and Genesis Leathersich. The HF-L Cougar softball team is a hardworking and dedicated group of players.

Boys' Track & Field

The Boys' Track and Field Team is back for the 2024 season with 53 strong. After last year’s third place team finish at sectionals, the team is returning all but one sectional scorer, making the boys a top team to contend with in Class B1. Scorers from 2023 include: Matt Ross, Braden Bellizzi, Calvin Burke, Henry Burke, Sawyer Ferraro, Riley Cushman, Lukas Wilson, Nolan Tompsett, Amer Armbruster, and Nolan Guckian. Under the leadership of senior captains Calvin and Henry Burke, plus junior Carter Reed, the boys have their sights set on a sectional trophy and are looking forward to a great season!

Girls' Track and Field

The Girls' Track and Field Team is off to an exciting start! Ending the 2023 season on a high note, after placing 2nd at Monroe County Sectionals, we have high hopes for the Girls Track and Field 2024 season. Among many outstanding athletes returning to the team this season, key athletes include: captains Jayne Williams, Kate Brennan, and Madeline Mehring, alongside sectional scorers, Kate Gabrielson, Schuyler Herbert, Natalie Gilbert, and Kayla Wells who will help guide the team to success this year. With a large team who has continually demonstrated their care, dedication, and commitment to one another and their sport, we anticipate a great 2024 season. Thank you for your support!

Boys' Lacrosse

The Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Team is looking forward to an exciting season this year, after winning the Section V championship game in 2023. They are hungry and taking this season one game at a time. With senior leadership from Ben Cook, Drew Angelo, Chase Perryman, Patrick Donahoe, and a number of other very talented teammates. Ben Cook, Owen Smith, and Alex Steinhoff will anchor the defense. With Drew Angelo controlling the Face Offs, the Cougars offense will be led by Chase Perryman, Patrick Donahoe, Matthew Brasic, and Quinn Kailbourne. The team is anxious to get the 2024 season off to a good start. Big games this season include Irondequoit, Canandaigua, Rush-Henrietta, Brighton, and Hilton.
Girls’ Lacrosse

Last June, the Cougars closed out the season with their 11th sectional championship in a row. This season, they aren’t just defending that title, they are attacking another. With a balanced mix of varsity veterans and fresh faces, the team has great potential, but even greater expectations for the season. The coaching staff has been impressed with the leadership of this group and their off-season preparation. This team will be led by five tremendous seniors: Katie Adams, Lillian Brady, Paige Kidd, Camryn Trybuskiewicz, and Maddie Wood.

Tennis

The Boys’ Varsity Tennis Team consists of 17 players. Led by 11 seniors, four sophomores, and two freshmen, the team is excited to compete for another divisional title. Although only four players return with varsity experience, the effort, commitment, and competitiveness has been promising. Hoping the early challenging schedule can prepare the team for a successful sectional title run.

Golf

The Varsity Golf Team enters the 2024 season with two players returning from last year. This year will be a rebuilding season with many new young players. The team returns with senior Charlie Calcagni and sophomore Ryan Elliott. Joining them this year will be freshman Noah Hullihen and Abe Armes, Juniors Rudy Stroup and Owen Remus and senior Galen Henderson. The team is hoping to establish itself among the best teams in the area this spring. We will be opening our season at Lima Country Club with a match against Victor.

Unified Basketball

Unified Basketball begins their ninth season with two teams led by Coach Berends and Coach Hance, with many new players and returning players from last year and years prior. The players’ ongoing commitment to their teams’ successes in the past drives them forward to continue to train and play together successfully while having fun. Thank you once again for the overwhelming support from the entire school, community, and past players. Two teams, one family! Go Cougars

Looking for Sports Schedules?

Go to http://www.hflcsd.org, and click on Athletics to view game schedules. This is the best source for up-to-the-minute information on sports schedules. Be sure to click on "Notify Me!" in the top right corner of the web page to sign up to receive customized automatic e-mail or text notifications of schedule reminders for the sports of your choice, as well as any scheduling changes.

Get Connected to HF-L Athletics

HF-L CSD Athletics is on Twitter. Be sure to follow us!
• Twitter — @HFLCSDAthletics
Community Engagement

Celebrating 10 years in partnership with Honeoye Falls, Mendon, Lima & HF-L Community Programs

HF-L SUMMER RECREATION CAMP IS LOCATED AT MANOR SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 1ST - 8TH GRADE.

Daily activities of sports, arts & crafts, swimming, music, science & nature, and so much more!

Early Bird Special: If you register before May 31, $679 per child for residents of Honeoye Falls, Lima and Mendon for 6 weeks of camp. $919 for non-residents. Weekly registration is $165.

Register on June 1 or after & fees increase to $720 for residents of Honeoye Falls, Lima and Mendon or $980 for non-residents for 6 weeks of camp and $175 weekly.

For more information or to register online go to www.hflicsd.org/page/2024summer-rec

38th Annual Cougar Creations

This year Cougar Creations will emphasize the visual arts and HF-L’s Clarinet and Flute Choirs. Student artwork from all four schools will be on display in the high school B-gym (across the hall from the voting location) on the following dates and times:

Monday, May 20, 2024, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. (in tandem with budget vote)
Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In addition, the following musical performances will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in the B-gym:
Flute Choir - 5:15 p.m.
Clarinet Choir - 5:30 p.m.

Finally, the Robotics team will have demonstrations from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Location will be dependent on weather.

The annual chicken barbecue will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria and continue until the chicken is sold out. The cost is $15. For pre-order information, visit the Food Service website on the District’s website > Menu > Dining.
Board of Education Candidates

Three seats are open on the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District Board of Education. Candidates elected to the Board during the 2024-25 Budget Vote and Board Election will serve three-year terms. Meet the Candidates Night is Tuesday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the H.S. Cafeteria. This event will also be live-streamed on the District’s website at www.hflcsd.org. The Board candidates include:

ROW 1:

Carol Bellavia

Carol Bellavia is seeking her fifth term on the Board of Education. She has been a district resident, along with her husband AJ and their daughters Morgan and Brooklyn, since 2003. Bellavia has served on several school committees including the ELA Decision Input Unit, Program Budget Advisory Council, Community Education Advisory Council and Sports Boosters. She served two years as Board President and Vice President. She chairs the Board Governance Committee and is the Board representative on the Financial Literacy Committee.

In their free time, she and AJ can be found supporting various school events.

Bellavia holds a Master’s degree in Health Systems administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology. She is a Sr. Risk Adjustment Project Manager for Excellus BCBS.

“It has been a privilege to represent the community on the Board of Education,” stated Bellavia. “I have learned a great deal during my board tenure that only helps strengthen the board. I welcome the opportunity to continue to be an advocate for public education and I am committed to maintaining quality programming in a fiscally responsible manner. I am seeking re-election to continue to be a voice for our community while maintaining that balance that makes HF-L the district of choice!”

ROW 2:

Christopher Neff

Christopher Neff has been an HF-L resident since 2009. Neff has had the pleasure of serving as a volunteer twice on the HF-L CSD Program Budget Advisory Council and has served on the Board since in 2021. Neff is a member of the Audit Committee, District Health and Safety Committee, Sports Boosters, and Monroe County School Board Labor Relations. He and Christine Broomfield share a home with their three daughters, two HF-L graduates with the youngest in High School.

Neff holds an FAA Airframe and Powerplant license and graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in Aviation Business Administration. He has enjoyed various aviation roles for over three decades, working locally in a corporate flight department for over 20 years. He has been involved with the Bombardier Challenger Advisory committee since 2006. Neff has also been a family assistance volunteer with Aviem International since 2012, serving as a Care Team member offering humanitarian assistance to families affected by disaster or accident.

“I have always admired the way the HF-L community rises to support our children and the district staff that serve them. I am an astute believer that our District provides a primary and secondary education second to none. We have great focus promoting and encouraging our students to achieve postsecondary education but can do more to destigmatize the career stability of the skilled trades, especially when coupled with college. As a country, the skills gap in the work force is getting ever wider while college tuition is rising at historical rates.”

ROW 3:

Kelli Eberle

Kelli Eberle has been a member of the Board of Education since 2021. She currently serves on the Policy Committee, Instructional Leadership Council, Art Boosters, and is a new member of the Music Boosters. Prior to being elected to the Board, Eberle participated in the Re-opening Committee and served on the District’s Program Budget Advisory Committee for two years.

Eberle received her Bachelor of Arts in Women Studies and English from the University of Rochester and her Master of Science in Inclusive Adolescent Education from Nazareth University. Eberle is an adjunct Professor at Monroe Community College in the English/Philosophy department. She has worked at MCC since 2007 and serves on the Composition Committee.

Eberle and her husband, Mark, have resided in Honeoye Falls for over 20 years and have one child who attends the High School.
What You’ll See on the Ballot

**PROPOSITION #1**

2024-25 Budget

Shall the proposed budget of $61,086,686 be approved for 2024-25, including funding to enter into multi-year installment purchase contracts in accordance with the General Municipal Law for the acquisition of office and grounds equipment and motor vehicles and all other necessary costs incidental thereto?

**PROPOSITION #2**

School Bus Purchase

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase up to seven (7) vehicles for student transportation including necessary furnishings, fixtures, equipment and all other necessary costs incidental thereto, and expend a sum not to exceed $1,045,359, which is the cost estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, to be raised by tax on the taxable property of the District which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, and to finance all or part of the cost thereof by bonds or notes issued in accordance with the Education Law and the Local Finance Law or by installment purchase contracts in accordance with the General Municipal Law and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

**BOARD ELECTION**

School Board Members

Voters will elect one person for each of three (3) positions on the Board of Education effective July 1, 2024. Terms are three (3) years each.

Vote for THREE (3)

Carol Bellavia  Christopher Neff  Kelli Eberle

**Voter Eligibility**

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. Eighteen (18) years of age.
3. A resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the date of the vote.

**Absentee Ballot**

If you are unable to vote in person on May 21, 2024, you may request an absentee ballot application by contacting the District Clerk, Christina Amorese, at 624-7010.

For information on Early Mail Voting, please see page six.