The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.
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En Route WCSD Newsletter

WCSD District Offices 298-5000
25 Corporate Park Drive
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Wappingers Schools

Elementary
Brinckerhoff…………………… 897-6800
Fishkill……………………….. 897-6780
Fishkill Plains………………… 227-1770
Gayhead……………………… 227-1756
James S. Evans……………… 298-5240
Kinry Road…………………… 463-7322
Myers Corners………………. 298-5260
Oak Grove…………………… 298-5280
Sheafe Road…………………. 298-5290
Vassar Road…………………. 463-7860

Secondary
Van Wyck JHS………………… 227-1700
Wappingers JHS…………….. 298-5200
John Jay HS…………………. 897-6700
Roy C. Ketcham HS………… 298-5100
Orchard View AHS…………… 298-5000

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Vice-President
Robert Rubin

Paul Galletta
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Karen Mauhs Karath
John Lumia
Babu Munusamy
Tracy Pelton
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Assistant Superintendent for
Human Resources and Labor Relations
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Assistant Superintendent for Compliance
and Information Systems
Daren Lolkema (DASA Coordinator)

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and Business Development
Kristen Crandall

Executive Director of Special Education
and Student Support Services
Richard Zipp

Director of Facilities and Operations
Ronald Broas

Editor & Designer: Amy Watkins
Printed by Southern Dutchess News
Dear WCSD Community,

In Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) we continue to take great pride in embracing the opportunity to work in collaboration to meet the needs and enhance the educational opportunities for all of our students. By creating a budget that reflects the goals of the Board of Education and administration, we are able to fund a well-rounded education within the tax cap limit.

Based on our collaborative accomplishments throughout this very important process, the WCSD Board reviewed the Superintendent’s Recommended Budget and unanimously approved the 2017–2018 school district budget. The WCSD community will be able to vote on this proposition, as well as one additional proposition identified below, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. The budget proposes a levy-to-levy increase of .95%, which is slightly under one percent, and a budget-to-budget increase of 1.80% from the previous school year’s budget, which was also successfully passed by you -- the voters.

This was a shared effort and process that began since the fall of 2016. It included many conversations held during formal Board of Education meetings, Superintendent Budget Public Forums, and the WCSD Budget Q&A webpage. This year, the community was invited to provide feedback about the budget at an additional public Budget Hearing prior to the approval by the Board of Education. The voices of all of our WCSD community members are essential to the development of the proposed Superintendent’s Recommended Budget.

On May 16, 2017, the WCSD community will also vote on the Bus Purchase proposition. The Bus Purchase proposition is a request for the purchase of new school transportation vehicles with the issuance of short term borrowings. After careful consideration of the District’s current fleet of vehicles and the needs of the students of the WCSD, a vehicle replacement plan was approved by the Board of Education. This proposition will be replacing out-of-service vehicles as opposed to an expansion of the current fleet.

This year the board member election is for four (4) members of the Wappingers Central School District Board of Education, three (3) members of the Board of Education for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020 and one (1) member of the Board of Education for a one (1) year and six (6) week term starting May 18, 2017 and expiring June 30, 2018. The candidates will appear on the ballot as follows: Keith Odums, John C. Lumia, Peggy Kelland and Tracy V. Pelton. The three candidates with the most votes will serve three-year terms and the candidate with the least amount of votes will serve a one-year six-week term.

We are grateful to the community, our Board of Education, District and building administrators, teachers, and support staff who contributed to the development of this budget, leading to additional funding for science and social studies curriculum and professional development in elementary classrooms, expanding the cursive writing program to grade 4, increased technology support in the classrooms, additional BOCES Career and Technical Institute slots for students interested in the vocational trades, Summer Scholar opportunities for high school students, and enhancements to the fine and performing arts program. This budget provides for minimal expenditure increases while adding to student programming and a continued focus on the needs of the District’s infrastructure.

More information about the Budget, Bus Purchase proposition, and Board candidates is included in this newsletter and also available on our website at www.wappingerssschools.org. In addition, you will see all of the great accomplishments of our students and our past and present building projects. This information will assist you in making informed decisions on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Sincerely,

Peggy Kelland  
Board of Education President  

José L. Carrión  
Superintendent of Schools
## Overall Budget Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year</th>
<th>Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year</th>
<th>Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions</td>
<td>$221,199,261</td>
<td>$225,181,606</td>
<td>$223,671,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year</td>
<td>$3,982,345</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,472,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
<td>1.12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in the Consumer Price Index</td>
<td>1.26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount

- $159,426,539

### B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable

- 0

### C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **

- 0

### D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy

- 0

### E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)

- $159,426,539

### F. Total Permissible Exclusions

- $4,628,384

### G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions

- $154,798,155

### H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)

- $154,798,155

### I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **

- 0

### Administrative Component

- $18,089,054

### Program Component

- $179,517,313

### Capital Component

- $23,592,894

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. Equipment, General Construction Supplies, Learning Materials - Math & Science, Field Trips, Summer Scholars Program, BOCES – CTI slots, Special Education Teacher (2), K-6 teachers up to 5 positions per WCT contract, English as a New Language (ENL) Teacher (1) and Teaching Assistants (9)

** 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Purchase</td>
<td>$2,060,383</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, will be held at the following schools: Fishkill Elementary, Fishkill Plains Elementary, Vassar Road Elementary, Wappingers Junior High, Gayhead Elementary and Myers Corners Elementary in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at between the hours of 7:30am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

** Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings **

- $712,74
What to Look For on the Ballot

**Proposition 1: 2017-2018 Budget**

Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017, in the amount of $225,181,606 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

**Proposition 2: Bus Purchase**

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Poughkeepsie and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to purchase student transportation vehicles at a maximum estimated sum of $2,000,000, and said amount or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be issued by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by law, and for which obligations of the District may be issued?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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Wappingers Central School District Board of Education

Vote for Four (4)

The election is for four (4) members of the Board of Education, three (3) members of the Board of Education for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020 and one (1) member of the Board of Education for a one (1) year term commencing May 18, 2017 and expiring June 30, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keith Oduns</th>
<th>John C., Lumba</th>
<th>Peggy Kelland</th>
<th>Troy V., Pelton</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Write-In</td>
<td>Write-In</td>
<td>Write-In</td>
<td>Write-In</td>
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</table>

Contingency Budget

A contingency budget is prepared and adopted by the Board when the voters have rejected the proposed budget. The Board of Education may present a proposed budget to the community only twice. The total spending authorization imposed under a contingency budget is limited by the Property Tax Cap Legislation. The tax cap of a contingent budget cannot exceed the prior year's levy, thus representing a zero percent increase. The contingency budget calculated for the 2017-18 school year would be $223,671,792. If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget items listed below would be eliminated. The difference to the average homeowner, based on current assessment information, would be approximately .67% less than the 2017-18 adopted budget.

If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget will be reduced by the following:

- Equipment
- General Construction Supplies
- Learning Materials
- Field Trips
- Summer Scholars
- BOCES CTI Slots
- (2) Special Education Teachers
- (Up to 6) K-6 Teachers
- ENL Teacher
- (9) Teaching Assistants
Board of Education Candidates
(as they appear on the ballot)

1 Keith Odums
I am a long-time resident of the Wappingers community, married, and have two children who attend elementary school within WCSD. I have a Business Administration degree from St. Michael’s College and a MBA from Long Island University. For over 20 years, I have worked professionally as a business manager and consultant within the Telecommunications, Finance and Healthcare industries. Why Elect Keith Odums?

• I am a community member and taxpayer just like you.
• I believe unequivocally, in the value of public education.
• I am a nonpartisan and do not have any hidden agendas.

My Commitment to You as School Board Member
• Will look out for your kids.
• Will hold everyone accountable, including myself.
• Will be a vigilant watchdog to:
  • Adopt and monitor a win-win budget for students, parents and employees.
  • Ensure policy governance is accurately implemented and monitored.
• Will support student access for the best education with allocated tax dollars.

I am running for the School Board to be directly involved in the numerous important academic and fiscal decisions WCSD will encounter. Decisions that will have a direct impact on the quality of education offered to all children within the WCSD.

I believe, “Good partnerships are essential for a community to thrive.” To partner with the WCSD, and serve the community in this accountable position has been my aspiration. As an active volunteer serving on a non-profit board and community volunteer leadership roles, I bring a passion for engaging strong partnerships amongst the community.

I aim to leverage my professional experiences as I commit to listen to the community, investigate the issues and study the data to achieve the WCSD mission. Education should not be a line item on the school board’s agenda – it should be the only item. May 16th, cast your vote for KEITH ODUMS.

2 John C. Lumia
My name is John Lumia. My education includes a BA from Marist and a MA in Mathematics from St. John’s University. Having taught at Marist College, Dutchess Community College, and Roy C. Ketcham High School for 32 years, I appreciate the importance of providing our students with a solid educational foundation.

I have been a member of the WCSD Board of Education since 2008. I currently serve on the Capital Improvement Committee, the Policy Committee, the Personnel Committee, Long Term Development Committee and District-wide School Safety Team. I am proud that, as a member of the Personnel Committee, I have supported the hiring of not only many of the present Principals and all our Administrators, but also the most qualified teachers.

The 2013 Capital Improvement Committee, of which I have been the chairperson, has overseen many positive improvements to our infrastructure, will be paid in full by eliminating all rentals. The present Capital Improvement Projects will continue improving our infrastructure.

As a member of the Board of Education, we have eliminated the overcrowded conditions by redistricting and having a consistent K-6 configuration. To continue having a successful school district, it is important that our teachers are provided with training opportunities to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Although tests should measure student’s learning and teacher’s effectiveness, they are not the only way to measure success. Although I am not in favor of inundating students with tests, which may not be age appropriate, I am a supporter of high standards and our locally-developed curriculum to address those standards.

Should I be re-elected, my votes will always align with the best interests of the education of our students and for the taxpayers of our district.

3 Peggy Kelland
I was elected to the Wappingers School Board in 2014, and for the past two years have served as its president, participating in all Board committees and many school events. My aim has been to increase clear two-way communication and cooperative efforts both within the Board and between the Board and the community.

In this I have used my 35 years experience on non-profit and public boards, including AAUW Poughkeepsie (President), Dutchess Interfaith Council (President), League of Women Voters (President), Junior League of Poughkeepsie (Vice-President), Dutchess Child Care Council (Vice-Chair), Mid-Hudson Institute (Vice-President), Zion Episcopal Church, Town of Poughkeepsie Zoning Board, and Dutchess County Planning Federation.

Our son and daughter attended Oak Grove, Myers, Kinny, W.JH, and RCK, and we currently have a grandson at Oak Grove. I was a PTA room mother for 9 years and a parent representative on the Site Leadership Team at RCK. I also served as a Girl Scout and Cub Scout Leader, and am Director of a non-denominational Vacation Bible School in Wappingers Falls.

This experience as a parent and volunteer complements my professional background as an educator. I earned my bachelor’s degree from Smith College and my master’s from Teachers College, Columbia University. After training teachers as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, I taught high school social studies, elementary school, reading improvement, and math remediation. As a full time teacher, long term and per diem substitute in all Wappingers school buildings, I am aware of the needs of students of all abilities and grade levels, including the importance of art, music, and athletics.

In the past three years we have reduced overcrowding and class sizes, restored many extracurricular activities and field trips, and improved our facilities, while keeping down administrative costs and staying within the tax cap.

4 Tracy V. Petton
My family relocated to New York from California just over 10 years ago. Prior to moving to New York, I was a professional figure skater, the lead consultant and Program Director for a joint public/private development, the Skating School Director in Palos Verdes, California, and the creator of a children’s nutrition and fitness camp. Since moving to New York, I have dedicated my time to the success of students in the community.

When my son entered kindergarten, I became the permanent weekly helper, for two consecutive years I provided reading assistance for first graders, and taught before school nutrition and fitness classes. While serving as the Fishkill Elementary PTA President, I introduced new fundraisers, began before and after school enrichment programs, and advocated for student wellness guidelines. I currently serve on the Wappinger’s Central School Board and chair our policy committee.

Advocating for student success, while including all stakeholders through policy is a must. Supporting staff in the development of engaging and effective curriculums, promoting effective professional development for our teachers, and recognizing the importance of morale are essential components to the success of our district.

It has been a privilege being part of a team that has brought back elementary enrichment, intramurals, additional sports, clubs, a marching band, and classroom assistance. The curriculum development and growth throughout our district is commendable. Sustaining these programs while remaining under the tax cap and supporting our administration in their efforts to bring opportunities for all our students is vital. I look forward to potentially continuing my work on policy, being a voice for our community, and thank all who have supported and continue to support my efforts.
On March 22nd, students from WCSD participated in the annual Pi Day ceremony celebrating the work they accomplished with Dr. Miller in learning math. Students participated in an early morning math enrichment program facilitated by Dr. Miller, Math and Physics Exploration Center. The event was held at the Lagrange Town Hall.

Recipients of the 2017 Scholarships for Academic Excellence are awarded by the State Education Department/The University of the State of New York in Albany, New York State Board of Regents in May. The following students have been nominated for scholarships.

**Nominees for NYS Scholarships for Academic Excellence**

**John Jay High School**
- Karthik Ledalla
- Salil Chandra
- Matthew Kline
- Erin Theiller
- Hannah Kang
- Matthew Thompson
- Rachel Lewis
- Michael Pergolizzi
- Nicole Chamorro
- Derrick Lam
- Esther Wells
- Jennifer Minassian
- Angelina Boss

**RCK High School**
- Indira Kulkarni
- Melanie Susman
- Raisa Bhanji
- Ethan Andriola
- Ryan Hawks
- Taskinuddin Forkan
- Rima Patel
- Anna Sajan
- Eszter Beahan
- Ashley O’Toole
- Jarrod Rizzi
- Geoffrey Du

**Joey Cavaccini Earns 2016 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award**

Joey Cavaccini earns the 2016 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award. This is an award that recognizes a young person who has demonstrated interest and enthusiasm for local history; it is named in honor of one of Dutchess County Historical Society's charter members, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who displayed a lifelong interest in our county's past. Joey is the youngest person to ever receive this award. The award is being presented to Joey by Dutchess County Historian, William Tatum.

**Two High Schools = One Amazing Community!**

John Jay Students Demonstrate Their Skills at the NYS Science Olympiad Competition

This past March, John Jay’s Science Olympiad team competed in the New York State Science Olympiad tournament. The team demonstrated their skills and placed 26th in the State!

Approximately 430 schools in New York participated in Science Olympiad this year. Of these, 55 schools were invited to the State tournament at Le Moyne College in Syracuse. The John Jay team won two medals at the tournament, including 1st place in Anatomy and Physiology (Karthik Ledalla and Amy Zhou) and 8th place in Microbe Mission (Karthik Ledalla and Hannah Kang). This is the third consecutive year in which John Jay has won at least one first place medal at the State tournament. Karthik Ledalla also won first place last year in Cellular Biology.

RCK WorldQuest Team Takes Third Place in Regional Competition!

Congratulations to Taskinuddin Forkan, Eileen Liang, Amina Tipu, Raissa Bhanji. (pictured left)

On March 31st RCK hosted the First Annual Faculty Basketball Game. Roy C. Ketcham faculty won the game 69-51; but the real winner was the school community. Between the two schools, they raised over $2,000 for the student councils! The trophy will remain on display at RCK until next spring when John Jay will host.

On March 22nd, students from WCSD participated in the annual Pi Day ceremony celebrating the work they accomplished with Dr. Miller in learning math. Students participated in an early morning math enrichment program facilitated by Dr. Miller, Math and Physics Exploration Center. The event was held at the Lagrange Town Hall.
Abby Kate Waldow

Abby Kate Waldow is both excited and nervous to be graduating in June 2017, and is thankful for the opportunity to serve as Valedictorian at Orchard View Alternative High School. Abby is known as a leader and role model among students; an energetic, kind, and caring “busy bee” who is found constantly buzzing between classes, school activities, and volunteer work. Abby served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Orchard View Yearbook, and she spent countless hours designing page layouts, taking pictures, and organizing photographs and information. She is also a member of the Newspaper Club, where she worked on her favorite project of interviewing students about their experience at OV. Finally, Abby participated in Columbia University’s Science Honors Program, taking college-level courses in Biochemistry, Graph Theory, and Computer Programming.

Abby is passionate about people; she offers advice to friends, assists peers with academics, works to better the culture of OV, and serves the LGBTQ community. She wants to be remembered for inspiring other students to work hard for their goals, and encouraging them to succeed in their academics as well as their lives. She also hopes her legacy will motivate others to be true to themselves and not hide who they are because of what others might think. Abby will attend SUNY Albany in the fall with an area of interest in social sciences. Abby’s goal is to earn a Master’s Degree in order to become a Licensed Social Worker.

Karthik Ledalla

Karthik Ledalla is a hard-working, intelligent, driven young man. He has received the National AP Scholar Award, is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, and has earned many other accolades. However, his achievements reach far beyond school academics. Karthik participates in many academic competitions and enrichment activities outside of school. He is the president of the Science Olympiad team and has been an active participant since freshman year. He has helped the team excel at the state competitions, winning first place in Cell Biology and first place in Anatomy and Physiology. He has played a major role in the math team, participating in sectional competitions throughout high school and qualifying for state competitions every year. Finally, Karthik participated in Columbia University’s Science Honors Program, taking college-level courses in Biochemistry, Graph Theory, and Computer Programming.

Karthik plays the violin and tennis, along with regular volunteer work. He participated in the school orchestra and performed solos outside of school, qualifying for the Area All-State Orchestra in tenth grade. He has played tennis since elementary school and is currently a co-captain on the varsity tennis team. Karthik is also an active member in Mu Alpha Theta, tutoring students in Algebra 2 and Trigonometry and running mathematics-themed carnival games at Brinckerhoff Elementary School.

Summer activities include running a Sports and Games summer camp at Brinckerhoff Elementary and attending the Boston Leadership Institute to learn about laboratory techniques in the field of biological engineering. Karthik participated in Boston University’s Research in Science and Engineering program where he researched diabetic retinopathy and modern techniques concerning diabetes. Karthik is currently undecided between Stony Brook University and Boston University, with plans to study Biomedical Engineering. He is thankful to his parents, teachers, and peers for their help in enabling him to excel in high school.

Indira Kulkarni

Indira Kulkarni is honored to be the Valedictorian of the Class of 2017 at Roy C. Ketcham and grateful for the incredible school community that she is a part of. Besides excelling academically, Indira has embraced opportunities to participate in clubs and organizations. She is the President of the Senior Class and a part of the student government. After school she enjoys tutoring students through the learning center. For the past four years she has been involved in the music program, playing flute in Wind Ensemble, concerts, and for Honor Flights. Indira considers herself an athlete. During the spring season one can find her running the track, pole vaulting, and teaching middle schoolers. In the winter she enjoys skiing with the ski club as well.

As acknowledgement of her achievements she has received the title of AP Scholar, Scholar Athlete, and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Outside of school Indira has been dancing for 15 years. She began taking classes at three years old and her love of dance grew from there. She currently attends the Pinewood School of Dance and was a member of the competition team for several years. This year she had the joy of performing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Dutchess Dance Theater’s Nutcracker. She also pushed herself by attending prestigious summer intensives and shared her passion with nursing home residents.

She is planning to attend either Northeastern, Stony Brook, William and Mary, or the University of Vermont, and majoring in neuroscience. She will be on a Pre-Health Track, and aspires to become a doctor. Indira is incredibly thankful for her family, friends, and teachers without whom she would not be where she is today.

Abby Kate Waldow

Abby Waldow is both excited and nervous to be graduating in June 2017, and is thankful for the opportunity to serve as Valedictorian at Orchard View Alternative High School. Abby is known as a leader and role model among students; an energetic, kind, and caring “busy bee” who is found constantly buzzing between classes, school activities, and volunteer work. Abby served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Orchard View Yearbook, and she spent countless hours designing page layouts, taking pictures, and organizing photographs and information. She is also a member of the Newspaper Club, where she worked on her favorite project of interviewing students about their experience at OV. She served as the Vice President of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Orchard View, and she is an active member of the Pride Club at Roy C. Ketcham High School. Abby volunteers at Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center, the Zion Church Food Pantry, and a local soup kitchen.

Abby is passionate about people; she offers advice to friends, assists peers with academics, works to better the culture of OV, and serves the LGBTQ community. She wants to be remembered for inspiring other students to work hard for their goals, and encouraging them to succeed in their academics as well as their lives. She also hopes her legacy will motivate others to be true to themselves and not hide who they are because of what others might think. Abby will attend SUNY Albany in the fall with an area of interest in social sciences. Abby’s goal is to earn a Master’s Degree in order to become a Licensed Social Worker.
Salil Chandra is the Salutatorian for the class of 2017. He has been named an AP Scholar with Distinction, been awarded the Rensselaer Medal for “outstanding achievements in mathematics and science,” and qualified last year to take the American Chemical Society (ACS/USNCO) national exam, where he scored the second highest in the Mid-Hudson region. Salil plays piano and is a member of the percussion section in Symphonic Band.

Throughout his four years, Salil has been an active member of the John Jay community. He currently serves as the Co-President of the Math Honor Society as well as the Captain of the John Jay Math Team, where he led the A-Team to win first place in the sectional competition. Salil is also a member of the National Honor Society as well as Science Olympiad. Salil is currently undecided between Cornell, RPI, and Stevens.

Raissa Bhanji

If there is one thing Raissa would want to be remembered for, it would be her unwavering strength. Raissa has gone through high school tormented by deadly mental illnesses. After years of being in and out of treatment centers and hospitals, she found the power within herself to take control of her life. Raissa is a proud survivor of Anorexia Nervosa and Binge Eating Disorder, and she is no longer afraid of telling her story. A major part of Raissa’s recovery was discovering her value in the world. She has always been part of her community, but it took years for her to realize her impact. She has volunteered as a Counselor in Training at Dutchess Arts Camp for many consecutive summers, and last year she became an official counselor. A little girl with Autism at the camp looked up to Raissa immensely. She helped show Raissa that her life was meaningful. Raissa realized that if she could impact a life, she had the potential to impact the world.

Raissa now volunteers with abused and abandoned animals at Beacon Animal Rescue Foundation. She takes care of the homeless through Dutchess Outreach. She works with kids at the Grace Smith House, a local shelter for victims of domestic violence. She initiated an after school homework help program there, where she has been a primary tutor since it launched in September of 2016. Raissa’s leadership in her community is also mirrored in her school. She is the President of World Quest, Vice President of the National Honor Society, and Secretary of Science Olympiad.

Raissa is currently undecided between McGill and Stony Brook University. Fascinated by the connection between mind and behavior, Raissa intends to study Neuroscience pursuing Medicine. The knowledge she gains, the experience she gathers, and the determination she retains will drive her towards her goal of helping the mentally ill in third world countries.

Gillian Frances Dougherty

Gill Dougherty is grateful for her time that she has spent at Orchard View Alternative High School, where she is graduating as Salutatorian in 2017. At Orchard View, Gill’s peers and teachers would describe her as a down to earth, genuine person who always seeks to help others and emanates a calm and comforting energy.

Gill is graduating early after only three years in high school, made possible by her immense dedication of time and effort to a full course load in school as well as online courses. Eager to start her college career as soon as possible, she will be starting at Dutchess Community College to study Criminal Justice. Gill’s goal is to complete a Bachelor’s degree and become a police officer.

Gill has balanced her busy school schedule with several extracurricular activities and part-time jobs, including her favorite position at a local flower shop where she enjoyed the beauty and vibrant colors. Gill was a member of the East Fishkill Baton Twirling team for ten years, performing at charity events, the East Fishkill Day Parade, and competitions within Dutchess County. She enjoyed watching the more seasoned performers and coaches to learn from them and strengthen her skills. Gill would love to return as a coach in the future to give back to younger people and provide them a positive experience and opportunity like she had. Gill has been passionate about dancing since she was four years old, and has participated in ballet, jazz, and tap for the Pinewood School of Dance. From this experience, Gill has learned self-discipline and perseverance, which has helped her remain dedicated and organized throughout her academic career as well. Following her love for beauty and desire to help others, Gill volunteered to apply make-up for students attending the John Jay Prom last year. Gill is excited to end her high school career and move on to new challenges and opportunities, and will remain focused and determined on achieving her goals.

Meet Our Salutatorians

Raissa Bhanji

If there is one thing Raissa would want to be remembered for, it would be her unwavering strength. Raissa has gone through high school tormented by deadly mental illnesses. After years of being in and out of treatment centers and hospitals, she found the power within herself to take control of her life. Raissa is a proud survivor of Anorexia Nervosa and Binge Eating Disorder, and she is no longer afraid of telling her story. A major part of Raissa’s recovery was discovering her value in the world. She has always been part of her community, but it took years for her to realize her impact. She has volunteered as a Counselor in Training at Dutchess Arts Camp for many consecutive summers, and last year she became an official counselor. A little girl with Autism at the camp looked up to Raissa immensely. She helped show Raissa that her life was meaningful. Raissa realized that if she could impact a life, she had the potential to impact the world.

Raissa now volunteers with abused and abandoned animals at Beacon Animal Rescue Foundation. She takes care of the homeless through Dutchess Outreach. She works with kids at the Grace Smith House, a local shelter for victims of domestic violence. She initiated an after school homework help program there, where she has been a primary tutor since it launched in September of 2016. Raissa’s leadership in her community is also mirrored in her school. She is the President of World Quest, Vice President of the National Honor Society, and Secretary of Science Olympiad.

Raissa is currently undecided between McGill and Stony Brook University. Fascinated by the connection between mind and behavior, Raissa intends to study Neuroscience pursuing Medicine. The knowledge she gains, the experience she gathers, and the determination she retains will drive her towards her goal of helping the mentally ill in third world countries.

Salil Chandra

Salil Chandra is the Salutatorian for the class of 2017. He has been named an AP Scholar with Distinction, been awarded the Rensselaer Medal for “outstanding achievements in mathematics and science,” and qualified last year to take the American Chemical Society (ACS/USNCO) national exam, where he scored the second highest in the Mid-Hudson region. Salil plays piano and is a member of the percussion section in Symphonic Band.

Throughout his four years, Salil has been an active member of the John Jay community. He currently serves as the Co-President of the Math Honor Society as well as the Captain of the John Jay Math Team, where he led the A-Team to win first place in the sectional competition. Salil is also a member of the National Honor Society as well as Science Olympiad, where he has won several medals at the regional competition and a 2nd place medal in the state competition for a chemistry event. In addition, Salil is the President of the Ping Pong Club, a club he co-founded two years ago. This year, Salil is captain of the tennis team and plays in the first singles position for the team. He also volunteered at Wingate Nursing Home, the Digestive Disease Center, and the Blodgett Memorial Library.

Salil is grateful to all his teachers, his parents, and his friends for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. He plans to major in computer science and is undecided among Cornell, RPI, and Stevens.

Gillian Frances Dougherty

Gill Dougherty is grateful for her time that she has spent at Orchard View Alternative High School, where she is graduating as Salutatorian in 2017. At Orchard View, Gill’s peers and teachers would describe her as a down to earth, genuine person who always seeks to help others and emanates a calm and comforting energy.

Gill is graduating early after only three years in high school, made possible by her immense dedication of time and effort to a full course load in school as well as online courses. Eager to start her college career as soon as possible, she will be starting at Dutchess Community College to study Criminal Justice. Gill’s goal is to complete a Bachelor’s degree and become a police officer.

Gill has balanced her busy school schedule with several extracurricular activities and part-time jobs, including her favorite position at a local flower shop where she enjoyed the beauty and vibrant colors. Gill was a member of the East Fishkill Baton Twirling team for ten years, performing at charity events, the East Fishkill Day Parade, and competitions within Dutchess County. She enjoyed watching the more seasoned performers and coaches to learn from them and strengthen her skills. Gill would love to return as a coach in the future to give back to younger people and provide them a positive experience and opportunity like she had. Gill has been passionate about dancing since she was four years old, and has participated in ballet, jazz, and tap for the Pinewood School of Dance. From this experience, Gill has learned self-discipline and perseverance, which has helped her remain dedicated and organized throughout her academic career as well. Following her love for beauty and desire to help others, Gill volunteered to apply make-up for students attending the John Jay Prom last year. Gill is excited to end her high school career and move on to new challenges and opportunities, and will remain focused and determined on achieving her goals.
Wappingers Central School District
Future Business Leaders of America
Compete at the State Competition

Wappingers Central School District brought 19 students to the New York State competition for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) on April 5 - 7 in Rochester, NY. Students competed against schools from across the state in a wide variety of business-themed events.

This year’s conference theme was “Suit up, Step Up!” Clearly the Wappingers students took this to heart, winning a total of 12 awards. The team of Shaily Jani, Thomas Russo, and Neha Sandesh (all 10th graders) won 1st place in Banking and Finance. Their award also earned each of them their first college scholarship from Johnson and Wales University. Amy Zhou won 1st place in FBLA Principles and Procedures. Tanvi Athavale took 2nd place in Basic Decision Making. Shaily Jani earned 3rd place in Business Communications. The team of Amy Zhou and Tanvi Athavale placed 3rd in Emerging Business Issues.

The Roy C. Ketcham team of Jannie Gogi, Camille Secor, Faith Siriboe, and Joseph Torres placed 3rd in Parliamentary Procedure edging out the John Jay team of Marijane Cadden, Marelyne Calle, Amelia Chen, Thomas Russo, and Allison Yu who placed 4th in the same event. Joseph D’Annibale placed 4th in Accounting II. The team of Shreyas Babu and Allison Yu placed 5th in Management Decision Making. Neha Sandesh placed 5th in Advertising. Richmond Addae received recognition as the member with the most community service hours in New York State. Congratulations to all FBLA members who suited up and stepped up!

Wendy Travis Named Dutchess County School Bus Driver of the Year!

Wendy began in Wappingers CSD in October of 1987. Since that time she has shown an exemplary level of driver/passenger safety and incorporates all the best qualities of a successful school bus driver. Wendy provides consistency each day for her students and always welcomes her students with a positive attitude. Wendy has an outstanding driving record, having logged thousands of accident-free and safe-driving miles. She does this day in and day out, year in and year out, with a smile and an infectious laugh.

We would also like to congratulate Wendy Ferrier and Donna Hunt, two WCSD school bus drivers, who were also nominated for this award. They are dedicated and committed to always providing safe transportation for the students in the Wappingers CSD.
Spelling Bee Grades 4-5
Winner - Shaylen Bhatt - Gr. 4 - Gayhead
2nd Place - Sophia Cheng - Gr. 5 - Oak Grove
3rd Place - Yebong Kim - Gr. 5 - Fishkill
4th Place - Libby Pyo - Gr. 4 - Fishkill Plains

Spelling Bee Grades 6-8
Winner - Aiesha Usmani - Gr. 8 - Wappingers JHS
2nd Place - Dhruv Kaderu - Gr. 8 - Van Wyck JHS
3rd Place - Hamid Tipu - Gr. 6 - Myers Corners
4th Place - Elizabeth Kimber - Gr. 6 - Gayhead

Dhruv Kaderu (pictured right) - Gr. 8 - Van Wyck JHS won the Capital Region Spelling Bee and will be competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. on May 31 & June 1, representing Wappingers CSD.

Fishkill Welcomes Community Helpers
Second graders at Fishkill Elementary School conducted interviews with community members as part of their social studies unit. Volunteers from our community whose occupations ranged from health professionals to local artists were stationed in the cafeteria. The students were assigned the task of determining whether our community members provided a good or a service to our local community. The students also learned the value of proper eye contact and a firm handshake while building their confidence as a public speaker.

Van Wyck Debate Club
The Debate Club has been active this year with inviting local politicians to moderate their 7:00 am debates on important issues that affect their lives. People such as Assemblyman Kieran Lalor, BOE Trustee Robert Rubin, and Mayor of Fishkill James Miccio, were guest moderators this school year, giving of themselves and their time to the children of our school. Our guest moderators were also interviewed by our student government president, which aired the following Friday on the “Morning News” program. The Debate Club continues to be a great venue for students to get involved and learn about local, state, national and international issues.

Congratulations to Crista Burke for her nomination for the 2017 NYSATA Region 7 Middle School Art Educator of the Year!
WCSD Innovation Spaces

You may have read about schools and even towns across the country opening “makerspaces” or Innovation Spaces. What are these spaces? Why is there so much interest in tinkering? First, it is important to define the purpose these spaces are designed to serve. According to research conducted by Gensler, “space shapes behavior, defines experiences and (when done right) catalyzes organizational change.” In addition, more companies are looking to these types of designs in their workplace. Students will be expected to work cooperatively with others, sharing ideas and resources effectively.

WCSD is committed to developing innovation spaces in our secondary schools. Funds were reserved for these spaces. Furniture and function was our first priority. Furniture was selected that allows students to work in small groups. High-top tables were chosen to provide students the flexibility to stand or sit in stool-height chairs. There are also chairs with worksurface arms that have a storage tray underneath. These adjust for small group and independent work. Each room has an interactive display that allows students to project what is on their device to the screen to discuss with the group.

Chromebooks are reserved for use in these spaces too. In addition to Chromebooks, the spaces received various coding kits, common in makerspaces such as Squishy Circuits, Arduino Boards and Raspberry Pi. Other materials were added to the spaces based on feedback from the staff and students who use the spaces. We are excited to watch our students grow with these spaces.

GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Our Strategic Plan speaks to the goal of developing partnerships with local businesses. Beyond attendance at career fairs and visits to classrooms, WCSD wanted to develop a partnership that would provide our students the opportunity to work with professionals in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. GlobalFoundries was very interested in working with our district. Beginning with National Manufacturing Day last fall, students from our high schools and 6th grade students from Brinckerhoff Elementary School had the opportunity to participate in STEM activities at GlobalFoundries. Our teachers and administrators met with Karina Sotomayor, Director of Operations, Fab10 at GlobalFoundries, to discuss the development of a mentor program and the possibility of touring the facility. In partnership with GlobalFoundries over 70 students were invited to GlobalFoundries in January to listen to a panel of engineers answer questions about their high school coursework, college selection process, navigating a job and had the opportunity to ask their own specific questions. Students then returned a few weeks later, in smaller groups, to meet their mentor and tour the production (fab) floor. It was a great opportunity for the mentors and students to learn more about one another and their interests. We continue to look at opportunities to expand our partnership with GlobalFoundries to more students.
“When I first came to America I was crying a little because I thought life and school will be so different. When I came to school I saw my mom was right, life is really good and I learn about new stuff I never got to learn about like the world.”
- N.S. Grade 2

“My favorite part of school is working with groups. We are challenged in a fun and difficult way.”
- J.E. Grade 5

“My school is great because it is fair and assigns homework so we can learn more.”
- V.B. Grade 4

“I love to read! I like to learn and go to classes even more than recess!”
- E. H. Grade 3

“Our school is great because we don’t tolerate bullying and everyone is nice and sweet to one another.”
- M.F. Grade 5

“My favorite is writing because we have time to write books.”
- D.T. Grade 1

“I like Math because I like learning new things and it makes me smarter.”
- A.P. Grade 3

“At recess, on a rainy day, we use Go Noodle and get to dance to songs. Mrs. Longenberger is very silly when we are dancing together.”
- D.T. Grade 1

“I really enjoy going to Art class. I love to draw and wish we had it more than two times in a cycle.”
- S.S. Grade 5

“Recess! Getting to run around with our friends and get out our energy.”
- C.S. Grade 2

Orchard View Students Explore Careers
Orchard View’s Career Fair was held on Thursday, April 6th. It was a huge success! Over twenty-five companies were represented and met with the Orchard View students. Organizations that were represented included the marketing agencies, law enforcement, branches of the military, landscaping, automotive, careers in education, customer service and cosmetology. OVAHS students enjoyed learning from and communicating with all attendees. Students were required to conduct interviews of participating organizations and complete an assignment on the three most interesting companies they met with. It was an enjoyable, educational and enlightening day for all.

If you are unable to vote in person, you can vote by absentee ballot. Applications are available online or in the office of the District Clerk. Please call 845.298.5000 ext. 40145

Spring Budget 2017

EnRoute
Evans Let’s Off Some STEAM!

The District is embracing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math/Music) to expose our students to what these professions can offer in addition to promoting critical thinking, team work and problem solving. Students at Evans Elementary School had the opportunity to work with George Steele, an award-winning educator who provides dynamic and participatory programs on science, natural history, outdoor education, camping and outdoor recreation. In this program: Recycled Paper Making - the classroom was converted to a recycled paper factory. Following a short discussion of the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) students were taken step-by-step through the recycled paper factory with the final result of each student making a piece of recycled paper. Evans Elementary also hosted a STEAM Day that allowed the students to explore 3D printing, an assembly with Mad Science, and a special visit from ABC7 parent, Chris Zerafa, VP of Engineering & Technology. Students had the opportunity to present the weather using the green screen after hearing a special message from Lee Goldberg.

Kinry Kindness Challenge

The Kinry Road PBIS Team sponsored a Kinry Kindness Challenge from March 13-24. The challenge was based on the Great Kindness Challenge (http://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/). To visualize the kindness shown throughout the Kinry community, every faculty, staff, and student name was posted on a rainbow in the main hallway. At the end of the rainbow they created an overflowing pot of gold. Each gold coin represents a kindness shout-out. If someone saw an act of kindness being done, they could fill out a gold coin to be added to their treasure. Seventeen students completed the challenge and were listed under the Kind-O-Meter for all to see. The Kinry Kindness Challenge gold coin shout-outs were such a big hit that the PBIS Team is going to continue with a Garden of Kindness. Be sure to look for the Garden of Kindness to begin blooming in the hallway with shout-out blossoms.

Wappingers Junior HS Hosts Bistro Night!

Wappingers JHS also hosted a Bistro STEAM Night that included a variety of activities. The Lego League also participated in the event. The community had the opportunity to learn from students and see “first-hand” what STEAM is all about.

Ketcham Band Performs at Disney

Thirty-eight students from Roy C. Ketcham performed on the stage at Disney Springs on Friday, April 7th. The students began preparing for this concert last June. The Ketcham Band was chosen for this honor based on a video audition that was submitted to Disney Performing Arts.
John Jay Students Named National Merit® Scholarship Finalists

This year, John Jay High had two students named as National Merit finalists. Congratulations to Karthik Ledalla and Matthew F. Kline! According to NMSC®, in February, some 15,000 Semifinalists were notified that they advanced to Finalist standing. High School Principals are provided with a certificate to present to each Finalist.

In addition, students who score high on the PSAT/NMSQT® receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Congratulations to our students on their achievements.

RCK Commended Students
Camille F. Secor
Eszter I. Beahan
Melanie E. Susman
Wynter Y. Chen
Geoffrey R. Du
Taskinuddin Forkan
Daniel Aldarondo

The Arts!

Two Roy C. Ketcham students will have their artwork displayed at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. The 27th Annual NYS Art Teachers Association Legislative Student Art Exhibition ran from March 24-29. This year work from Mickale Fox-Seitz and Isabella Furnaro was submitted by their teacher, Kelley Hedin.

John Jay Students Earn National Medals from Scholastic Art & Writing Association

For the 6th year in a row, Ms. Talbot’s students in the John Jay Photo Media program and another student in Ms. Zilinski’s AP Art class have earned National Medals from the Scholastic Art and Writing Association. They are joining a legacy of celebrated authors and artists including Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, and Lena Dunham. More than 330,000 works of art and writing were submitted by students in grades 7-12 this year. Earning a medal of this distinction places them within the top 1% of submissions.

Why do you love your teacher(s)?

"The teachers are nice and caring. You can learn a lot and become a genius."
- E.S. Grade 2

"They help us understand things when we stuck on something and really make learning fun."
- B.J. Grade 4

"They are fun and nice. They help us with our work. They make up fun games to earn rewards with learning." - I.P. Grade 4

"Mrs. Licari is my favorite teacher because she lets us take our writing frog home for the weekend."
- J.A. Grade 2

"Mr. Nikola is my favorite teacher because he has nice hair." - G.I. Grade 1

"My teachers play games with us to help us learn the lessons and push us to do better everyday."
- G.W. Grade 6

"I really enjoy Mrs. Ferrara because she takes us through each step (sometimes twice) before it gets more difficult." - A.B. Grade 3
Alumni Graduates form EDUC845 to offer a Scholarship for Graduating John Jay Seniors

Nolan Kartholl
John McMahon
Mitri Najjar

Nolan, John and Mitri were inspired by their Business Education teachers Rob Wehmann and Mike Ambron and after moving into the business field wanted to give back to their community and started the non-profit organization EDUC845.

WCSD is fortunate to have successful graduates who are able to “pay it forward” by returning to our District to engage our students and share about their experiences.

Joe Panik
Second Baseman for San Francisco Giants

Mo Cuevas
Strength Training Coach for Cleveland Indians

In the News!

Vassar Road Super Heroes!

During the week of March 27th, Vassar Road hosted Parents as Reading Partners. The theme of PARP was “Reading is my superpower.” Students dressed up like their favorite super hero throughout the week. On Wednesday, Vassar Road dropped everything and read for 15 minutes in the hallways.

Math-Madness Breakout at Gayhead

Gayhead Elementary School has been focused this year on deepening students’ understanding of numbers and the relationships between them. To do that we have introduced different math games on Tangy Tuesdays that force students to think deeply and creatively about number sense. So far the results have been excellent. Teachers report a real difference for themselves and for students in the classroom. Over 250 students participated in a winter math activity and over 300 completed our March Mathness activity this spring.

Emma Pilon
pictured above (right)
BFA Ceramic Thesis at Marywood University

Patti Murin
Starring in Broadway’s Frozen

If you know an alumus of WCSD, have them contact us at WCSD.alumni@wcsdny.org.
Follow us on Twitter @WCSDEmpowers. Use the #WCSDalumni to follow our grads!
Email us to complete our survey too!
Students at Sheafe Road Elementary School had no problem climbing aboard the two new playgrounds that were opened during the 2017 school year. From the climbing walls, to the monkey bars and swings, these playgrounds are changing the game for Sheafe’s students. Both playground pieces have been given excellent reviews from Sheafe students, “They are awesome”, and “We love them” have been heard from several Sheafe students. The playgrounds will provide Sheafe students with a safe, friendly place to play during the school day.
League Champions Teams: Baseball, Girls Basketball
Section Champions: Baseball, Cheerleading, Danny Napora 3200m
State Tournament: Baseball, Cheerleading
Individual State Qualifiers: Heidi Simpfenderfer (Girls Swimming), Taylor Young 55m
Individual All-Section Athletes:
- Travis Ventura (WCSD Boys Lacrosse), Daniella Kauffman, Jessica Roe (Softball), Greg Blum, Jon Cepeda (Baseball), Zaahir Woody (Football), Kelsey Mulligan (Field Hockey), Dan Veliz (Boys Soccer), Taylor Young (Indoor Track), Sam Ross (Cheerleading), Zaahir Woody (Boys Basketball), Katie Wall, Jykayla Elting (Girls Basketball)

Individual All-Section Honorable Mention Athletes:
- Isabella Tullo, Carissa Della Vecchia (Softball), Darryl Sullivan (Football), Mason Sanborn, Dylan Ramage (Boys Soccer)

Individual All-League Athletes
Spring 2016 (26 Athletes)
Fall 2016 (16 Athletes)
Winter 2016-2017 (26 Athletes)

ALL County Athletes: Jacob Baker Pole Vault, Danny Napora 1600 and 3200m, Zane Andersen, Tai-Sean Dodd, Phil Scrano, Delvaine Seagers
4x100m Relay, Greg Blum Baseball, Jon Cepeda Baseball, Brandon Chavarria Baseball, Stephen Merrill Baseball, Ryan Murphy Baseball, Nick Shephard Baseball, Jacob Baker Indoor Track, John Gonzalez Indoor Track, Zaahir Woody (Boys Basketball),

Poughkeepsie Journal All-Stars: Zaahir Woody, Darryl Sullivan, Tim Cipollini, Jyaire Stevens, Jesse Pascale (Football); Kelsey Mulligan, Katie Wall, Patrice Cairdullo, Cailin Divney (Field Hockey); Ryan Smart (Boys Tennis); Billy Biegun (WCSD Boys Lacrosse); Jon Cepeda, Ryan Murphy, Greg Blum, Brandon Chavarria, Matt Lynch, Matt Seidner (Baseball); Heidi Simpfenderfer, Kimberly Simpfenderfer (Girls Swim); Emma Warner (Girls Cross Country); Richard Cintron, Vincent D’Amato (Boys Cross Country); Laura Koob, Sara Canzone, Rachel Warren (Girls Tennis); Dan Veliz, Ulises Lopez (Boys Soccer); Ailine Cespedes, Naraya Price (Volleyball); Richard Cintron, Dominick Dockery, Phillip Scarnano (Boys Indoor Track); Alex Derise, Jesse Jadus, Justin Langdon, Liam Lyles (Boys Bowling); Haley Boom, Marissa Cacace, Sierra Gaskill, Raylene Williams (Girls Bowling); Zaahir Woody, Dave Henry, Jahri Mosley, Darryl Sullivan (Boys Basketball); Katie Wall, Jykayla Elting, Jordan Kassanis, Jada Rencher (Girls Basketball);

Individual All-League Athletes:
- Isaac Matthews, Brendan Carroll, Joe Censullo, James Kurtz, Emilio Vera, Liam Wilson, Riley Wilson (Wrestling); Cheyelene Sura (WCSD Gymnastics);
- Jonathan Nunez, Jarrod Rizzi, Adrian Smith (WCSD Boys Swim); Amani Arthur, Danielle Dakin, Shay McFarland, Oreoluwa Odeniyi, Rachel Sickler, Taylor Young (Girls Track and Field); Zane Andersen, Jacob Baker, Charles Cortesi, Taisean Dodd, Mike Mahoney, Mitch Mahoney, Danny Napora, Phil Scarnano, Delvaine Seagers (Boys Track and Field)
- Coach of the Year: Pat Mealy (Baseball), Linda Edgar (Girls Tennis)

Individual Highlights:
- Greg Blum- League Pitcher of the Year and County Pitcher of the Year
- Zaahir Woody- Poughkeepsie Journal WR of the Year
- Kelsey Mulligan- Poughkeepsie Journal Defensive Player of the Year, All Elite Coaches Association and Poughkeepsie Elks Night of Champions Award
- Dan Veliz- MVP League A Soccer
- Zaahir Woody- League A Player of the Year Boys Basketball
- Katie Wall- League A Player of the Year Girls Basketball and 1000 Career Point Scorer

RCK 2016-2017 Varsity Team Scholar Athlete Awards
Fall Winter
- Volleyball 56 Total Athletes
- Cross Country
88 Total Athletes

Spring
- Baseball
- Softball
- Girls Track
- Boys Track
- Lacrosse
- Boys Tennis

If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the mailing label for your polling location or call 845.298.5000 ext. 40145
**John Jay High School’s Athletic Achievements**  
(Spring/Fall 2016, Winter 2016/17)

**League Champions Teams:**  
Boys Tennis, Softball, Volleyball, Boys Bowling, Boys Swimming, Girls Bowling

**Section Champions:**  
Softball, Randy Earl (Wrestling), Oliva Frederic, Dutchess County Gymnastics

**Individual State Qualifiers:**  
Matt Goldsmith (Track and Field); Sean Murray (Cross Country); Michael Sheridan (Boys Bowling); Chauncey Nicholas (Boys Swimming), Randy Earl, Tyler Albus (Wrestling); Victoria Pacacha, Alyssa Rupebo (Girls Bowling); Olivia Frederic, Zoe Markou, Jessica Healey (WCS Gymnastics)

**Individual All-Section Athletes:**  
David Taylor (Boys Tennis); Samantha Fitzgerald, Casey Danko, Ally Muller (Softball); Jack Decker, Travis Ventura (Boys Lacrosse); Aidan Autero, Tino Tardella (Boys Golf); Oliva Frederic, Zoe Markou, Jessica Healey (WCS Gymnastics); John Ryan, Danny Diedrich, Jaivon Reynolds (Football); Melanie O’Shea (Fall Cheer); Jenna Croce, Jenna Fusco (Field Hockey); Michael DeRoberts, Michael Sheridan (Boys Bowling); Randy Earl, Tyler Albus (Wrestling); Victoria Pacacha, Alyssa Rupebo, Jillian Burns (Girls Bowling); Melanie O’Shea (Winter Cheer)

**Individual All-Section Mentionable Athletes:**  
Antonio Pragana, Trent Valentine (Baseball); James Pratt, Dan Diedrich (Boys Lacrosse); Bridgette Rooney, Britney Guzman (Softball); Callin Bahret, Jessica Lasaponara (Girls Lacrosse); Sora Park, Kaylie Klemme (Girls Golf); Dylan Burnett, Max Maybaum (Football)

**All County Athletes:**  
Khaira Young, Stephanie Earl, Rachel Williams, Bela Kieser, Elena Vargas (Girls Track); Sean Murray, Shawn Norton, Noah Mikstay, Sean Rivituso, Chris Malles, Chris Mentzer, Nick Iversen, Daiyaan Brooks, Matt Goldsmith (Boys Track)

**Individual All League Athletes:**  
59 Athletes for Spring 2015, 39 Athletes for Fall 2015, 53 Athletes for Winter 2015-16

**Poughkeepsie Journal All-Stars:**  
Jessica Lasaponara, Callin Bahret, Ellie Reck, Jenna Fusco, Meagan Whelan (WCSD Girls Lacrosse); Aidan Autero, Kyle Hover, Tino Tardella (Boys Golf); Deanna Newman, Alyssa DeMichaels, McKenna Farrere, Maureen Froehlich, Janet Geary, Ashley Kwong, Deanna Lomino, Sam Mosca, Julia Newman, Erin Thielor, Rachel Williams, Khaira Young, Natalie Young (Girls Track and Field); Samantha Fitzgerald, Aly Muller, Casey Danko, Brittany Guzman, Dominique Russo, Nina Simms (Softball); David Taylor, Kenny Steinberg, Justin Yu (Boys Tennis); Antonio Pragana, Steve Schoen, Trent Valentine (Baseball); Jack Decker, James Pratt, Travis Ventura, Dan Diedrich, Harrison Kaplan, Jake Shaw (WCSD Boys Lacrosse); Sora Park, Kaylie Klemme, Brianna Laverne, Brianna Burland (WCSD Girls Golf); Micah Jump, Caitlin Newhard (Girls Swim); Janet Geary, Rachel Williams (Girls Cross Country); Jack Ninos (Boys Cross Country); Ananya Parlapalli, Heather Phillips, Allison Yu (Girls Tennis); Deanna Lomino, Danielle Angyal, Alexis Lainichbury, Kelly Longin, Erin Thielor, Khaira Young (Girls Soccer); Mike Cardullo (Boys Soccer); Skylar Kellam, Maggie Linseth, Cassidy McDonald (Volleyball); Jenna Fusco, Jenna Croce, Hannah Reck, Natalie Young, Alyssa DeMichael, Kayla Gaines, Kendra Garrett, Makana Mohl, Alison Peritz (Field Hockey); Danny Fusco, Shawn Norton, John Ryan, Jai’von Reynolds, Calvin Anthony, Todd Belotti, Dylan Burnett, Skyler Smith, Derek White (Football); Noah Mikstay, Daiyaan Brooks, Nick Iversen, Chris Malles, Chris Mentzer, Sean Murray, Shawn Morton, Sean Rivituso (Boys Indoor Track); Mike DeRoberts, Tyler Krell, Michael Sheridan, Ryan Downey, Justin Ginese, Matt Johnson, Ryan Ploschke (Boys Bowling); Victoria Pacacha, Jillian Burns, Alyssa Rupebo, Julia Dahl, Jenna Drummond (Girls Bowling); Matt Golden, Isaiah Tillo (Boys Basketball); Sam Buragas, Natalie Young (Girls Basketball); Randy Earl, Tyler Albus, Max Barberan, Marcello Bernasconi, Brendan Cullen, Stephen Dixon, Javon Hines, Jack Ninos, Derek White (Wrestling); Olivia Frederic, Jessica Healey, Zoe Markou, Kara Vidulich (WCSD Gymnastics); Thomas McCaffrey, Chauncey Nicholas, Alex Chan, Kyle McGregor, Matt McGregor (WCSD Boys Swim); Matt Goldsmith, Chris Malles, Chris Mentzer, Noah Mikstay, Sean Murray, Shawn Norton, Sean Rivituso, Ezra Schutt (Boys Track and Field)

**Coach of the Year:**  
Michael Crocco (Softball); Christopher Perry (Girls Golf); Brian Kuczma (Boys Lacrosse); Jamie Weaver (Wrestling)

**Individual Highlights:**

- Sora Park: Poughkeepsie Journal Girls Golfer of the Year
- Antonio Pragana: Dutchess County Player of the Year (Baseball)
- Samantha Fitzgerald: Poughkeepsie Journal Player of the Year (Softball)
- Ally Muller: Poughkeepsie Journal Pitcher of the Year (Softball)
- Sean Murray: Poughkeepsie Journal Runner-up of the Year (Cross Country)
- Jenna Fusco: Poughkeepsie Journal Co-Offensive Player of the Year (Field Hockey); Danny Diedrich: Poughkeepsie Journal Running Back of the Year
- Victoria Pacacha: Poughkeepsie Journal Bowler of the Year
- John Ryan: Poughkeepsie Journal Offensive Lineman of the Year
- Randy Earl: Poughkeepsie Journal Lightweight Wrestler of the Year
- Olivia Frederic: Poughkeepsie Journal Gymnast of the Year

**John Jay 2016-2017 Varsity Team Scholar Athlete Awards**

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Tennis</td>
<td>Girls Basketball</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Boys Golf</td>
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<td>120 Total Athletes</td>
<td>Wappingers Boys Swimming</td>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Track</td>
<td>Boys Tennis</td>
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<td>97 Total Athletes</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Wappingers Boys Lacrosse</td>
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WCSD Accomplishments...
- Innovation Spaces
- Decreased Class Sizes
- Technology Equipment
- Additional Intramural Offerings
- Expansion of Classroom Libraries
- Recreational Equipment
- Cafeteria Renovations
- Parent University
- Energy Savings
- Press Box at RCK
- ...and much more

WCSD is looking forward to...
- New Athletic Fields
- American Disabilities Act Compliance
- Fine and Performing Arts Improvements
- Additional Course Offerings at the Secondary Level
- New Pavement and Sidewalks in School Parking Areas
- Enhancing Science and Social Studies at the Elementary Level
- Equity of Teaching Assistants at the Elementary Level
- New Lockers in the Locker Rooms at Secondary Level
- Gym Floor Refinishing at the Secondary Level
- New Hall Lockers at the Secondary Level
- Bleachers at Wappingers JHS
- ..and more to come

Thank you to our community for your continued support.