



### At a glance:

**PROPOSED BUDGET:**  
**\$56,092,979**

**SPENDING INCREASE:**  
**\$831,774 / 1.51%**

**TAX LEVY INCREASE:**  
**\$263,899 / 2.49%**

## Proposed budget includes a 1.51% increase to expenses and 2.49% tax levy increase

Dear Ogdensburg City School District Residents,

The Ogdensburg City School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$56,092,979 on March 24, 2025. The proposed spending plan represents a 1.51% increase over the current year budget and a 2.49% increase to the local tax levy. This will be the first time in six years that the district has increased the tax levy. The current projected tax rate of \$21.90 per thousand is equivalent to the district's tax rate in the 2005-06 school year, 20 years ago.

The top priority in developing this budget is to ensure that every student has access to the resources, support, and opportunities needed to excel academically, socially, and emotionally. Through both classroom instruction and extracurricular activities, the district is committed to delivering a comprehensive education that prepares students for success in college, their careers, and beyond.

The district is dedicated to offering a rigorous, dynamic, and engaging curriculum designed to meet the diverse needs of the student population. This budget prioritizes the allocation of resources to enhance instructional quality through the development

and implementation of innovative teaching strategies. Additionally, it supports the adoption of new, research-based curriculum materials that foster deeper learning, critical thinking, and academic growth. Investing in these initiatives will help to maintain an educational environment that empowers every student to reach their full potential.

The district will continue to focus on small-scale capital projects called "Capital Outlay Projects." The proposed 2025-26 Capital Outlay Project will allow the district to complete \$100,000 in improvements to district facilities, of which 98% of the costs are reimbursed by the state. This project will have an estimated net cost of \$2,000. If approved by voters, the proposed Capital Outlay Project will address areas in which water has begun to infiltrate the buildings.

In addition to presenting information regarding the proposed 2025-26 school budget, this edition of the Bridges Newsletter highlights Ogdensburg Free Academy's Class of 2025 valedictorian, Miss Gabriella Ott and salutatorian, Miss Brooke Barr (see page 4).

As a reminder, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025,

## Vote:

**Tuesday,**  
**May 20, 2025**  
**Noon-9 p.m.**

**EDGAR A. NEWELL, II**  
**MEMORIAL GOLDEN DOME**

### Also on the ballot:

Library Referendum Proposition  
(See page 5)

Board of Education Election  
(See page 8)

school district voters will cast a ballot for two members of the Ogdensburg City School District Board of Education, as well as voting on the proposed 2025-26 budget. Included on this year's ballot is a Public Library referendum seeking additional funding for the Ogdensburg Public Library. Please note that the library functions independently and is not governed by the Ogdensburg City School District.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Kendall,  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## Celebrating Excellence: Honoring Student-Athletes' Achievements

### OFA Football Team Shines in Championships and Academic Excellence: Team Awards & Highlights

**Champions-** Section X Class B and North Country Super Bowl

#### Highlight Moments

- Brooks Garvey's 31-yard field goal clinched the Section X Championship with a thrilling 23-22 win over Potsdam
- 14-10 victory over Beekmantown in Plattsburgh to win the Class B North Country Super Bowl

#### Academic Achievements

- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team- Top 75% of grades averaging over 90 for fall marking period
- NYSPHSAA Athlete of Distinction- Bryan Doser, Brian Duprey, Nicholi Ramsdell, Madden West

#### League Honors

- NAC Outstanding Lineman- Noah Jones
- NAC MVP Defense- Lucca LaBella

- Sportsmanship- Bryan Doser
- First Team All-NAC- Madden West, Nicholi Ramsdell, Ashtyn Amo, Noah Jones, Lucca LaBella
- Second Team All-NAC- Astryn Grenier

#### Team Awards

- Robert Hynes Award- Bryan Doser
- Outstanding Defensive Player- Ashtyn Amo
- Dixie Walker Award- Brian Duprey
- Outstanding Lineman- Noah Jones
- Coach Johnson Ironman Award- Nicholi Ramsdell
- Outstanding Offensive Player- Madden West
- MVP- Lucca LaBella

## Exploring Beyond the Classroom: Students Empowered by Outdoor Education

Since its inception by Mr. Tony Williams four years ago, OFA's Outdoor Education class has transformed the lives of many students. Mr. Williams' passion for the outdoors, combined with the support of principal Mrs. Cindy Tuttle, has shaped a curriculum that evolves each year, providing students with practical skills and empowering experiences.

Students learn essential survival skills such as building fires, handling hypothermia, and simulating survival scenarios like surviving in water while fully clothed. Additionally, they practice simulating ice rescues in the pool, turning their pants into life jackets. They also learn how to purify water from leaves and vegetation.

Mr. Williams challenges students with projects like choosing five items for survival on a stranded island, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. His humor and hands-on teaching approach make learning fun, whether its to use items to simulate a fire in the classroom, or building stretchers to carry "injured" classmates.



This school year, Mrs. Amy Lemke joined Mr. Williams as a co-teacher for the class. One of her favorite experiences so far has been hiking with students at Higley Flow State Park. She noted that some of the students in the class



had never been in the woods before and were excited to build cooking fires to roast hot dogs and marshmallows for lunch. Mrs. Lemke taught the students how to whittle their own cooking sticks.

Students in the outdoor education class have also been exposed to potential careers, such as wildland firefighting, smokejumpers, backlighters, Department of Environmental Conservation jobs, wildland biology, and drone operations. Of these professions, drone-flying is up-and-coming as New York State hires individuals to operate drones for search and rescue, wildlife monitoring, and dog training.

At the end of this school year, Mr. Williams will hand over the reigns for the outdoor education course to Mrs. Lemke. With continued district support for supplies and field trips, the course will continue to thrive and offer students unique opportunities outside of the classroom.

## Little Devils Meet Big Devils: A New Tradition of Mentorship and Fun!

At the start of the 2024-25 school year, a heartwarming new tradition emerged at JFK and Madill Elementary Schools. This initiative, called "Little Devils Meet Big Devils," brings together kindergarten students and OFA seniors, fostering connections and creating memorable experiences.

The program's inaugural ceremony took place in the fall on the OFA football field. Kindergarten students joined the class of 2025 seniors on the turf where they received t-shirts displaying "Ogdensburg Free Academy Class of 2037." In March, the participating students reunited for a morning filled with fun activities including exciting games in the gymnasium, ice skating and broomball at the Dome, cookie decorating, hot chocolate sipping, and coloring sessions.

Little Devils Meet Big Devils will resume next fall with a new group of students. The program has been successful in providing our students with lasting memories and fostering a sense of community. The school district is excited to continue this new tradition and looks forward to seeing its positive impact well into the future.



# Message from Business Manager

Information in this newsletter presents a proposed school budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year that balances excellent educational programs for the students with a 2.49% levy increase for the taxpayers.

The budget development process for the proposed plan began last October. Information packets were provided to all Ogdensburg City School District staff with a timeline for gathering data and reporting needs for the upcoming school year to the leadership team. School administrators, along with department heads from libraries, technology, special education, buildings and grounds, and athletics attended Board of Education meetings to answer questions from school board members on each department's budget requests.

While preparing this budget, the Board of Education considered several concerns. The City of Ogdensburg, at 54%, has one of the highest percentages of tax-exempt properties in the State of New York. Additionally, in the current year, approximately 65% of the district's revenue comes from state and federal sources. The latest information from the recently approved NY State Budget indicates that the district will receive a 2% increase in state foundation aid for the 2025-26 school year. The district continues to find savings within the budget to offset rising costs. Over the last couple of years, for example, the district has seen multimillion dollar savings from switching health insurance plans, revamping special education classrooms, and running a district transportation department. The district will also appropriate approximately \$4,237,260 of fund balance, \$200,000 from the debt service fund, and \$575,000 from other reserves to balance the budget.

Expenditures for the proposed 2025-26 budget will also have a 1.51% increase from the current year's budget. The district has budget

appropriations for the proposed 2025-26 Capital Outlay Project, which will allow us to complete \$100,000 in improvements to district facilities. Of these costs, 98% are reimbursed by the state, meaning this project will have an estimated net cost of \$2,000 to the local taxpayer. Increases in the budget are primarily in program costs as the district is committed to improving not only savings for the taxpayer, but also for better supporting the needs of the students.

The budget proposes a tax levy increase of 2.49%. The tax liability is affected by several factors, including changes to property assessments and changes to exemptions. If a taxpayer has applied and received a STAR exemption or credit, this would eliminate the school taxes on the first \$30,000 of assessed value for the property. It is important to note that the district has stayed within the allowable limits of the state's tax cap legislation. Revenue sources will be approved by the Board of Education in August 2025.

The budget being presented for a public vote on May 20 maintains the district's reputation as a community-oriented institution that meets the needs of Ogdensburg City School District's students and taxpayers alike. The district is confident that after reading this newsletter you will feel that the Board of Education, administration, and staff have developed a spending plan that provides a sound basic educational program that benefits all students, while being mindful of taxpayers.

Please vote on May 20.

Sincerely,

Kaleb J. Bertrand, *Business Manager*

Celebrating Excellence — Continued from Page 1

## OFA Volleyball Team Dominates Section X Class B and West Division

The OFA Volleyball Team soared to victory in the fall

- ✔ Clinched the Section X Class B championship
- ✔ Secured first place honors in the West Division

## OFA Hockey: A Historic Season of Championships and Sportsmanship

- ✔ Section X Team Sportsmanship Award
- ✔ League Championship
- ✔ Section X Playoff Championship
- ✔ State Regional Championship
- ✔ State Semifinal Victory
- ✔ All-State First Team- Laughlin O'Donnell
- ✔ All-State Second Team- Ty Jacobs
- ✔ All-State Co-Player of the Year- Teagan Frederick
- ✔ All-State Co-Coach of the Year- Jon Frederick

For the first time ever, the OFA boys hockey team clinched both the league and playoff championships in the same year.

## Unstoppable Blue Devils: Celebrating a Season of Triumph and Tenacity with OFA Wrestling

- ✔ Nathan Wood Memorial Tournament- Two individual champions and several podium finishes
- ✔ Early season wins- Strong performances at home and on the road
- ✔ Underclassmen success- Over half of the student-athletes

posted winning records. Standouts Joe Green, Cayne Trimm, and Larry Young had 60+ victories

- ✔ Section X Tournament- Four wrestlers competed in the sectional finals, Joe Green, Cayne Trimm, Larry Young, and Connor Young
- ✔ State Tournament- Connor and Cayne represented Section X in Albany. Connor was the flag carrier
- ✔ Next season- The team will return with only two starters lost to graduation. Off-season preparations have already begun

As junior Astryn Grenier (152 lbs.) often says, "The Blue Flame burns bright, baby."

## Cheer Team Winter Season Highlights: OFA's Unstoppable Journey

- ✔ Undefeated in Class C
- ✔ Grand Champions at their home competition
- ✔ Section X Champions
- ✔ Competed at the state championships

## OFA Track Stars Sprint to Success: Qualifying for New York State Championships

The OFA Indoor Track and Field Team proudly sent three outstanding student-athletes to the New York State Championship meet in Staten Island:

- ✔ Katie Wilson (10th grade)
- ✔ Levi Biller (11th grade, Heuvelton)
- ✔ Gabe Peabody (12th grade)

Katie and Gabe both won Section X titles in the 60-meter hurdles and broke the OFA school records in those events.

## OFA Key Club Wins 10 Awards At NY Leadership Conference

The Ogdensburg Free Academy Key Club won 10 awards at the New York State Leadership Training Conference in Albany. The awards included six first-place honors, and a tie for top recognition, showcasing one of the best school and community service programs in the nation.

The 10 awards included:

- ✔ Top honors as a Distinguished Diamond Level Club tying for its overall service program.
- ✔ 1st Place Single Service Bronze Division for having the best service project of any club its size in New York State.
- ✔ 1st Place for Kiwanis Family Relations for its joint service program with its Kiwanis Club and Builders Club.
- ✔ 1st Place Gracyn Barkley, Outstanding Vice President
- ✔ 1st Place Jude Cadieux, Outstanding Freshman
- ✔ 1st Place Jaelyn Dewey, Outstanding Junior
- ✔ Distinguished President Azin Paige
- ✔ Distinguished Senior Marissa Lovely
- ✔ 3rd Place Major Emphasis
- ✔ Early Bird Dues thanks to Treasurer Annabel Curtis

Other Key Club officers this year included Webmaster Mia Jeneault and Secretary Cayne Trimm.

“Our club competed against some of New York State’s most elite high schools, like Brooklyn Technical, Bronx Science and other nationally known high schools,” said Ogdensburg Kiwanis Club Advisor James E. Reagen. “The Ogdensburg Free Academy Key Club’s members and officers can be very proud of being recognized by their statewide organization for their hard work, dedication and service to their community.”

Continued on Page 5

## Ogdensburg Free Academy Class of 2025 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

**Miss Gabriella Ott**, daughter of Mr. William and Mrs. Tonya Ott of Ogdensburg, NY, represents her class of 117 seniors as the valedictorian with an overall grade point average of 99.18.

Gabriella will graduate in June 2025 with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors, showcasing her mastery in mathematics and science. Her dedication to academics is evident, receiving an invitation to the Academic Recognition Ceremony each year of her high school career. Her Advanced Placement test scores have earned her the AP Scholar with Honors designation.

Gabriella’s dedication extends beyond the classroom. She is an active member of National Honor Society, performs vocal music, and plays the clarinet. She has been involved in concert band, jazz band, marching band, pep band, and has represented OFA in All-County and Area All-State bands. She has performed in the jazz rock choir and senior chorus and has been selected to perform vocal NYSSMA solos. Her love for music is matched by her enthusiasm for musical theater, where she has earned roles in school and community productions.

In addition to her musical pursuits, Gabriella is a Varsity swimmer, competition cheerleader, and softball player. She has been enrolled in dance classes since pre-school, further demonstrating her commitment to the arts.

Gabriella is the Alan Krause Citizenship Award recipient and was featured as an Academic All-Star on WWNV TV7 News at Noon.

Gabriella will pursue a major in medical lab technology at Binghamton University.

VALEDICTORIAN:  
MISS GABRIELLA OTT



**Miss Brooke Barr**, daughter of Mr. Steven and Mrs. Renee Barr of Ogdensburg, NY, represents her senior class of 117 students as salutatorian with a grade point average of 98.59. Brooke has consistently held second rank in her class throughout her high school journey. This June, Brooke will graduate with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, showcasing her mastery in mathematics and science.

During her time at Ogdensburg Free Academy, Brooke has participated as an active member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. She has also competed as a three-season athlete and participated in volleyball, cheerleading, and softball. Brooke’s leadership qualities have been exemplified by her role as captain on her volleyball and cheerleading teams.

Brooke was named to two first-team All-Northern teams in cheerleading, first and second-team All-Northern in volleyball, and a second-team All-Northern in softball. Additionally, she has been honored as a Section X Senior Athlete of Distinction and a NYSPHSAA Individual Scholar Athlete.

Balancing a rigorous course load including several Advanced Placement and dual enrollment courses, Brooke has excelled academically while maintaining her athletic commitments and responsibilities.

During the summer, Brooke balances multiple jobs, working as a lifeguard at the Ogdensburg City Pool and Lisbon beach, and serving as a recreation worker for the city.

Brooke intends to pursue a career in healthcare, and has been accepted for direct entry into a physician assistant program.

SALUTATORIAN:  
BROOKE BARR



## If the Proposed Budget Is Voted Down...

Districts have three options if a school budget is voted down — (1) put the same budget before voters a second time, (2) put a revised budget before voters, or (3) move to a contingent budget.

If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a district must adopt its contingent budget.

Under the property tax cap law, a school district that adopts a contingent budget cannot increase its tax levy in any amount.

For 2025-26, a contingent budget would total \$55,374,479. As such, the district would need to eliminate \$718,500 from its current proposed budget to meet those requirements. This reduction would have a direct impact on student education.

Cuts that would be made under a contingent budget could include the following:

- ✓ Some extracurricular activities
- ✓ Some athletics
- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ Student counseling services
- ✓ Risk prevention services
- ✓ Supplies/equipment for music, athletics, and technology
- ✓ Contractual professional memberships and professional development

## SAMPLE BALLOT LANGUAGE

### 2025-26 Budget

Resolved that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged Ogdensburg City School District for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$56,092,979 be and the same is hereby approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law.

YES



NO



### Board of Education Election

Petitions nominating candidates for the office of Board of Education member, elect two (2) member(s) for a 5-year term, commencing on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2030, shall be filed with the Clerk at said District Office, 1100 State Street, Ogdensburg, New York 13669 of the Ogdensburg City School District no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 (100 SIGNATURES REQUIRED)



Connor G. Sutton



Elizabeth E. Testani

### Library Referendum Proposition

Resolved that Pursuant to the Education Law, Section 259, The Board of Education of the Ogdensburg City School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the Annual School District Budget, an increase of \$123,692 in addition to the current appropriation of \$350,000, for a new total of \$473,692, which shall be paid to the Ogdensburg Public Library for the support and maintenance of the Library; with the appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Ogdensburg City School District.

YES



NO



### OFA Key Club — Continued from Page 4



**AWARD WINNERS** - The Ogdensburg Free Academy Key Club won 10 awards at the New York State Leadership Training Conference in Albany over the weekend. Shown from left: Kiwanis Advisor Jim Reagen, Raven Planty, Alexis Brown, Vada Knowlton, Lauren Beldock, Ella Bateman, Grace Jeneault, Treasurer Annabel Curtis, Webmaster Mia Jeneault, Faculty Advisor Ruth Anne Barkley, incoming Secretary Kate Chapman, Jaelyn Dewey, Vice President Gracyn Barkley and President Azin Paige.

OFA Key Club faculty advisor Ruth-Anne Barkley credits local organizations and the community for club's success. "We are grateful to the Ogdensburg Kiwanis Club, the Ogdensburg Central School District and Ogdensburg Free Academy for their constant support," Barkley said. "Our success would not have been possible without the overwhelming support our club has received from the greater community throughout the years."

## Tax Levy Increase

Estimated True value tax rate*	\$21.90
Percent Increase	2.49%
Estimated Annual Increase on \$100,000 home*	\$37.24
Estimated Monthly Increase on \$100,000 home*	\$3.10

\* Tax rates will vary depending on home value and municipality. Final rates will be set in the summer when tax rolls are finalized.

# 2025-26 Budget Summary

## REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2024-25 BUDGETED	2025-26 PROJECTED
Property Tax	\$10,598,360	\$10,862,259
State Aid	\$36,046,488	\$36,478,460
PILOT	\$70,000	\$150,000
Fund Balance	\$4,000,000	\$4,237,260
Reserves	\$816,848	\$775,000
Other	\$3,729,509	\$3,590,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,261,205</b>	<b>\$56,092,979</b> 1.51% INCREASE

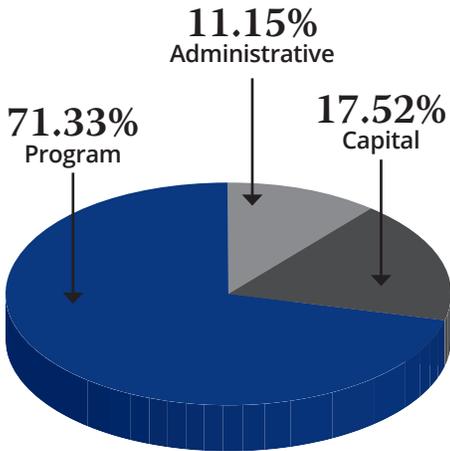
## EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2024-25 BUDGETED	2025-26 PROJECTED
General Support	\$6,670,605	\$6,833,455
Instruction	\$26,439,200	\$27,001,624
Pupil Transportation	\$1,685,000	\$1,735,000
Employee Benefits	\$15,631,000	\$15,691,000
Debt Service	\$4,645,400	\$4,641,900
Interfund Transfers	\$190,000	\$190,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,261,205</b>	<b>\$56,092,979</b> 1.51% INCREASE

## THREE-PART BUDGET:

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories— program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year’s costs. Ogdensburg’s three-part budget is as follows:



CATEGORY	2024-25 BUDGETED	2025-26 PROJECTED
<b>Program</b> Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases).	\$39,523,090 71.52% OF BUDGET	\$40,009,863 71.33% OF BUDGET
<b>Administrative</b> Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.	\$5,972,310 10.81% OF BUDGET	\$6,254,970 11.15% OF BUDGET
<b>Capital</b> Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.	\$9,765,805 17.67% OF BUDGET	\$9,828,146 17.52% OF BUDGET
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,261,205</b>	<b>\$56,092,979</b>

## WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT

FOR EVERY DOLLAR OGDENSBURG SPENDS...



About 44 cents goes directly to classroom instruction\*

About 28 cents is spent on employee benefits

About 8 cents goes to debt service

About 7 cents goes to operating schools\*

About 3 cents goes to transporting students to and from school and school-related activities

About 8 cents goes to the administration of the schools’ programs and services\*

About 1 cent supports other instructional activities\*

About 1 cent goes to extracurricular and athletic offerings for students\*

\*without employee benefits allocated

# 2025-26 Ogdensburg City School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$55,261,205	\$56,092,979	\$55,374,479
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$831,774	\$(718,500)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.51%	(1.28)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
<b>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>\$10,598,360</b>	<b>\$10,862,259</b>	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$10,598,360</b>	<b>\$10,862,259</b>	<b>\$263,899</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$11,146,436	\$11,243,756	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$10,598,360	\$10,862,259	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 548,076	\$ 381,497	
Administrative Component	\$5,972,310	\$6,254,970	\$6,026,470
Program Component	\$39,523,090	\$40,009,863	\$39,894,863
Capital Component	\$9,765,805	\$9,828,146	\$9,453,146

\* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-2026 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated, most equipment and the capital outlay project have been removed.

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

Description	Amount
N/A	

## Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$657.00
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Ogdensburg City School District, St. Lawrence County, New York, will be held at Ogdensburg Free Academy, Edgar A. Newell II, Memorial Golden Dome, 1100 State Street Ogdensburg, New York 13669 (All Residents) in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 12 and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the above school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

## Attendance Bikes Rolling in to Fight Chronic Absenteeism at JFK and Madill Elementary Schools

At JFK and Madill Elementary Schools, a new initiative called "Principal Attendance Bikes" has been introduced this school year to boost student attendance. The district has been actively working to reduce chronic absenteeism, which is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year. To creatively emphasize the importance of regular school attendance, principals Mrs. Christina Frank, Mrs. SueEllen Bouchard, and Mrs. Amy DiSalvo, have launched this fun new program.



Students who attend school daily are automatically entered into a weekly lottery. The winners are rewarded with the unique opportunity to be chauffeured around the school by their principal on a tandem bicycle. Throughout the day, these lucky students ride to their classrooms, special area instruction, lunch, and dismissal, enjoying a fun and memorable experience. This initiative has students excited to show up at school and make every day count!

# Ogdensburg

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1100 State St  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

## Board of Education

Mr. Ronald Johnson, President  
Mr. Craig Lalonde, Vice President  
Mrs. Reneé Grizzuto  
Mr. Douglas Loffler  
Ms. Pamela Luckie  
Mrs. Angela McRoberts  
Mrs. Vicky May Peo  
Mr. Connor Sutton  
Mrs. Elizabeth Testani

Kevin K. Kendall, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Brooke L. Reid, *Assistant Superintendent*

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Erin Conner, Editor

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## CURRENT RESIDENT



# Ogdensburg

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-26  
BRIDGES NEWSLETTER

# VOTE:

Tuesday,  
May 20, 2025  
Noon-9 p.m.

EDGAR A. NEWELL, II  
MEMORIAL GOLDEN DOME

1100 State Street, Ogdensburg,  
New York (*All Residents*)

**\$56,092,979** budget  
proposal for 2025-26

**2.49%**  
Tax Levy Increase

Visit [www.ogdensburgk12.org](http://www.ogdensburgk12.org) for  
more information regarding this  
year's proposed budget.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Election of two Board of Education members to serve five-year terms from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030.

Please visit the district website for more information about the candidates running for the open seats on the Board of Education.

## ABSENTEE OR EARLY VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 20, 2025 can cast their votes by absentee or early vote by mail ballot. To request an absentee or early vote by mail ballot, please contact the district office.

Absentee ballots are available if you are:

- ✔ Unable to vote in person because of illness
- ✔ Planning to be out of the area on vacation or business
- ✔ Confined to prison due to conviction of an offense other than a felony
- ✔ Accompanying a spouse, parent or child of the same residence who cannot come to the polls for one of the above reasons