

Briarcliff Manor

Union Free School District



SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

On the Ballot for 2021-2022

THE BUDGET

- Proposed Budget: **\$53,692,283**
- Budget-to-Budget Increase: **0.58%**
- Tax Levy Increase: **1.49%**
- Complies with the State Tax Levy Cap

BOND PROPOSITION

- \$26,633,113 Capital Improvement Project
- Addresses infrastructure and instructional needs
- Additional information on page 7

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

- Two seats for a three-year term
- Terms begin July 1, 2021 and run through June 30, 2024

VOTE

May 18, 2021 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Todd Elementary School

Budget Vote, Bond Vote and Board Candidate Election





Message from District Leadership

Dear Briarcliff UFSD Families:

This past year has been particularly challenging for kids, families and our schools. It also has been quite revealing about who we are as a school community. Despite the confusion, fear and hardship brought about by the global pandemic, our District remained open the entire school year, our students engaged in academic and co-curricular pursuits, were supported through their troubles and found joy in the simple pleasures of togetherness. That is why it is with renewed optimism that we look forward to the future of our schools. Therefore, it is with great anticipation that we may now turn our focus to and prepare for the opportunities that await students next fall.

In collaboration with the Board of Education, the District's leadership team has developed a budget plan that reflects epidemiologic and economic realities as well as our educational imperatives. Together with input and feedback from the community, the Board of Education has adopted a budget that will support an overarching educational program that aligns with the values and aspirations of our school community. The proposed budget would allow the District to preserve and expand upon our educational programs and supports, address critical security and facilities' needs, and provide the financial flexibility necessary for the District to respond to potential demands and disruptions that the COVID-19 crisis may yet have in store for students, families and our schools.

The Briarcliff Schools continue to garner acclaim and recognition.

Briarcliff High School was recently named the #1 high school program in Westchester County and has been nominated as a National Blue-Ribbon School of Distinction. Briarcliff Middle School has been nominated as an Apple School of Distinction. And Todd Elementary School was recently credited as one of only two elementary schools across the region to provide in-person learning for the entire 2020-2021 school year. This is possible because, regardless of the circumstances outside of our schools, staff worked diligently to ensure that students were inspired and engaged each and every day. Thank you for your support along the way. With your help, the District will continue to provide a broad array of educational activities and a warm, supportive and joyful environment for students 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 District's response to this year's health crisis affirms our strong belief that our shared priorities are in the right place. It is with equal confidence that the budget we are proposing will help ensure success for all students. It is simply amazing what a community that is passionate about education and devoted to student success can do for its children.

– Dr. Kaishian

the challenges of the 21st century. Working closely with our building principals to address the goals and priorities of each of the three schools while maintaining our overarching district philosophy, the Board of Education is presenting a budget that provides for:

- Continued implementation of the new writing program as well as the exploration and hopeful adoption of a new reading program at Todd Elementary School.
- New engaging reading materials and expanded classroom libraries K-8.
- Adoption of a new hands-on districtwide engineering program.
- Increased social and emotional supports and training for middle and high school students and staff.
- 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 \$53,692,283 which represents a budget-to-budget increase of 0.58%. The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 18. Don't forget to exercise your civic responsibility and vote!

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 at briarcliffschools.org/board-of-education/budget-information on the District website.

Very Sincerely,

Dr. James Kaishian
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Haberman
Board of Education President



Budget/Expense Summary

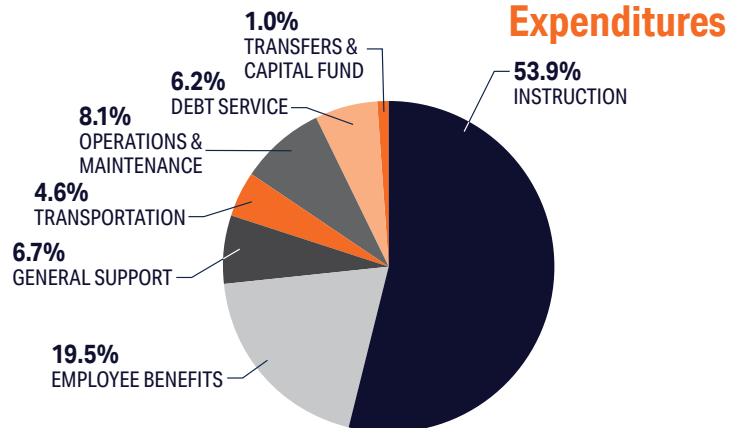
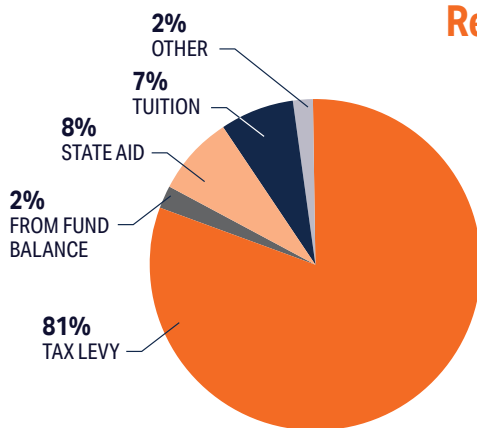
Category	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed
Salaries & Benefits	\$37,012,900	\$37,167,518	\$37,672,825
Equipment	\$176,900	\$671,270	\$760,920
Supplies	\$1,432,000	\$1,163,617	\$961,920
Tuition	\$1,253,000	\$1,616,514	\$1,483,443
Contractual	\$5,704,756	\$6,154,211	\$6,833,336
BOCES Services	\$2,642,244	\$2,674,399	\$2,132,456
Debt Service	\$4,108,200	\$3,566,033	\$3,314,484
Transfers to Other Funds	\$60,000	\$68,300	\$232,899
Capital Projects	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$52,690,000	\$53,381,866	\$53,692,283

Revenue Summary

Category	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed
State Aid	\$4,930,500	\$4,120,454	\$4,112,436
County Sales Tax	\$440,000	\$350,000	\$690,000
Tuition & Charges for Services	\$3,898,765	\$3,979,002	\$3,914,211
Interest Earnings & Rentals	\$176,800	\$97,000	\$69,480
Other Miscellaneous	\$233,635	\$195,410	\$187,225
Interfund Transfers	-\$00	-\$00	-\$00
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES	\$9,679,700	\$8,741,866	\$8,973,352
TAX LEVY	\$41,920,000	\$43,055,000	\$43,696,931
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$1,090,300	\$1,585,000	\$1,022,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$52,690,000	\$53,381,866	\$53,692,283

0.58% Budget-to-Budget Increase

2021-2022 Budget Revenues/Expenditures Breakdown



- Briarcliff High School was ranked the **#1 High School in Westchester** by Westchester Magazine in their March 2021 issue.
- **Class of 2021 Valedictorian and Salutatorians** are: **Valedictorian:** Aman Choudhri; **Salutatorians:** Nancy Li, Marlana Kuhn and Jolie Wasserman.
- **Merit Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program** are: Harrison Beckler, Aman Choudhri, Ari Mirsky, Jack Sendek and Eve Tanios. Commended Scholars are: Jacob Banc, Angela Cao, Mathena Chan, Vasu Gupta, Dylan Krsulich, Marlana Kuhn, Nancy Li, Tyler Plank, Aiden Rutman, Spencer Safian, Bryant Seok, Vishwa Shukla, Aditya Sridhar, Sanjaya Sritharan, Finn Torres, Jolie Wasserman and Brian Zhou. This year's **HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership)** award winner is Dylan Zednik. Runner up is Jessica Gordon.
- Jack Sendek was named a **Regeneron STS Scholar** for his science research project, which was one of 300 projects selected from more than 1,700 submissions.
- Shannon Lee and Clair O'Neill won **Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**. Shannon won the Silver Key for her dramatic script, as well as Honorable Mention for her short story. Claire won Honorable Mention for her personal essay and memoir.
- Briarcliff High School earned the **College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award** for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Eli Makaron received a **President's Volunteer Service Award Certificate** as a participant in the 26th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.
- Vishwa Shukla won a **Gold Key Award** from Scholastic Art Awards.
- The theater group put on a virtual performance of **Pride and Prejudice**.
- Joseph Berger placed third and Eli Makaron received Honorable Mention in the **Lifting Up Westchester Student Essay Contest**.
- The following students participated in an exhibition at the **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Westport, Connecticut: Vishwa Shukla, Timothy Collins, Caroline Adams, Angela Cao, Carolyn Calenda and Alex Lyandres-Sainsot.

← Briarcliff High School

The following students were recognized with a local award in the **Junior Science & Humanities Symposium**: Muriel Oppong: 2nd Place in Medicine & Health; Michelle Ho and Despina Xynidakis: 1st Place in Behavior.

The following students were recognized with a regional award and will advance to the state competition in Albany: Stella Ross: 4th Place in Cellular & Molecular Biology, Jack Sendek: 3rd Place in Engineering & Technology, Sam Orientale: 3rd Place in Earth & Environmental Science, Aditya Sridhar: 2nd place in Cellular & Molecular Biology.

The following students received **NYS School Music Association Award** for their participation in an **All-State Conference Performing Group in the 2020 NYSSMA All-State**: Harrison Beckler: Mixed Chorus - bass 2, Ethan Schwartz: String Orchestra - double bass, Ari Mirsky: symphonic band - Alternate snare drum. Brian Zhou: Symphony Orchestra - oboe. Students recorded and participated in a Virtual All-State Concert. Brian Zhou also received All Eastern Honors Ensemble - band.

NYS PTA Reflections contest winners Award of Excellence (this winner will advance to the National PTA) Film - Senior Division Sarah Renz, Award of Merit Winner Dance - Senior Division Madeline Rohde, Visual Arts - Senior Division Angela Cao.

The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) was administered in February.

School winners for the AMC 12 were: 1st place: Ari Mirsky, 2nd place: Vasu Gupta, 3rd place: Lucas Martin. Ari & Vasu qualify for the next round and have been invited to take the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Exam) in March.

School winners for the AMC 10 were: 1st place - Gautam Gupta, 2nd place - Gordon Beckler, 3rd place - Nathaniel Tanen.

The Mathletes Club participants who qualified to represent Westchester County at the New York State Math Competition in April are going to the state-level competition. They are: Gautam Gupta, Vasu Gupta, Ari Mirsky and Lucas Martin.



In the **Westchester Science & Engineering Fair (WESEF)**, the following students were recognized with awards:

Eli Makaron: American Psychological Association Award; Jack Sendek: ASM Materials Education Foundation Award; Angela Cao: NASA Earth System Science Award; Vasu Gupta: NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award; William Najarian: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Science Champion Award; Jennifer Harris: Critical Behavioral Science Achievement Award; Aaqib Mansoor: Expanding Knowledge in Science Award.

Also at the **WESEF**, the following students placed in their categories: Stella Ross: 4th place in Medicine & Health; Aditya Sridhar: 3rd place in Cellular & Molecular Biology; Charlotte Baer: 3rd place in Computer Science; Vishwa Shukla: 3rd place in Medicine & Health; Jack Sendek: 2nd place in Engineering; Angela Cao: 2nd place in Environmental Science; Ryan Hadi: 1st place in Behavioral & Social Science. In addition, Ryan Hadi was named a Finalist and will attend the virtual 2021 Genius Olympiad in June.

Aditya Sridhar, Sam Orientale, Stella Ross and Jack Sendek advanced to participate in the **Upstate Junior Science & Humanities Symposium**, held virtually in March.

Stella Ross won first place in the Medicine & Health category for her poster presentation. Stella's research is titled "A Novel Application of Cancer Immunotherapy for Autoimmune Disease Using Engineered Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR)-Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSCs)" and her mentor's lab is at the Mayo Clinic.

Briarcliff Middle School

- BMS was honored with a nomination as an **Apple Designated School**. This nomination reflects the high percentage of faculty that trained to be Apple Certified Teachers and the innovation that our teachers have brought into their classrooms.
- The **Annual Briarcliff Middle School Art Show** was online this year and showcased more than 100 images of incredible artwork created by students across all grade levels. It was the largest show with the library to date.
- Ten members of the **BMS Math Club** participated in the **regional MATHCOUNTS competition**. The top scorers were: Mia Willey, Riya Raina and Ava Wu with an identical score of 38 out of 46. They rank, respectively, number 27, 28, and 29 among 109 participants from Westchester and Putnam counties. Matt Epstein took fourth place on the team with a score of 31 and a rank of 57. Mia Willey, the top-ranking student, was qualified to move

on to participate in the MATHCOUNTS Invitational in February.

- The school had a holiday drive that raised **156 pounds of food donated to Feeding Westchester**. In addition, students celebrated the Souperbowl Drive by wearing jerseys of their favorite sports teams and placing donated canned goods and non-perishable food in the bins of their favorite Super Bowl team – Buccaneers or Chiefs. The Student Government organized the drive and delivered the food.
- In January, seventh graders represented the middle school at the **Human Rights Institute for Middle School Leaders**. The virtual conference, organized by the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center included a variety of workshops to help students better understand human rights and issues that often divide people. The main themes were Respecting the Individual and How to Be an Upstander.



- Math Club members participated in a virtual competition called **Perennial Math**, competing with other schools in the state. The winners are: For **sixth grade** 3rd place: Nick Li, Alex Lu, 2nd place: Bianca Jain, 1st place: Matthew Masala; For **seventh grade** 2nd place: Matthew Epstein; For **eighth grade** 3rd place: Riya Raina, 1st place: Eric Lu.
- A team of four eighth graders in the **Science and Engineering Club** won **second place** in the national Rube Goldberg Contest.

Todd Elementary School

- Fourth and fifth graders enjoyed a virtual visit from **author Chris Grabenstein**, second and third graders had a virtual visit from **author Jarrett J. Krosoczka** and kindergarteners and first graders virtually met **author and illustrator Mike Curato**. All students received copies of books while teachers also received copies for their classrooms. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the events and funding the books.
- Students celebrated **Halloween** with a variety of activities, including a special haunted hallway. Fifth graders used chalk paint, generously provided by the PTA, to create Halloween-themed artwork on the sidewalk in front of the school as a display.
- Students across the grades attended a virtual assembly for the **Kids Heart Challenge** in their classrooms or the gym and learned how the American Heart Association helps people with heart problems and how they can help spread

awareness to promote a healthy heart.

- Students celebrated the **Souperbowl Drive** by placing donated canned goods and non-perishable food in the bins of their favorite Super Bowl team - Buccaneers or Chiefs. It was co-sponsored by the Todd PTA and Feeding Westchester.
- Students celebrated the **100th day of school** in multiple ways. They collected 100 objects, used a digital program to make themselves look 100 years old, decorated pages using 100 stickers, brought in 100 pieces of snacks, did 100 exercises and walked 100 steps.
- Todd students celebrated **SEL Day** with a variety of activities related to social emotional learning. In **music class**, students listened to classic works by Handel, Mozart and Offenbach and drew emojis of how the songs made them feel; in **physical education class** students talked about good sportsmanship, waiting for



- your turn and respecting others' space. In **art class** students created self-portraits and wrote things they are proud about themselves, things they want to be known for and how they want to treat others. All students watched a short inspirational video about self-esteem. They later decorated butterflies and wrote positive affirmations on them, to hang around the school hallways.
- Throughout the year and for various holidays, Todd students wrote **letters** and **greeting cards** to hand out to first responders, hospital workers and nursing home residents. They also packed **gift bags** for underserved children.



Briarcliff Athletics Highlights

Briarcliff has 11 Student-Athletes
Moving on to Play Collegiate Athletics

Fall Season

Varsity Boys & Girls Cross Country

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team.

Varsity Boys – Regional Champions

- Zach Rose – Journal News Coach of the Year. T.J. Collins – All League/All County 1st Team/Journal News Honorable Mention
- Giovanni Culotta – All League/All County 1st Team/Journal News Honorable Mention
- Luke Dennis – All League 1st Team
- Emma Dolgin – All League 1st Team
- Devin Franks – All League 1st Team
- Ann Pastore – All League Honorable Mention
- Kyle Phillips – All League 2nd Team
- Coby Rinke – All League 1st Team.
- Jack Sendek – All League/All County/All Section 1st Team/Con Edison Scholar Athlete Award/2nd Team Journal News/2nd Team All State
- Bryant Seok – All League/All County/All Section 1st Team Journal News/2nd Team All State

Varsity Field Hockey

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Maeve Donoghue – All League
- Gianna Galiani – All League
- Grace Wickey – All League Honorable Mention



Varsity Boys Soccer

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

Section One Sportsmanship Award

- Kevin Callaghan- All League Honorable Mention
- Tyler Cho – All League/All Section/Journal News Honorable Mention
- Sam Fash – All League Honorable Mention
- Ethan Klar – All League Honorable Mention
- Spencer Safian – All League Honorable Mention
- Nico Santucci – All League
- Luca Vargish – All League
- Jacob Zednik – All Section Honorable Mention/All League

Varsity Girls Soccer

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team/Regional

Finalists

- Coach Owen Scully – Coach of the Year
- Caitlyn Dornau – All League/All Section/Journal News Honorable Mention
- Ashley Fortunate – All League/All Section/Journal News Honorable Mention
- Nico Vargish – All League
- Arianna Vizcaino – All League/All Section Honorable Mention
- Dylan Zednik – All League/All Section/Journal News Honorable Mention
- Sophia Zielinski – All League

Varsity Girls Tennis

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

Section One Sportsmanship Award

- Isabelle Dennis – All League
- Alessandra Giardini – All League
- Riya Rao – All Section/All League
- Rosalynde Swidler – All League
- Eve Tanios – All League



Winter Season

Varsity Girls Basketball

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

Section One Sportsmanship Award

- Caroline Barbalato – All League
- Catherine Carrafiello – All League
- Jordan Smith – All League
- Dylan Zednik – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Boys Basketball

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Elliot Jones – All League
- Jayden Larregue – All League
- Luke McCann – All League
- Aidan Murnane – All League

Varsity Bowling

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

Varsity Ice Hockey

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

Varsity Skiing

- Kate Kaplan – All Section/All League

Varsity Squash

- Isabel Schumacher – All Conference

Varsity Winter Track

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Ziad Chalabi – All County
- Giovanni Culotta – All County
- Kevin Callaghan – All County
- Alex Hong – All County
- Jack Sendek – All County
- Attila Smith – All County

Fall II

Varsity Football

- 2021 independent bowl champions
- Brandon Rispoli game MVP and Conor Gualtiere- offensive MVP

Varsity Girls Swimming and Diving

- NYSPHSAA scholar athlete award
- Finished second in conference
- Diving - Yasmin Hill finished second in sectionals

Varsity Volleyball

- NYPHSAA scholar athlete award

Briarcliff Turns to Voters for District Improvements

Alongside the Annual Budget Vote, voters in the Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District will weigh in on a \$26.6 million capital project proposal (Proposition 2 on the ballot) when they head to the polls on May 18th. The proposal addresses major infrastructure needs in all three of the school buildings and enhances instructional spaces at the high school.

Replacing leaking roofs as well as faulty HVAC plumbing and electrical systems were quickly identified as top priorities by the Facilities Planning Committee, which worked side by side with BBS Architects over the course of more than one year. The committee also agreed with Superintendent James Kaishian that converting outdated spaces into a 21st Century "Learning Exchange" at Briarcliff High School was a crucial investment. More than two-thirds of the project would be infrastructure-related and one-third would go to upgrading educational spaces.

The investments can be made without any increase in the tax levy.

"The ROI (return on investment) would be manifold," said Dr. Kaishian. "The project would ensure our facilities remain safe, clean and efficient, that our educational spaces are better

aligned with current instructional practices and it would make our high school a more attractive destination to the 80 to 100 tuition paying students the District receives each year."

In its desire to promote a fiscally responsible capital plan, the District's Facilities Planning Committee developed an approach that should not cause an increase in the tax levy or the amount to be raised by taxes. That is because new borrowing will be timed to take effect as old loans for previous projects are being paid off. Costs would also be offset by state aid estimated to cover up to 30% of capital improvement project expenses.

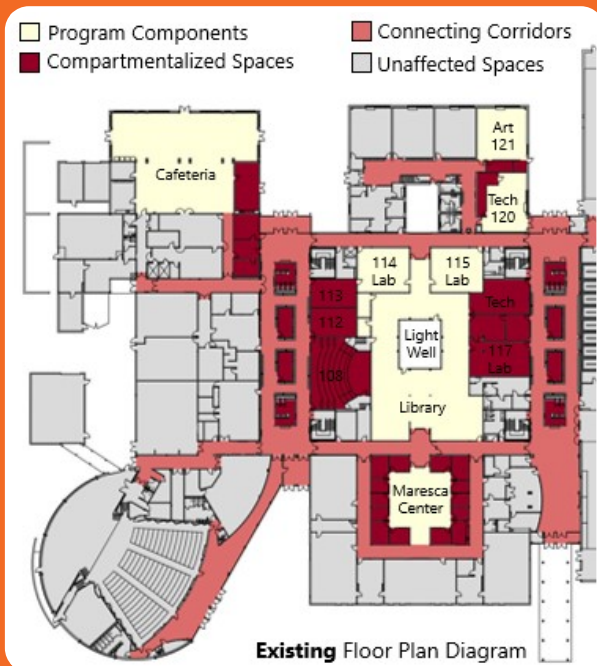
While the voters of Briarcliff have passed smaller bond propositions in recent years, the last significant improvement plan for the District's school buildings was approved more than 20 years ago and did not include the spaces currently under consideration. The proposed project provides tremendous opportunities for students and teachers while addressing the safety and infrastructure needs of the District.

For more information please visit www.briarcliffschools.org/district-information/project.

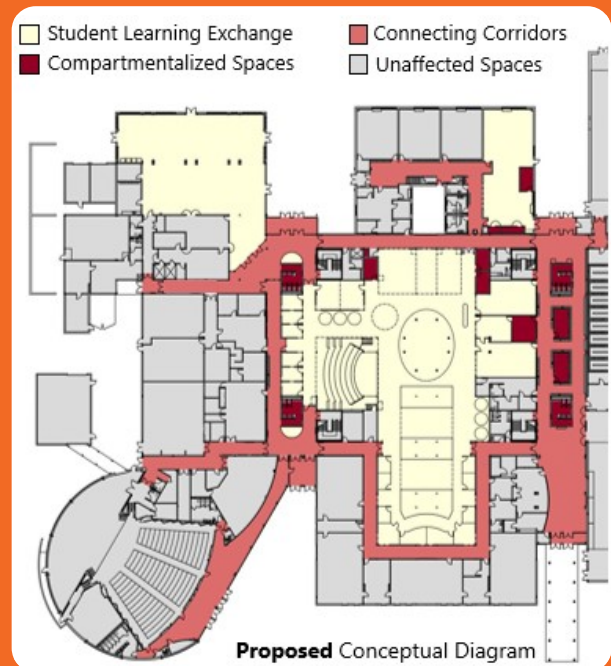
Project Highlights

- Total Project Cost: \$26.6M
- Infrastructure Repair work: \$18,647,113
- Student Learning Exchange: \$7,986,000
- Maintains current debt service levels
- Replace roof areas at all buildings
- Security vestibule upgrades at all buildings
- Renovations to old library/Maresca Center
- Exterior building envelope upgrades, including masonry and window repairs
- Replacement of HVAC rooftop units
- Plumbing upgrades
- Electrical upgrades

Existing Floor Plan



Proposed Floor Plan





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Union Free School District
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“ENGAGE, INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

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bit.ly/briarcliffnews



VOTING INFORMATION

Budget Vote & Board Candidate Election May 18, 2021

To vote on May 18, 2021 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.