



Budget Message

Forward momentum continues in 2018-19

The topics of the Superintendent's *Focus* columns this year have ranged from Growth Mindset to strategic planning to the importance of helping our students develop the skills of modern learning as an integral part of their school experience. We are very pleased that the 2018-2019 budget allows us to continue the progress we have made in these areas of emphasis for the school district.

The 2018-2019 recommended budget is \$70,120,000. Among the most important things to keep in mind are:

- All of our current programs and positions are funded
- Total increase in the budget is 3.43%
- The levy increase of \$1,764,865 (5.05%) is allowable under the 2% Tax Cap because \$1,428,029 (4.09%) is due to the timing of state building aid payments to the district for the 2016 Capital Project. That leaves us with a net levy increase of slightly less than 1%.

It is important to point out that our overall 2018-2019 State Aid allocation was less than expected. In fact, New York State aid to the Hamburg Schools has declined from 40% of our total budget in 2009-2010 to only 36.7% for 2018-2019.

Our planning process over the past few years has allowed us to take advantage of a wide array of great opportunities throughout our school district:

- We continue to emphasize the importance of making student learning more visible, resulting in modern learning for our students
- Our new School Resource Officer started on April 16, 2018
- Every HCS D employee will be trained in Mental Health First Aid by this September, which was funded by an \$80,000 grant from the Tower Foundation.
- We have begun an initiative to equip every student in grades 3-12 with a Chromebook by 2020
- We are participating with Erie 1 BOCES and three

other districts in a 6-year NYS Education Department P-Tech grant, designed to help students earn a tuition-free Associate's Degree while they finish high school

- The High School and Middle School Library Media Centers, as well as the Family and Consumer Science classrooms at the Middle School, will be completely renovated this summer as a part of the 2016 Capital Project
- We have applied for, and received, more than \$400,000 in additional grant funding to support district initiatives since 2016

Because of the great educators we have working on behalf of our students, we are ranked #10 out of 96 school districts in Western New York, and #38 out of 431 upstate New York school districts in overall student achievement (*Business First*, 2017). We are also ranked in the top 10, out of all 96 Western New York school districts in overall and administrative efficiency (*Business First*, 2017). Importantly, we are just as proud of all we do to promote our culture of kindness, to support our young people through Empowerment Days for high school girls and boys, and to inspire students to consider a wide array of options for their lives after high school through Career Exploration Days at the Middle School and High School.

On behalf of the Board of Education, and all of the employees of the Hamburg Central School District, we thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the High School on Tuesday, May 15 for our annual School Budget and Board of Education Vote.

Michael Cornell

Superintendent of Schools

Thomas Flynn III

President, Board of Education

Cameron Hall

Vice President, Board of Education



In Our Schools



BOOKS AND MORE — A musical board game was one of the 15 activities on the Districtwide Family Reading Night at Hamburg Middle School in March. Participants included, *from left*, parent Liz Huson, Paige Huson, Lauralei Krencik and Cole Huson. It's estimated that nearly 500 people attended the night, including those who worked or volunteered. Also taking place were a book swap, sphero robots, Minecraft coding, Breakout boxes, African dumpling, musical Makerspaces and karaoke singing. Middle School students provided live music. Guest speaker was musician/educator Eric Crittenden. The event also raised about \$155 for Buffalo's Music is Art.