

Briarcliff Manor

Union Free School District



SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

➔ **On the Ballot
for 2020-2021**

THE BUDGET

- Proposed Budget: **\$53,381,866**
- Budget-to-Budget Increase: **1.31%**
- Tax Levy Increase: **2.71%**
- Complies with the State Tax Levy Cap

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

- **Two seats**, one for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 and one for a one-year unexpired term beginning June 9, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The person with the highest votes occupies the three-year term. The next highest vote getter occupies the one-year unexpired term.

VOTE

Budget Vote and Board Candidate Election By Absentee Ballot Only

Absentee ballots will be mailed by the district to all registered voters.
Ballots must be received by district clerk
by 5 pm on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.





Dear Briarcliff UFSD Families:

These last several months have been difficult for kids, families and our schools. Yet, despite the challenges, the Briarcliff school community remains strong and united and, perhaps, more resolute in its desire to provide a high-quality education for all students. This is why we remain optimistic about the future of our schools and are excited about the opportunities that await our students in the fall. In collaboration with the Board of Education, the District's leadership team has developed a budget plan that reflects current economic realities, and aligns with the values and aspirations of our school community. The proposed budget would allow the District to preserve our educational programs, enhance our responsiveness to students' social and emotional needs, address critical security and facilities needs, and provide the financial flexibility necessary for the District to respond to further potential reductions in state aid and disruption to other forms of District revenue.

The Briarcliff schools continue to garner state and national recognition. This is because our faculty and staff work diligently to ensure success in the classroom while preparing students for the world outside our school walls. Success inside and out of school requires that students become creative in their thinking, can solve problems, are equipped to work collaboratively, and are able to persevere in pursuit of their objectives. At the same time, we are mindful that success comes more easily to those who possess confidence and a love of learning. This is why the District provides a broad and engaging array of educational activities and why we work so hard to ensure that we provide school environments that are warm, supportive and joyful places to learn and to grow.

The Briarcliff Manor School District has a long-established tradition of excellence. The proposed budget would ensure that our students continue to be engaged, challenged, supported and prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Working closely with our building principals to address the goals and priorities of each of the three schools and while maintaining our overarching district philosophy, the Board of Education is presenting a budget that provides for:

- Continued implementation of the new writing program at the elementary school.
- New engaging reading materials and expanded classroom libraries at the elementary school.
- Bolstered coordination of the high school's well-regarded Science Research Program.
- Increased social and emotional support for middle and high school students.
- Implementation of critical safety and security upgrades at all three schools.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of important infrastructure and facility items.
- Updated furniture for several elementary, middle and high school classrooms.

Working below the New York State mandated tax levy limit, the Board of Education has adopted a budget of \$53,381,866 which represents an increase of 1.31%. Therefore, this budget requires a simple majority vote to pass on June 9th.

In addition to the information provided in this newsletter, the District has created a more detailed Budget Book for your perusal. This resource represents the District's commitment to working collaboratively with the Board of Education, the community, and staff in developing the proposed school budget. The Budget Book can be found on the District website or by clicking on the following link: <https://www.briarcliffschools.org/board-of-education/budget-information>

Over the years, but particularly over the past several months, we have witnessed firsthand the passion and caring that this community has for its children. We have every confidence that the steps we are proposing will help ensure success for all of our students, just as we have confidence that our priorities are in the right place.

Very Sincerely,
Dr. James Kaishian
Superintendent of Schools

Kenneth Torosian
Board of Education President



Want more INFO?
Go to www.briarcliffschools.org/board-of-education/budget-information
for complete budget details.



Budget/Expense Summary

Category	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed
Salaries & Benefits	\$36,430,259	\$37,012,900	\$37,167,518
Equipment	442,471	176,900	671,270
Supplies	1,217,449	1,432,000	1,163,617
Tuition	1,239,330	1,253,000	1,616,514
Contractual	5,435,397	5,704,756	6,154,211
BOCES Services	3,224,619	2,642,244	2,674,399
Debt Service	3,881,888	4,108,200	3,566,033
Transfers to Other Funds	25,000	60,000	68,300
Capital Projects	300,000	300,000	300,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$52,196,413	\$52,690,000	\$53,381,866

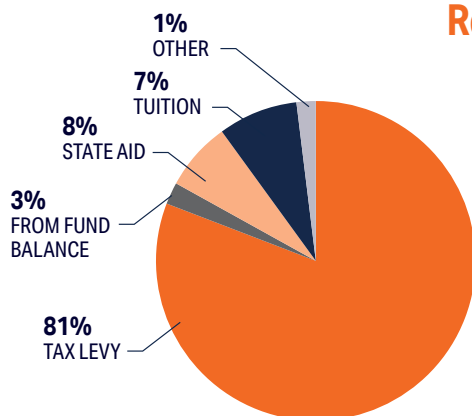
Revenue Summary

Category	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed
State Aid	\$5,088,309	\$4,930,500	\$4,120,454
County Sales Tax	411,967	440,000	350,000
Tuition & Charges for Services	4,671,661	3,898,765	3,979,002
Interest Earnings & Rentals	43,715	176,800	97,000
Other Misc.	230,761	233,635	195,410
Interfund Transfers	-00	-00	-00
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES	\$10,446,413	\$9,679,700	\$8,741,866
TAX LEVY	\$40,821,770	\$41,920,000	\$43,055,000
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$928,230	\$1,090,300	\$1,585,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$52,196,413	\$52,690,000	\$53,381,866

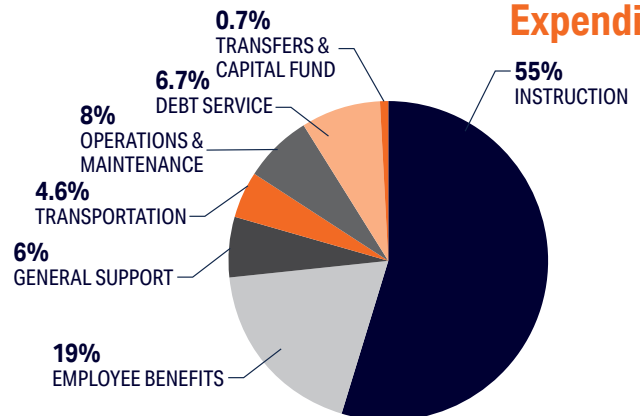
1.31 % Budget-to-Budget Increase

2020-2021 Budget Revenues/Expenditures Breakdown

Revenues



Expenditures



Excellence Highlights in the Briarcliff Manor School District

Briarcliff High School

- Briarcliff High School placed #275 in **Newsweek's top 5000 STEM high schools** for 2019 and placed #31 in New York State.
- Brian Zhou performed on English Horn with the **All-State Wind Ensemble** at the New York State School Music Association's convention.
- Massimo Fante and Gil Halevi were named Scholars in the **Regeneron Science Talent Search 2020**.
- 2020 Class Valedictorian Daniel de Castro was selected as a "candidate" for the **United States Presidential Scholars Program**.
- Senior Christopher Arroyo achieved Scholar status in the **College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program** after scoring in the top 2.5% of Hispanic and Latino PSAT/NMSQT.
- The staff of **Briars & Ivy** took home 1st Place and Gold in all five national and state critiques that recognize student work in literary arts magazines.
- The Student Government sponsored the **6th Annual Winter Tea for Briarcliff Senior Citizens**. The senior residents were amazed by the talented orchestra, theatre, film, piano and art students who provided a variety of entertainment.
- The following students placed in the **Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**: Carolynn Calenda: Silver Key for Painting; Angela Cao: Honorable Mention for Painting; Mathena Chan: Honorable Mention for Mixed Media; Claire O'Neill: Gold Key for Short Story; Sam Orientale: Gold Key for Painting; Daly Stoop: Silver Key for Painting.
- Hana Zalvan received a Certificate of Excellence from the **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** for her significant volunteer time in service to her community.
- Joshua Jacobs, Daniel de Castro, Gil Halevi, Matthew Li and Michael Tu were named Finalists in the **2020 National Merit Scholarship Competition**.
- Briarcliff High School presented the musical *Amélie* to rave reviews.
- Fourteen Briarcliff Seniors achieved exceptional scores on the 2018 **Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test** and were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



The Westchester/Rockland JSHS Science Competition recognized the following students:

Cellular and Molecular Biology
2nd Place: Elizabeth Madden
Behavior 3rd Place: Chris Li

In the Poster category, the following students were recognized:

1st Place Behavior: Kaitlyn Ryan;
2nd Place Computer Science/Physics
& Astronomy: Aman Choudhri
Medicine & Health: Ryan Panitz
3rd Place Neurology: Katy Burns
Engineering/Physical Science: Aditya Sridhar

The following are school winners for the American Mathematics Competition - AMC 10 & AMC 12

exams. These students earned honors as the school's top scorers:

AMC 12

1st place: Ari Mirsky (Grade 11)
2nd place: Michael Tu (Grade 12)
3rd place: Ziad Chalabi (Grade 11)

AMC 10

1st place: Gautam Gupta (Grade 8)
2nd place: Lucas Martin (Grade 10)
3rd place: Karan Keerthy (Grade 9)
Ari Mirsky & Michael Tu have qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME)

The following are 2019-2020 PTA Reflections contest regional finalists:

Dance

Gianna Galiani (Grade 10)
Julia Lucarelli (Grade 11)

Photography

Tevin Kim (Grade 9)

Visual Arts

Angela Cao (Grade 11)
Vishwa Shukla (Grade 11)

Music

Nathan Golovcsenko (Grade 10)

Literature

Claire O'Neil (Grade 11)
Gil Halevi (Grade 12)

Briarcliff Middle School



- **Eighth graders** went on a trip to Ellis Island as part of their study of Gilded Age immigration. Seventh graders toured Philadelphia, visiting historic sites that correlated with their social studies curriculum. Sixth grade students explored the Mexican customs related to Dia de los Muertos by attending a screening of the film Coco and having lunch at a local Mexican restaurant.
- **The Social and Emotional Learning Committee** was created to guide the Middle School through an exploration of Social-Emotional

Learning. The committee determined themes for each month and planned to implement some school-wide lessons.

- **Students participated in International Day activities**, including a SEL lesson on social awareness, workshops to reflect other cultures and a foreign film festival.
- **Sixth grade** pianist Ariana Thomas represented Briarcliff at the New York State Music Association Conference in Rochester.
- **The 7th grade team** kicked off a kindness initiative. Students created posters to encourage kindness, displayed throughout the wing.
- **Eighth graders** Gordon Beckler, Gautam Gupta and Colin Zhao and sixth grader Ava Wu received a team score of 61, which earned a Merit Certificate at the American Mathematics Competition held in the fall. Gautam and Gordon each achieved a score in the top 5%

nationally for which they received an Honor Roll Certificate. In January, Gautam took first place at the American Math competition, which included students in both middle and high school.

- **Briarcliff Middle School** vocalists performed in honors choirs at the association's 2020 Eastern Regional Conference in Rochester in March.
- **Members of the MATHCOUNTS Club** placed second at the Regional MATHCOUNTS Competition. They participated in the state competition, placing 18 out of 41 teams.



Todd Elementary School



- **Kindergartners** celebrated Thanksgiving by learning about the pilgrims and Native Americans during the first Thanksgiving and making hats, headaddresses and necklaces.
- **Students celebrated Digital Citizen Week** by participating in activities discovering what a digital footprint is and learning about tools and resources necessary to use technology securely, effectively and responsibly.
- **Story Pirates**, funded by the PTA, visited Todd School. They acted out four original stories that Todd students had written

prior to the visit. The performance complemented our Teachers College writing program.

- **Adam Gidwitz**, bestselling author of the Grimm books and The Inquisitor's Tale, met Todd Elementary students, funded by the PTA.
- **Students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge**, which includes heart-healthy exercises, creating posters, learning about heart-healthy habits and spreading awareness online about the American Heart Association.
- **Fifth graders** learned about the hardships on the Oregon Trail by creating covered wagon models, filming skits based on scripts they wrote, using green screen technology and creating posters.
- **Laurie Keller**, an award-winning author and illustrator, visited Todd Elementary, funded by the PTA.
- **Three Todd students** were admitted into Westchester Elementary

All-County Band and Orchestra groups, which performed in March: Alina Volnova (5th grade), Emily Isbell (5th grade) and Stephanie Vargas (4th grade). Four fifth grade students: Bianca Jain, Macalstair Kenya-Suarez, Julianna Wang and Jonathan Davanzo were selected to participate in the Westchester County School Music Association All County Chorus.

- **Elementary students hosted Souper Bowl V**, collecting canned goods for the local food pantry. They earned \$95 making holiday soaps and used the money to purchase cans of soup and vegetables to donate to the food pantry.



Excellence Highlights in the Briarcliff Manor School District

Athletics

- **Varsity Girls Tennis** - League Champions/Section One Finalists; Rebecca Lim - Section One Conference/Section One Champion/State Semi-Finalist/Lo-Hud Westchester Putnam Player of the Year



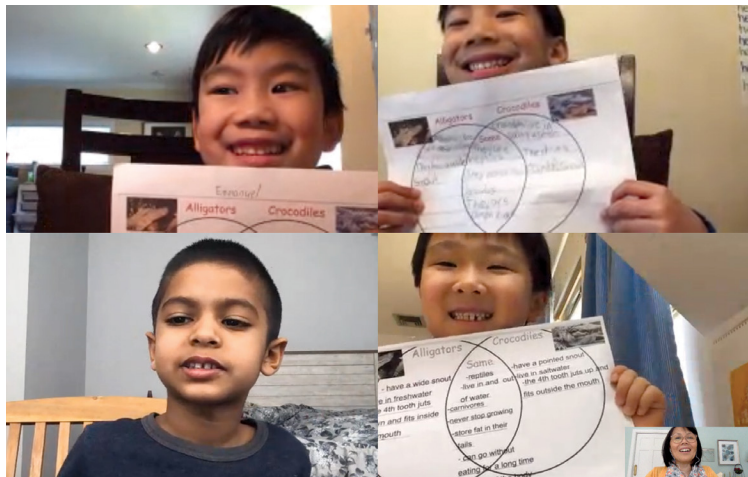
- **Varsity Boys Soccer** - League Champions (Brandon Beck – Coach of the Year); James Varriano – All League/All Section Honorable Mention
- **Varsity Boys Cross Country** - League Champions/Section One Champions
- **Varsity Cross Country Girls** - Lauren Rogers - League Champion

- **Varsity Football** - League Champions; Nick Reish – All League/Golden Dozen Honorable Mention/Lo-Hud Honorable Mention/NIAAA Scholar Athlete
- **Varsity Girls Soccer** - League Champions; Karina Zielinski – All Section Honorable Mention/All League/Lo-Hud Honorable Mention
- **Varsity Girls Basketball** - League Champions; Alana Lombardi – All Section/All League, Lo-Hud All Star Honorable Mention
- **Varsity Boys Swimming/Diving** - League Champions/Section One Champions
- **Varsity Girls Swimming/Diving** - League Champions/Section One Champions, 3rd place Conference meet, 5th Place Section One
- **Varsity Volleyball** - League Champions/All Conference Champions; Section One Semifinalists; Meghan Hayes – All Conference Honorable Mention/All League; Katy Burns – All Conference, All League, Lo-Hud Honorable Mention
- **Boys and Girls Indoor Track** – League Champions



- **The following teams were named Scholar Athlete Teams for having an average unweighted GPA of 90 or above:** Varsity Boys Basketball, Varsity Girls Basketball, Varsity Competitive Cheerleading, Varsity Gymnastics, Varsity Boys Swimming/Diving, Varsity Ice Hockey, Varsity Boys Indoor Track, Varsity Girls Indoor Track, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Varsity Girls Swimming, Varsity Girls Tennis, Varsity Volleyball.





Pivoting to Distance Learning

During the unprecedented time of the government shutdown we found ourselves in a surprisingly good position to make the switch to distance learning. Briarcliff is the only district in Westchester County where every student, from kindergarten to 12th grade, has a school-issued iPad or laptop.

"This enabled us to 'hit the ground running' with distance learning and not waste valuable time," said district Superintendent Dr. James Kaishian. "Kudos to teachers and staff who quickly shifted their practice to virtual instruction." He added. "Their creativity and determination have been impressive and their care and professionalism greatly appreciated."

Out of Sight is Not out of Mind at Todd Elementary ENL Class

Students who are learning English as a New Language have their own set of challenges during the school year. In a distance learning situation those challenges can be even greater. Not to worry: Todd Elementary ENL teacher LeeLee Wong can help! She shared some tips and tricks to teaching students virtually.

In a recent lesson, second grade students worked on filling out a Venn diagram to learn how alligators and crocodiles are alike and different to help them prepare to write a short comparison paragraph. According to Ms. Wong, she did not need to make many adjustments when converting to teaching virtually.

"I stayed true to my teaching style but increased my connectivity with students through cuing and balancing participation; the resources are abundant for virtual teaching and learning and there are many online resources."

Most students at Todd are learning in small groups of fewer than five participants. There are some challenges but some benefits as well. "There are fewer interruptions. There are no bathroom or water breaks, and other interruptions that typically occur in school and the students are more focused on their iPad screens," Ms. Wong said.

Students Learn about Animal Evolution in Virtual Labs

In a virtual lab, students in Jessica Loprieno's science class are learning first-hand about the repercussions of England's Industrial Revolution on the evolution of animals. They have been using Gizmos – an interactive online simulation used for learning math and science.

Recently, seventh graders worked on their Natural Selection Gizmo program in which they pretended to be birds flying between trees while hunting for dark and light-colored moths.

"Students observed moth populations go up and down based on how well they were camouflaged with their environment and which populations were easy to spot and 'eat'," Ms. Loprieno said.

Students drew conclusions that in a forest of light-colored trees the dark moth population would decline as they were all eaten by the birds, and the opposite was true in a forest of dark colored trees. After participating in the virtual lab on their own, students went over the data, concepts and conclusions that they collected from the Gizmo program and shared them with their teams.

According to seventh grader Mia Willey, doing virtual labs is a very different experience compared to what she usually does in front of science class. It's nice to do a virtual lab for once instead of always doing worksheets and annotations like I usually do," she said.

Marine Biology Students at Briarcliff High School are Learning About the Impact of Overfishing

Missing fins and broken skeletons are, sadly, among the consequences of overfishing. The students at Karla Constantinou's Marine Biology class at Briarcliff High School have been learning about this from an educator in Texas via virtual lessons.

"I was able to share my screen with my Marine Biology students and connect via Zoom so that all the students could see and interact with an educator with a sea turtle rescue organization in South Padre Island in Texas," said Ms. Constantinou.

One of the students' recent lessons was about the rescue and rehabilitation of injured sea turtles and relates to their unit on the Human Impact on the Oceans.

"Sea turtles often get caught up in fishing lines or trawling nets and because they breathe air, they usually die as bycatch (unintentionally caught species) by the time the fishermen pull in the long line or trawling net," Ms. Constantinou explained.

The other two topics in the unit are climate change and pollution, the latter of which the students are currently studying.



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To receive updates regarding the budget and other school news, sign up online at
www.briarcliffschools.org/community/resident-email-sign-up



Voting Information

BY ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY

Budget Vote & Board Candidate Election June 9, 2020

Keep an eye out for absentee
ballots in your mailbox

To vote on June 9, 2020 you must be:

- A United States citizen.
- 18 years of age or older.
- A resident within the district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.
- A registered voter of the district and/or a registered voter of Westchester County whose name appears on the list supplied by the Westchester County Board of Elections as having voted in a national, state or county election during the past four calendar years.
- For information please call District Clerk at (914) 432-8130.