



Alexandria Central School Newsletter

Budget Edition

Residents to vote on 2020/21 proposed budget

May 2020

On Friday, May 1, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.26 which modifies the rules under which school districts are to conduct the 2020 annual meeting for the election of school board members and budget votes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Alexandria Central School District residents will now vote on a \$13,939,687 budget proposal for the 2020-21 school year by absentee ballot only. Polls close on **Tuesday, June 9, at 5 pm**. Voters will also select three candidates for open seats on the ACS Board of Education and consider one additional proposition: a proposition for bonding two buses as part of the District routine fleet replacement.

In accordance with Executive Order No. 202.26, absentee ballots will be mailed out to all registered voters in the Alexandria Central School District with a return postage paid envelope. All returned ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. If you have not received a ballot by May 29, 2020, and are a qualified voter, please contact the District Clerk by email at rgill@acsghosts.org.

In addition to modifying the annual meeting, the Governors order also addressed the Budget Hearing. It states that all Budget Hearings are now to be held virtually through the use of video conferencing. Alexandria Central School will be holding the Budget Hearing Virtually on **Tuesday, May 26, at 6:00 pm**. A link will be available on the District website at www.alexandriacentral.org. Please forward any questions you wish to have addressed during the public comment section to the District Clerk via email at rgill@acsghosts.org.

The ACS Board of Education has worked throughout the winter analyzing projected expenditures and anticipated revenues. Cost increases are attributed to contractual salary increases, healthcare, and retirement costs, as well as additional debt service on our capital project. Fortunately, district savings offset much of these cost increases. The District's final budgeted figures represented a year- over-year increase of 2.10% (approximately \$287,000). Alexandria CSD's budget is funded primarily by New York State Aid and Property Taxes. Unfortunately, for the 2020-21 school year, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, areas of NYS Aid have been frozen (ie, Foundation Aid) The overall increase in NYS Aid is tentatively \$47,000. However, Governor Cuomo has declared three "look back periods" to determine what further cuts, if any, will occur to school districts. The first period is April 1 - April 30, 2020. The second is May 1 - June 30, 2020. The final period is July 1 - December 31, 2020. If, during any of these periods, the revenues are less than expected, or expenses are higher than expected, by only ONE PERCENT, then the State will cut aid to school districts mid-year. At the time of this printing, we are not aware of how much those cuts may be, aside from Governor Cuomo's predicted "20%". This loss can only be recovered via property taxes. We, as a District, are aware of the current economic situation and took great care when determining the tax impact on our residents. As a result, the proposed budget calls for a projected tax levy increase of 1.90 percent. Next year, this would mean an estimated \$23 increase in the school tax bill for a property assessed at \$100,000.

District voters will also be asked to approve the continuation of the district bus replacement plan. Each year the district maximizes state aid and trade-in value and replaces at least two buses. The goal is to maintain a fleet under five years old, with no more than 100,000 miles per bus. This will allow the district to maintain a neutral debt load, minimize year-to-year fluctuations in the budget, and ensure a safe and reliable fleet. Buses under 5 years old with less than 100,000 miles are covered under the manufacturers' warranty, allowing the district to minimize maintenance and services costs for the fleet.

Proposition #1: 2020-21 Budget

Proposed Budget	\$13,939,687
Budget Change	\$287,309
Tax Levy Increase	\$144,022 + 1.90%

PLEASE NOTE

**Voting by Absentee Ballot on June 9th.
Polls closing at 5:00 p.m.**

****If you have not received an absentee ballot in the mail by May 29th, please email the District Clerk at: rgill@acsghosts.org to request one.**

Budget Information: A Look Inside

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Proposition #2: Bonding 2 Buses

Voters will consider a proposition for the purchase of school buses.

If Proposition #2 is approved, the district will borrow up to \$277,500 to purchase two 66-passenger buses. This bus purchase is eligible for approximately \$138,750 in state aid, which is about half of the purchase price. This cost is included in the debt service calculation for the 2020/2021 school year, so it does not increase the proposed budget.

These purchases are part of an on-going effort to maintain a bus fleet under five years old with less than 100,000 miles each. This helps maintain safety while providing coverage under a five-year warranty and preserving resale value.

Q & A

What is a “tax levy limit” and is ACS below its limit?

The tax levy is the highest allowable tax levy a school district can propose for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% plus one) is required. The limit is calculated using a multi-step formula that takes into account any allowable exclusions (such as pension costs and capital expenditures). Any proposed tax levy above this limit requires budget approval by a super majority of voters (60%). The ACS Board of Education has proposed a budget that includes a tax levy ABOVE its limit. For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the ACS tax cap limit was 1.61%.

How is the tax levy different from a tax rate?

The tax levy is the amount of money the district raises from local taxpayers while the tax rate is the amount of tax residents pay per \$1,000 of property value. In 2020/21 the school tax levy would increase by 1.90%. The impact on school tax bills is projected to be an approximate \$23 next year for a property assessed at \$100,000.

With the tax levy limit, does the public still vote on a school budget?

Yes, residents will still vote on a proposed school budget on June 9.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the proposed budget is defeated in June, the ACS Board of Education can put another budget – revised or not up for a vote in June or immediately adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated twice, ACS would have to adopt a contingent budget, with a zero percent tax levy increase, which could mean an additional \$331,900 in reductions to programs and services.





Q & A continued

What is a STAR exemption and how does it reduce my school taxes?

Community members who own a home can significantly reduce their school property taxes through a School Tax Relief (STAR) exemption, which is paid for through state taxes. Homeowners must apply through their town assessor's office to be eligible for this tax break. Learn more at www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/index.html

How is my tax calculated?

Individual tax bills are calculated using:

- The assessed value of each property
- Any applicable exemptions (e.g. STAR)
- the current school tax rate

BOCES CAPITAL PROJECT

As a member of the Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer - Oneida Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BoCES), Alexandria Central School District has a shared financial responsibility in regards to the BoCES upcoming capital project.

BoCES has not had a capital improvement project since its inception in 1969. Fifty years have passed by without major improvements or upgrades made to the buildings that house various educational programs for our students and students from participating districts.

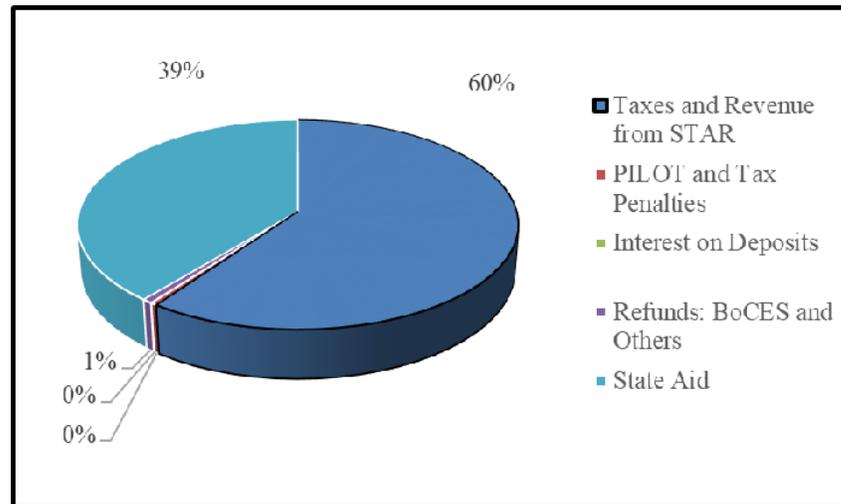
The cost of this project is expected to be about \$20 million. Alexandria CSD's share of this project is approximately \$500,000. These costs are expected to be paid to BoCES over two fiscal years, beginning in 2019-2020. 60% was paid in the 2019-20 budget, with the remaining 40% to be paid in 2020-21.





Where does the money come from?

	<u>Approved 2019/20</u>	<u>Proposed 2020/21</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
State and Federal Aid	\$4,989,808	\$5,036,816	0.94%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 925,000	\$ 925,000	0.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 157,440	\$ 143,719	-8.71%
Property Tax	\$7,580,130	\$7,724,152	1.90%
Reserve Funds	-	\$ 110,000	100.00%
Total Revenue	\$13,652,378	\$13,939,687	



Under contingency, there would be \$331,900 worth of reductions in programs and capital components

If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the ACS Board of Education, as in the past, will have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If voters reject the budget twice, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

More significantly, under the law, if ACS adopts a contingent budget, the district would have to keep its 2020/21 tax levy the same as or less than its 2019/20 tax levy; in effect a 0 percent tax levy increase. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in 2019/20 – or less – without any adjustments for contractual obligations or other costs, whether or not they are mandated.

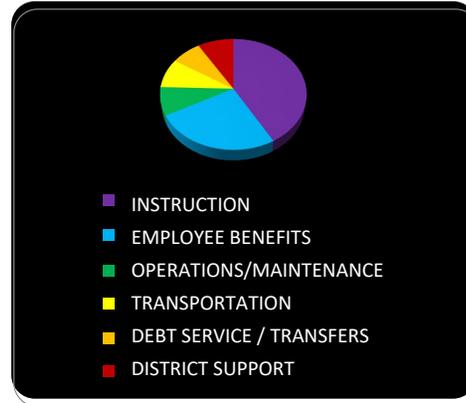
Adopting a contingent budget would prohibit ACS from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-instructional, non-unionized employees; and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.



Where does the \$13,939,687 go?

INSTRUCTION: 42% of proposed budget

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
Teaching, Regular School	\$ 2,723,578	\$ 2,808,749
Occupational Education	\$ 517,489	\$ 506,744
Special Education	\$ 1,457,845	\$ 1,149,241
Staff Development	\$ 36,311	\$ 108,694
Teaching, Administration	\$ 336,497	\$ 292,016
Library	\$ 40,996	\$ 70,618
Technology	\$ 175,812	\$ 238,910
Guidance	\$ 183,571	\$ 204,075
Health Services	\$ 57,583	\$ 80,249
Psychological Services	\$ 39,950	\$ 78,000
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 52,876	\$ 57,515
Athletics	\$ 169,412	\$ 214,156
Total	\$ 5,791,920	\$ 5,808,967



Total 0.29%

Percent Change	INSTRUCTION	\$ 5,808,967
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 3,567,002
	OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,147,948
	TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,186,285
	DEBT SERVICE / TRANSFERS	\$ 1,016,401
	DISTRICT SUPPORT	\$ 1,213,084

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: 26% of proposed budget

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
Health Insurance	\$ 2,469,634	\$ 2,317,094
Teachers' Retirement	\$ 378,665	\$ 426,918
Employees' Retirement	\$ 204,352	\$ 218,893
Social Security	\$ 425,271	\$ 442,127
Workers' Compensation	\$ 63,646	\$ 65,910
Unemployment	\$ 7,000	\$ 11,200
Other Benefits	\$ 81,941	\$ 84,860
Total	\$ 3,630,509	\$ 3,567,002

Total -1.75%

DEBT SERVICE: 7% of proposed budget

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
Energy Perf. Contract	\$ 80,021	\$ 80,020
Construction	\$ 725,888	\$ 716,687
Buses	\$ -	\$ 54,694
Interfund Transfer	\$ 150,000	\$ 165,000
Total	\$ 955,909	\$ 1,016,401

OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE: 8% of proposed budget

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
Custodial Services	\$ 409,485	\$ 535,878
Maintenance	\$ 604,951	\$ 612,070
Total	\$ 1,014,436	\$ 1,147,948

Total 13.16%

Total \$ 955,909 \$ 1,016,401
Percent Change 6.33%

DISTRICT SUPPORT: 9% of proposed budget

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
Board of Education	\$ 19,285	\$ 20,823
Central Administration	\$ 193,428	\$ 200,356
Business Administration	\$ 222,398	\$ 226,533
Auditing	\$ 16,800	\$ 17,200
BoCES Administration / Capital	\$ 373,625	\$ 328,117
Tax Collection	\$ 800	\$ 1,100
Legal / Fiscal Services	\$ 47,989	\$ 54,640
Central Services	\$ 226,922	\$ 287,865
Insurance / Special Items	\$ 69,450	\$ 76,450
Total	\$ 1,170,697	\$ 1,213,084

TRANSPORTATION: 8% of proposed budget

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
Garage	\$ 117,650	\$ 130,550
Transportation	\$ 971,257	\$ 1,055,735
Total	\$ 1,088,907	\$ 1,186,285

Total 8.94%

Total \$ 1,170,697 \$ 1,213,084
Percent Change 3.62%

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$13,652,378	\$13,939,687	\$13,607,787										
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$ 287,309	\$ - 44,591										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.10 %	- .32%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 7,580,130	\$ 7,724,152											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable													
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **													
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy													
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 7,580,130	\$ 7,724,152	\$ 7,580,130										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 355,664	\$ 331,992											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,883,423	\$ 7,370,071											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 7,224,466	\$ 7,392,160											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ - 341,043	\$ - 22,089											
Administrative Component	\$ 1,511,386	\$ 1,701,674	\$ 1,690,574										
Program Component	\$ 9,766,345	\$ 9,710,431	\$ 9,631,831										
Capital Component	\$ 2,374,647	\$ 2,527,582	\$ 2,285,382										
<p>A contingency budget would require a \$331,900 reduction in expenditures. This figure includes purchases of equipment, carpeting, furniture, and a capital outlay project.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus Bond Proposition</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 277,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	Bus Bond Proposition	\$ 277,500						
Description	Amount												
Bus Bond Proposition	\$ 277,500												
<p>** 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)</p>													

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
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Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$327
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Alexandria Central School District, Jefferson County, New York, will be held by absentee voting ballot pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.26, on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 ending at 5:00 pm, at which time the polls will be closed.

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



Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



On June 9, voters will vote for candidates for 3 open seats on the Alexandria Central School District Board of Education. Candidates are James VanCour, Betty Compeau and Christine Lingenfelter.

The school board is made up of seven non-paid citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Together they establish district policies, develop an annual budget proposal, approve or disapprove the superintendent's recommendations on personnel matters and contracts and act as a communication link between residents and the superintendent.

James VanCour

Family: Wife-Dawn, Children-Ciara and Lauren, Mother-Lillian.

Community Service: ACS board member 2017-present, Hockey Coach for 28 years, coaching all levels, Educator for 33 years.

Why serve on the BOE? Being an educator for 33 years, I have a great understanding of a school's day to day operations. It allows me to share my experiences with fellow BOE members and administration to formulate sound decisions that benefit our students and community as a whole. I consider it an honor being on the board and want to continue our quest to make ACS the best school when it comes to educational opportunities for our students and a place that our community can be proud of.

What are the top issues facing schools? Budgeting will always be a priority! As a member of the budget committee the last three years, we have produced responsible budgets that have enhanced our educational programs and made yearly improvements inside and outside of our school.

What would you like people to know about you? I have been teaching 33 years at Indian River. My children attended ACS, went to college and now are working in the educational field. My wife Dawn is a teacher at ACS. She has been an educator for 30 years. I feel fortunate to have lived in this community my whole life and proud to call it my home. I'm proud to be a PURPLE GHOST!!!



Betty Compeau

Family: Children: Bill, Matt, and Katie and 7 grandchildren

Community Service: I have served on the Alexandria Central School Board for 3 years and am a very active member of the Alexandria Bay Methodist Church.

Why serve on the Board of Education? I taught at Alexandria Central for 40 years and retired in 2014. I have a great love for the district, students, staff, and community. Our district was in a time of turmoil when I joined the board in 2017 and I feel we have been able to make very positive changes in the past 3 years both environmentally and fiscally. I want to continue to be a part of a positive movement for our school. In the face of our present crisis, I'm so very proud of our leadership and the response of our staff in being a progressive role in the North Country.

What are top issues facing our schools? We are facing a new and very trying period in our educational system today. The face of education is changing. We need to be informed and ready to meet the new challenges brought about by the COVID virus both academically and fiscally.

What would you like people to know about you? I was born and raised in a small town in Central New York, West Winfield. I was in the first graduating class at Mount Markham Central School. I always wanted to be a teacher and graduated with my elementary degree from the University of Maine. My first and only teaching position was at Alexandria Central the year I graduated for college. I never wanted to be anywhere else. I love the outdoors and spending time with my grandchildren. I spend my summers camping in local parks with my grandchildren. I also love golfing and kayaking.



Christine Lingenfelter

Family: children: Hallie Bain, Rylynn Bain

Community Service: Alexandria Central Board Of Education (7 years); ACS Sports Booster (President); Girl Scout Troop Leader(11 years); Alexandria Central School Volunteer Modified Soccer Coach (1year).

Why serve on the board of education? As a parent I found myself sitting back complaining about what was taking place with our school. Instead of complaining I decided to get involved and understand why things are done the way they are done and try to improve student achievement and help provide the community with the best educational opportunities. To me serving on the Board of education has been an honor and a privilege.

What are the top issues facing our schools? One of the top issues facing our school is the need for some balancing of the district budget so that it has some solid foundation.

What would you like people to know about me? I was born in Monticello NY, I was raised in Alexandria Bay and am a graduate of Alexandria Central. I attended Jefferson Community College and received an Associates Degree, I have my cosmetology license. I have been a New York State Corrections Officer for 20 years. With the NYSDOCCS I have become a general topics instructor and have several specialty training. I continue to educate myself through the Department of Corrections to help educate others in our community with topics such as drugs, gangs, diversity management, and dealing with the mentally ill and domestic violence.



Congratulations to the Class of 2020



Haylee Baker
Nicholas Boyanski
Wesley Burgos
Taylor Calhoun
Taylor Carey
Matthew Coggins
James Dreizler
Scott Dreizler
Jack Ely
Cody Escudero
Samuel Felicia
Grace Goerger
Andrew Hansen
Patrick Heerlein
Rachel Hunneyman
Taydan Jeffers
Bradlee Klock
Jenna Leshkevich
Shawn Mason

Tyler Mellowship
Lindsey Monica
Cullen Reynolds
Payton Ridley
Gabby Salazar
Sarah Shaffer
Daniel Strough
Ryleigh Tabolt
Cristofer Tidd
Brandon Umstead
Annette Valdivia
John Wagoner
Meghan Wardell
Mya Weaver
Simon Wibbe
Rylie Willix
Makayla Witt
Abigail Wolfe
David Zimmer



Nancy Aubertine ~ High School English

It is an interesting task to be called to write an article for a newsletter when the feeling among the entire population seems to be “there is nothing new under the sun.” (A little Shakespeare reference because I so miss dropping quotes.) Nevertheless, to submit news, when there is none, is the charge.

As students, teachers, and families remain in quarantine, repetition and lack of excitement are topics of conversations around kitchen tables everywhere. We all miss the way things used to be. One of the things that I, as an English teacher, miss is throwing out quotes in class to illustrate my points, showing the kids how much great thinkers and writers have influenced society. This type of spontaneity fails to come across in our video chats, emails, and texting. I am not as scholarly or witty at home, it seems. Alas.

What does strike me, in all my texts, FaceTimes, video chats, emails, snail mail, and Google- Meet interactions with students and teachers is how much everybody, and I mean everybody, misses school. The first student to text me during quarantine admitted she missed school like crazy. She is a person who, prior to quarantine, seemed to think that school was drudgery. This senior wants to be back in class. Another senior, a boy who struggles with attendance, tells me that he misses his teachers. The sophomores feel the same way. They write that they miss their friends and their teachers. In a video chat, yesterday, some of the kids expressed that they were concerned that they might not get to say “Goodbye” to Mr. Bastian before he retires. ACS teenagers miss Mrs. Hunneyman, the nurse. Many of them stop in to see her every day. They miss Mrs. Diange in the cafeteria. She checks in with each student who comes through the line. When the bell rings, some kids loiter and chat with her before going to class. They miss special area teachers, aides, and core teachers. Some of them need to talk to Mr. Greene, in Ag, some miss Mrs. Donovan’s sense of humor, some miss Mr. Grosso’s open nature, and some miss academics. So, maybe this is the “news.” Kids, even those who seem to dislike it, actually do love coming to school. They didn’t know what they had until it was gone. They can’t wait to do another musical or band concert, debate history with Mr. Augliano, or solve a mystery with Mrs. Coon. Those kids who are struggling with addiction look forward to meeting with Mrs. Helvie in person, rather than over the phone, because it is better that way. Juniors are excited to meet with Mr. Durr to plan their courses and/or just check in with him, because they know his door “is always open.”

Short of listing every staff member, it is impossible to indicate which adults individual kids miss the most. That is the individual part, and that’s the beauty of ACS. It’s the best kind of small school where nobody goes unnoticed and kids connect. It may be newsworthy that kids miss school and they are ready to admit that. What is less surprising to me is how much we miss your kids. The teachers at ACS ache to get back in the classroom with your kids. Until then, we soldier on doing our best with the circumstances as they are. Until then, the good news is we have all learned our lessons. For sure, “study is like the heaven’s glorious sun!” -Guess who





Memories from Ms. Griffith's 1st grade class



Playing outside in the snow after an awesome winter hayride around town



Here we are on the Holiday Hayride around town. The students had an awesome time and even sang some Christmas carols!



Here are the boys facing off against the girls in Tug of War during Winter Carnival.



The girls came out victorious in Tug of War and were pretty excited to celebrate!



We celebrated the 100th Day of School on February 26th. Students made crowns, counted 100 Fruit Loops to make necklaces and enjoyed a yummy snack to enjoy the day!



Students are counting out 100 Fruit Loops to practice their counting and make a fun necklace.

Memories from Ms. Branch's 1st grade class



All smiles in first grade!



Ms. Branch's class showing their hard work on an animal research project!



Enjoying an ice cream party from PACE for attendance in first grade!

2nd Grade Memories ~ Mrs. Putnam and Mr. Hudon

It might have been a short year, but we made memories to last a lifetime!



Mrs. Putnam's class



Mr. Hudon's Class



Math Games



Crafts



100 Days of School



Ice Cream Social



Hat Day



Fall Activities



We simply had a "ball".

Keep working hard at home, we are so proud of you all!

Third Grade News

Mrs. Ventiquattro, Mrs. Kahrs and Ms. Cota's 3rd graders have had the BEST year making memories so far! We were fortunate enough to spend some time with the volunteers of the Alexandria and Redwood Fire Departments during Fire Prevention week in October. We also we had a blast at our Halloween Parties; high winds were not going to rain on our parade. Mrs. Kahrs and Ms. Cota's class won the scarecrow contest with their rendition of Michael Jackson...maybe next year Mrs. V!!! Mr. Petrie in the giving spirit as always donated his time, pumpkins and apples in the fall then more time, apples, candy canes, and his tractor for Christmas holiday. Mr. Company joined in with his tractor for the annual hayrides, singing through town with his supped up wagon!

Thank you to those two as well as Mr. Johnson and Jrecks for donating juice boxes and animal crackers! We have the best community on the River! Another thanks to Mr. Company for organizing our Winter Carnival. Our kids had the time of their lives skating, sledding and enjoying the outdoors! As spring has graced us, we look forward to staying healthy and sane! We will see you all soon. Until then #ACSSTRONG.



Class FaceTime with Master Sargent Beebe (Roe's dad) in December when he was stationed in the Ukraine!



Grant Porter finds fossils while social distancing



Fire Prevention Week



Winter Carnival hayride



Pumpkins from Mr. Petrie



Fire Prevention Week



Winter Carnival fun



Halloween

ACS MakerSpace

The Alexandria Central MakerSpace has been very busy this year. We have included some of our favorite things that students have done this year.



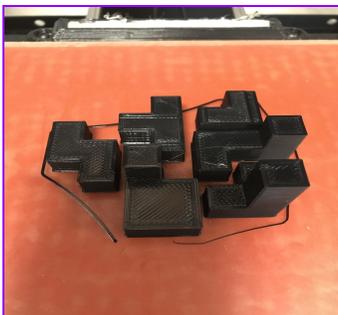
Andrew Hansen designed a new district office signs using the MakerSpace Laser Cutter.



Students in the MakerSpace joined the Macsherry Library's Knitting Club. Pictured are Payton Ridley, Taydan Jeffers, Mya Weaver, and Lindsay Monica.

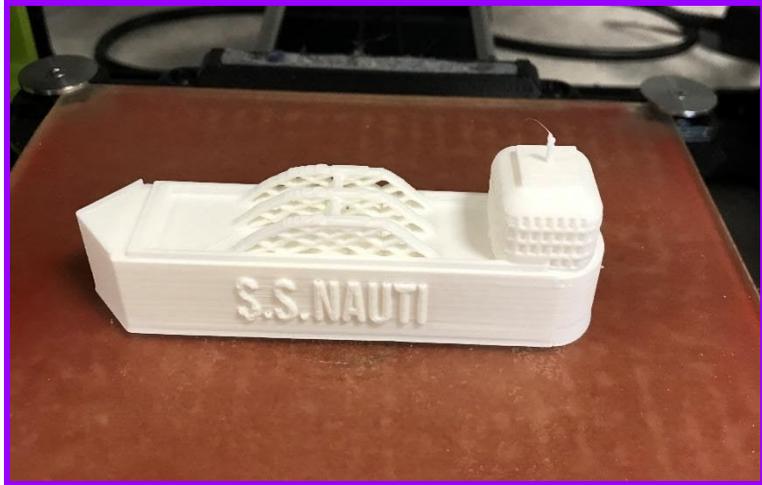


The signs were made by Gabriella Salazar, Sarah Shaffer, and Taydan Jeffers. These are just a few of the many signs designed, cut, and assembled by students this year.



Students designed 3D puzzle cubes and phone stands utilizing the MakerSpace 3D printers.

ACS MakerSpace



Two of the most detailed 3D designs came this year from Kayden Anderson (left) and Mya Weaver (right). We only wish we had a picture of every printed by our students. If you see Scott Dreizler ask him about his patent pending hockey puck.

Jenna Leshkevich always has the greatest ideas. Tie-Dye day was a huge success. We are just sorry we were not able to finalize the details of her latest and greatest idea – Hydro Dip Day.



Pictured are Haylee Baker, Sarah Shaffer, Rylie Willix, Payton Ridley, Lindsey Monica, Alistair Buchanan, and Gabriella Salazar.



Cullen Reynolds designed these Christmas ornaments as a fundraiser.

Music Notes from Mrs. Taylor



This year has obviously been unlike any other. Missing out on opportunities to share our growth and successes in all areas has been disconcerting. I wanted to share some moments from the music department that made me happy and proud (and hopefully the kids and families, too!)

These pictures include events like voice recitals, Bi-County chorus, Veterans Day concert, holiday concerts, SAYacaF-EST, Barbershop Youth Festival, and leading up to our musical, School of Rock. We are hoping to be able to still do the show, and info will be out as SOON as we know! You don't want to miss seeing them!! I promise you!

I want to send a message out to my incredible students that I miss you, your smiles, your hugs, and your voices!! I can't wait till we are back together and preparing for performances again! You all make me so proud to be your teacher! I have loooooooved the videos you've been sending me, and I admire your courage to do so when I know how shy many of you are!! Keep it up!

Love you!!!
Mrs T.





Notes from the Band Room ~ Mr. Hammond

The ACS Band has a lot to celebrate this year. We started the year off with a bang, hosting Campus Impressions as they led the school in an enthusiastic launch of the ACS PRIDE initiative, performing for elementary, junior high school, and high school students. ACS musicians did more than just play host, though, the Jazz in the Classroom program welcomed Cristofer Tidd, Sam Felicia, Dominic Tidd, Wesley Burgos, and Scott Diange to a masterclass led by Jerry Vivino, best known as Conan O'Brien's band leader.

The month of October saw a return of more great jazz artists, and the Jazz in the Classroom program brought The Brighton Beat back to the area to perform for students in schools throughout the area. Cristofer Tidd joined students from the TIHS jazz band as they performed with the New York City artists. Early Autumn also offered opportunities to our younger musicians as Sincerity Diange and Ella Porter performed with the junior high bi-county band at Lowville Academy.

As winter approached, some of Alexandria's most experienced and accomplished musicians took the stage with honors ensembles of the highest caliber, the all-star teams of music. On a regional level, Sam Felicia and Cristofer Tidd represented ACS at the Area All-State festival at Indian River High School, performing with musicians from schools as far away as Pulaski and Plattsburgh. Both Sam and Cristofer earned the top spots, or first chair, on their respective instruments, Sam in the orchestra and Cristofer with the band.

In December Cristofer Tidd represented Alexandria at the New York State School Music Association's annual conference all-state concert, playing alto saxophone in the Symphonic Band. Cris is the first ACS band member to be selected since 1997, honor awarded as the result of two consecutive years of perfect scores on all-state audition solos. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Cris!

Before the Christmas break arrived, ACS musicians at every level performed at the annual holiday concert, a world premier for some, and the final holiday concert for seniors Cristofer Tidd, Sam Felicia, and Wesley Burgos. Best wishes for a future filled with adventure (*and of course music!*) gentlemen!

In January, honors ensembles once again took the spotlight as Alexandria hosted the Bi-County Jazz Band, Select Choir and senior soloist, featuring some of the top musicians in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Cristofer Tidd once again represented ACS, performing on first alto saxophone.

In February, community members turned out in force to support band members and take part in our winter carnival offerings, the first ever ACS band chicken barbecue and, with the help of the one and only Mel Busler, the first ever "The Price is... Close Enough!" The event saw prizes valued at over six thousand dollars awarded to contestants who responded to Richard Campany's call to "come on down!" Games modeled on the popular game show were made by the band members and their parents, and the ACS custodial staff. Prizes were donated by local artisans and business owners. The band is profoundly grateful to all those who contributed to make the evening a tremendous success story.

Before school was interrupted in March, Cristofer and Sam capped off the year with one additional honor, as both were selected to perform in the Spring Bi-County concert, and Cristofer Tidd was selected as the Jefferson Lewis County Music Teachers Association Senior Soloist Runner Up.

Whatever the Spring and Summer may hold, the ACS Elementary Band, the Concert Band, the Jazz/Rock Band, the Booster Band, the Mardi Gras Spirit Brass Band and the River Rat Rhythm Project Steel Drum Band all look forward to returning to perform once again on the stages and streets of Alexandria Bay!



Library News ~ Mrs. Tidd & Mrs. Millett

Many students in grades PreK through 6 were busy reading at home during the month of April for our Spring Into Reading incentive. Students tracked their reading minutes and submitted their reading logs at the end of the month to Mrs. Tidd via email. Approximately 75 students participated and have received prizes and certificates as a reward. They also earned a free Water Safari admission ticket from Enchanted Forest in Old Forge, NY. Prizes were delivered to the students' homes in early May.



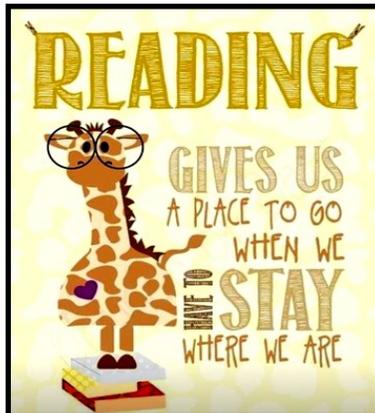
Micah Weldon loves to read; any time-any place! He read 51.1 hours for this incentive. He and his brother William were our top 2 readers. William read 51.1 hours and their sister Mary read over 29 hours! The Weldons are a family of readers!



3rd grader Caroline Carr is proud of her hard work. She has a passion for reading and read 18.8 hours!



4th grader P.J. Green was excited to receive his prizes.



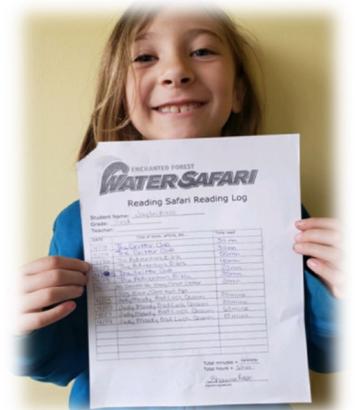
Charlotte Conner enjoys reading a good story!



Camden and Livia Putnam were surprised when their rewards were delivered.



Grace Wills, Kindergarten, is all smiles as she poses with her prizes!



Jaylin Raso recently moved but still participated! We will miss her.

Congratulations to our retirees!

Marcellé Morgan ~ 35 years

Robert Bastian ~ 32 years

Roderick Tidd ~ 30 years

Lori Turgeon ~ 29 years

Cynthia Tidd ~ 14 years



Thank you for your years of dedication and service to ACS!

Important Information From The School Nurse

Dear Parent/Guardians,

- New York State law requires that all children be fully immunized upon entrance into **6th grade**. **TDAP** is the required immunization upon entering the 6th grade.

Please arrange to have this immunization done as soon as possible and send verification to the nurse's office by 9/01/2020.

- New York State law requires that all children be fully immunized upon entrance into **7th grade and 12th grade**. **Meningococcal** immunization is required upon entering the 7th grade and 12th grade:

- * 1 dose is required for 7th grade.

- * A 2nd dose is required for 12th grade if 1st dose is received before 16 years of age.

Please arrange to have these immunizations done as soon as possible and send verification to the nurse's office by 9/01/2020. Noncompliant students are not permitted continued attendance at Alexandria Central School.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (315) 482-9971 ext.8.

Sincerely,

Pat Hunneyman, School Nurse



From the Counseling Department:

Free Mindfulness Resources

- **Ten Percent Happier Coronavirus Sanity Guide**
<https://www.tenpercent.com/coronavirussanityguide>
Meditations, podcasts, blog posts, and talks that provide practical, actionable ways of coping with stress, fear, and anxiety. More resources added as they are created - so keep checking back.
- **Headspace (Plus version is now free for healthcare providers)**
<https://www.headspace.com/health-covid-19>
Meditations for stress, anxiety, focus, sleep, work, and kids. Headspace is offering all US healthcare professionals who work in public health settings free access to Headspace Plus through 2020. If you are a healthcare professional, you can redeem your subscription using your National Provider Identifier (NPI) and email address.
- **Provider Resilience**
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.t2.pr&hl=en_US
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/provider-resilience/id559806962>
Created for healthcare providers to self-assess for secondary trauma, burnout, compassion satisfaction, and overall resilience, and then get tailored stress-busting and compassion satisfaction building tools. Developed by psychologists at the National Center for Telehealth & Technology at the Defense Department.
- **Mindful USC**
<https://mindful.usc.edu/mindful-usc-mobile-app/>
Meditations and grounding exercises of varying lengths (3min - 30min) recorded by experts in mindfulness (e.g., Tara Brach, Jack Kornfield). Includes sections for: 2 minute meditations, Calming difficult emotions, When you're overwhelmed, Getting to sleep. When you start with an emotions check-in, the app offers tailored suggestions with quick links.
- **3 Good Things**
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=co.plumstudio.threegoodthings&hl=en_US
<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/three-good-things/id1212999482>
Gratitude journal based on research from Duke University that shows the power of simply listing "3 good things" from your day/week in bolstering a resilient mindset.



School Counseling News: May 2020
Submitted by Kevin Durr, School Counselor

Scholarships for the Class of 2020

Attention Seniors – There are plenty of scholarships available! Please visit our webpage www.alexandriacentral.org and navigate to Students & Parents – College, SAT/ ACT and Scholarship Information for important information and scholarship listings! In addition to being publicized on the Seniors Google Classroom, **all scholarships are available to download from my webpage in the Scholarship Application Download Area!** Please contact me with any questions kdurr@acsghosts.org.

The following Scholarships are available at this time:

[ACFA Scholarship](#)

Alexandria Central Faculty Association Scholarship - open to all ACS Senior Graduates. Due June 1.

[Alexandria Bay Rotary Club Scholarship](#)

\$1000 Scholarship for a senior who has demonstrated community service. Essay required. Due June 6.

[American Legion Nursing Scholarship D](#)

Scholarship for any student entering a certified Nursing Program. No Deadline. Submit before attending college.

[David H Aitcheson Memorial Scholarship for Science/Education](#)

Scholarship given annually to students who are pursuing a career in science and/or education. Due May 31.

[Eric Hutchinson Memorial Scholarship](#)

Eligibility: 1) Alexandria Central School Senior (male or female), 2) Registered player in the Town of Alexandria Minor Hockey Association or Thousand Island Minor Hockey Association (past or present), 3) Plan to attend a four-year college, two-year college or vocational school Full Time. Application Deadline May 28th.

[Masonic Lodge Scholarship](#)

Masonic Lodge Scholarship, preference given to students who have a relative that is a member. Due May 31.

[Miracle On The River Scholarship](#)

Scholarship for any student pursuing a career in a medical field. Application can be filled out with Acrobat Reader or printed and handwritten. Deadline is May 28.

[NYS Excelsior Scholarship](#)

Scholarship open to all students who plan on attending a SUNY College and residing/working in NYS and can cover up to full tuition.

Application opens May 1 and closes July 1. Application is online only: www.hesc.ny.gov

[PB&J Scholarship](#)

Scholarship for any student who has experienced challenges in their life and who have the drive to succeed and are attending a 2 or 4 year college. GPA is not a consideration. Application deadline 5/31/2020.

[Wellesley Island Fire Department Scholarship](#)

Preference will be given to applicants who

- Are current residents of Wellesley Island (not required)
- Are current members of a local fire department or EMS service.
- Plan to pursue a career in a field relating to Fire Service Technology, Emergency Medical Service or Paramedic.
- Are children of members of the Wellesley Island, Fishers Landing, LaFargeville or Alexandria Bay Volunteer Fire Department.
- Plan to become a member or supporter of a volunteer fire department or EMS service as an adult

Complete the application and submit a copy (scan, take a picture, etc.) to Mr. Durr by 6/1/2020.

FAFSA – Need Help?

A reminder that all students and parents must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Please contact Mr. Durr if you need any assistance with the FAFSA and set up an appointment.

JUNIORS - College Admission Exams:

Reminder: all Juniors who are interested in attending a 4-year college should take a college admissions exam (SAT or ACT). Juniors would have taken these exams this spring. Next year, more SAT and ACT exams will be offered in the fall to make up for the lack of testing options during the pandemic. Two-year colleges recommend that students take one of these exams, but they are not required for acceptance. This includes taking either the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College test (ACT). Students may register online at www.collegeboard.com for the SAT, or www.actstudent.org for the ACT. The test dates and deadlines to register for these exams are available on the SAT and ACT websites.

Virtual College Tours

Most colleges have really stepped up their Virtual Tours. During this time, I have spoken with many families who have taken advantage of this and found them to be very useful. Virtual tours can be accessed directly from the college websites. The following websites can also be used to access these:

<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/> - to access many private college virtual tours

<https://www.suny.edu/attend/visit-us/campus-visit/> - to access SUNY college virtual tours

Scheduling Polls

Students and parents are given the opportunity to express interest in scheduling polls that are being conducted through Google Poll surveys. These polls are meant for students to express interest in classes for next school year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about student elective preferences for the 2020-2021 school year.





United Concierge Medicine Virtual ER Highlights

- No cost for unlimited consults 24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year
- All of UCM healthcare providers are Board Certified Emergency Medicine Trained providers who work in the ER and Urgent Care; these healthcare providers take shifts with UCM.
- UCM healthcare providers treat everything from your child's pink eye to a suspected broken bone; if you don't require an ambulance at your side within 10 minutes or your life is in jeopardy, call UCM first. UCM can order medication {not controlled substances}, order diagnostic testing and labs, and keep you out of the ER, Urgent Care and even waiting to get in to see your family physician. If an ambulance is required UCM will call 911.
- If tests need to be ordered or you need to be referred for hands on medical care, UCM will help make the appointment for the patient and call ahead to let facility know you are coming.
- **ALL** calls start with a phone conversation, only when needed will the provider ask the patient to take a picture or request a secure video feed to further diagnose when medically necessary. This is all accomplished real time while the patient is on the phone with the provider through the UCMNow App.
- Employees / dependents can have a consult for general medical and medication questions, if the patient / dependents forgot their medication at home while out-of-town, UCM can call in a supply of your medication at a local pharmacy to get you through until you get back home.
- If the patient has no access to a smart phone, the patient can call for a consult from a land line as UCM providers can diagnose and treat most consults just over the phone.
- All consults are followed-up at 100% with the patient to make sure the patient does not need any further assistance from UCM regarding their recent illness or injury.
- The only time the patient will have to use their health insurance is when UCM prescribes a medication {pharmacy benefit}, order a test or refer to a hands-on provider due to medical necessity.
- If a secured email is available, UCM will forward the consult notes from the virtual visit to your primary doctor.
- UCM is completely confidential and HIPPA compliant. UCM acts just like a brick & mortar facility you would walk into.
- UCM will provide a doctor's note, if medically necessary, for the day of the consult that can be provided to the Employer or school should a student not be able to participate in physical activities.
- Download the UCMnow app {www.UCMnow.com} or call 1 -844-4-VIP DOC
- How to get a user ID and password - If the employee wants to have access to the past consult information, then he / she would need to call UCM and get a temporary ID to enter in the Patient Resources on the App and create their own password for future access. **It is not mandatory to create an ID and password to request a consult and receive services.**
- Each person utilizing UCM would have their own Patient Resource portal ID and password {even young children} due to HIPPA regulations. Again, the Patient Resource is only for viewing past consult records.

ALEXANDRIA CENTRAL SCHOOL 2020-2021 School Year

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

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13	14	★	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September (19)	
2	Superintendents Conference Day
3	Superintendents Conference Day
7	Labor Day
8	Opening of School
October (21)	
9	End of 5 Weeks
12	Columbus Day
November (17)	
11	Veterans Day
13	End of 10 Weeks
23-24	UPK-Grade 8 Parent Conferences -23rd from 12-8 p.m. -24th 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December (17)	
18	End of 15 Weeks
24-31	Christmas Holiday
January (19)	
1	Christmas Holiday
18	Martin Luther King Day
26-29	Regents Exams
29	End of 20 Weeks
February (15)	
15	Winter Recess (President's Day)
16-19	Winter Recess
March (23)	
5	End of 25 Weeks
April (16)	
2	Good Friday
5-9	Spring Recess
16	End of 30 Weeks
May (20)	
21	End of 35 Weeks
31	Memorial Day
June (19)	
16-25	Regents Days
25	Superintendents Conference Day
25	Last Day of School-End of 40 Weeks
Total number of days 186	

January

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March

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28	29	30	31			

April

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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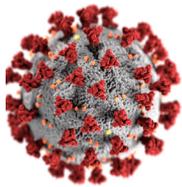
May

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.



Alexandria Central School
34 Bolton Ave
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

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Vote Day Details

What exactly will I be voting on?

*Budget; \$13,939,687

*Bonding of Buses

*3 Board Member Seats

When and where is the vote?

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.26, the annual budget vote and school board election has been scheduled for June 9, 2020 and will be held by absentee ballot only.

Who is eligible to vote?

American citizens at least 18 years of age and who have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Do I need to pre-register to vote?

No, pre-registration is not required.

How do I request an Absentee Ballot if I haven't received one in the mail by May 29th?

Contact the District Clerk by email at rgill@acsghosts.org or by calling 315-482-9971 ext. 2060. To be counted, all completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00p.m. on June 9, 2020.

The Budget Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 6:00 pm via video conferencing. The link can be found on the District website at www.alexandriacentral.org

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

Postal Customer

Newsletter — May 2020 *Budget Edition



Alexandria Central School
Home of the Purple Ghosts

