



Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi

NEWSLETTER

Home of the Bulldogs

delhischools.org

May 2023

2023-2024 Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 16 2023 | Noon-8 p.m.
Middle/High School Gym Lobby

Proposed tax levy of 1.25% is one of the lowest in our region



Letter from our Board of Education

Dear Delaware Academy Community Members,

Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi is a leader in academic excellence, preparing our students to excel in a diverse and dynamic society.

We are proud to advance a school budget that aligns with, and fully supports our District's Vision. Every year the Delaware Academy Board of Education works hard to develop a budget that preserves and prioritizes high quality academic and extracurricular programming for our students while meeting the fiscal realities faced by our district and the taxpayers who support it. This year, Delaware Academy has continued to serve as a model district in our region. Our students are outperforming regional and state averages on statewide academic assessments. Our extracurricular clubs and athletic teams are earning regional and state level recognition and awards. We have made significant strides in our programs that support mental health. We continue to expand on student-centered pathways to graduation through partnerships in our community that support students who are preparing to enter college, workforce or the military.

Thanks to the support of our community, teachers, staff and administrators, we have accomplished a great deal. To successfully navigate the fiscal future, we continue to need your support and partnership. We believe that the proposed budget supports the continuation of high quality programs and services, while respecting the position of our taxpayers. Therefore, the Board of Education is requesting your support of a proposed budget which includes a conservative 1.25% increase to the school tax levy, again representing one of the lowest in our region. Specifically, the budget of \$21,547,548 is responsibly funded by state aid, pandemic relief funds, allocation of district reserves, and to a lesser extent, our tax levy. The annual budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 16, from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the lobby of the middle school gym, through the entrance across from the transportation garage. In this newsletter, you will also find information on propositions that will appear on the ballot, Board candidate statements, and sources of pride in our district. We are asking for your support in voting on all ballot items.

Sincerely,
Delaware Academy Board of Education
& Kelly M. Zimmerman, Superintendent



In addition to the budget, what are the other propositions?

1. Proposition No. 1 – Establish Capital Equipment Reserve

“Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: Shall the Board of Education (“Board”) of the Delaware Academy CSD At Delhi, Delaware County, New York (the “District”) be authorized to establish a new Capital Equipment Reserve Fund, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3651 of the Education Law, to pay for costs of furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required for the purposes for which such improvements are to be used for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) instruction in an amount not to exceed \$750,000, having a probable term of ten (10) years, and be authorized to raise \$750,000 to fund such reserve fund in the current and/or future years through various sources including, but not limited to, state aid reimbursement and cost saving measures resulting in unexpended funds or an unappropriated fund balance in such amounts as determined annually by the Board of Education?”

What does it mean? NYS allows districts to establish a savings account to purchase equipment and machinery to use for STEAM instruction that would otherwise be challenging to afford since these types of expenditures cannot receive state aid. With voter approval, we can transfer a portion of undesignated fund balance into this account each year, the total of which can never exceed \$750,000 over the course of ten years. This does not increase your taxes.

2. Proposition No. 2 – Purchase a new school van

“Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: Shall the Board of Education of the Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi, Delaware County, New York, be authorized to purchase one (1) van including incidental expenses in connection therewith, for the transportation of students, at a maximum cost not to exceed \$45,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary and shall be paid with available funds from the 2022-2023 budget year?”

What does it mean? We maintain a replacement cycle for our district vans that are used for student transportation. We purchase the vans. They are not a part of our lease program like our buses. This year, we had to remove a van from service and it needs to be replaced based on our current transportation needs. This purchase can be done with unexpended funds from the current school year, so as not to add to the tax burden, but requires voter approval.

Delaware Academy Athletics

The 2022-2023 year has proven to be another successful campaign for our talented student-athletes on the athletic fields, courts, track, and in the classrooms.

We had nine teams recognized by NYSPHSAA as Scholar Athlete Teams, among many individual and team accomplishments. The opportunity to be back out there playing sports with each other has also served as a much-needed emotional and social “boost” to our athletes.

2022-23 Sports Season Highlights

- Football Section IV Finalists
- Boys Basketball MAC Champions
- MAC MVP: Luke Schnabel
- Girls Basketball Sectional Semi-Finalists

2022 XC Team Accomplishments:

- Girls MAC Champions
- Boys MAC Champions
- Girls Section IV Class D Champions
- Boys Section IV Class D Champions
- Girls NYS Class D - 5th Place
- Boys NYS Class D - 6th Place



Delaware Academy Music and Arts

This has been a great year for Delaware Academy's Music and Arts Programs thanks to the hard work and dedication of both our students and teachers.

Our students have performed in several concerts, and art exhibits, with both the middle and high school students preparing for the spring concert.

Elementary students did a great job in the holiday sing along, and our 5th graders held a wonderful concert in February.

2023-24 Music Highlights

- Ellie Lees was selected as an alternate for All-State and All-Eastern Chorus.
- High School Jazz Band performed at the Otesaga Hotel to benefit Bassett's school based health program.
- All-County participants in March: 9 elementary band, 16 junior high chorus, 15 senior high jazz choir, 7 senior high band
- NYSSMA: 70 solos will be performed by DA students on May 12/13.
- Area All-State in November: 12 chorus participants, 1 orchestra participant.



Eye on Mental Health

Our first District Goal reads, "Delaware Academy will support and cultivate an educational environment that prioritizes social emotional well-being of staff and students." This year we partnered with our A.L. Kellogg Committee to host a year-long guest speaker series, focusing on various mental health topics including bullying and cyberbullying prevention and intervention, friendship, suicide awareness, among other topics in a developmentally appropriate way for students in all grade levels. We continued classroom instruction using our Second Step curriculum to address positive relationships, managing emotions, and setting goals. We partnered with Building Better Futures to provide targeted instruction at the middle school level. We hosted keynote speakers, book studies, and professional development opportunities for faculty and staff and evening events for our families.



Future Focused Career Exploration Program

In our inaugural year for this program, we collaborated with the DCMO BOCES Career Explorations program and Delaware County Chamber of Commerce to provide seniors with college preparation and workplace experiences aligned with their future career interests and goals. This unique program is helping us to fulfill our mission to "foster partnerships within our region and beyond, supporting a wide range of career pathways for our students."



2022-2023 Board of Education Candidates

Two 3-year term seats to be filled, and pictured in the order they will appear on the ballot

Nathaniel McCarthy



I grew up 40 miles from Delhi in a small town in Sullivan County, and for the last 11 years my wife, two kids and I have lived in Delhi where both of my children attend Delaware Academy. While raising my kids, I have been fortunate enough to coach numerous youth sports within the community. Working with kids and helping them flourish has inspired me to run for the School Board. I want to ensure that every child has every opportunity available to them, and to ensure that our administrators and staff have the tools to fulfil this obligation. Our school board needs leaders that can adapt to the ever-changing world around us to ensure our children are prepared for success after graduation. I graduated from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. I worked as a Project Manager for 8 years and managed all facets of construction projects. This experience in construction management could be leveraged when asking questions, discussing alternative approaches, and making key decisions in capital improvement projects. Currently, I'm an Investigator with the State Police and serve our local community. As a member of a large diverse organization, I'm comfortable working with others and listening to different opinions. Through asking questions and listening to others' viewpoints I'm able to understand issues from multiple perspectives and make informed decisions. This collaborative approach is the cornerstone of a being an effective board member. I look forward to having an opportunity to further serve this community and the tremendous responsibility that comes along with it. I ask for your support with your vote.

Sean E. Secord



I grew up in Cayuga County NY though spent most holidays and time nearly every summer in the Delhi area. It is truly a wonderful place to raise a family. My parents were from the Delhi and graduated from DA in the 1960s. My grandparents Ray and Verna Secord as well as Basil and Myrtle Rider were long-time Delhi area residents. I graduated from Southern Cayuga Central School in 1991 and from SUNY Cortland in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education with a concentration in adult fitness. After that I worked as a Massage Therapist for a couple years though wanted to do more to help others. I therefore went back to school to become a Physician Assistant and graduated with a Master's degree from King's College in 2002. As of March, I have been practicing Family Medicine in this community for 20 years. I am also head of the Bassett Primary Care after-hours call program known as First Call. Due to my experience I have developed strong organizational and time management skills. And I believe 20 years of working with and caring for people of all ages, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds has given me even greater "people skills". However, that does not mean I am just a "people pleaser" and I am not scared to stand by what I believe in the face of adversity. We have lived in the Delhi area for 20 years and I share my home with my wife Julie and my two amazing children Ryan and Lauren. Julie is the most dedicated mother I have ever known. She is a fierce advocate for my autistic son and an amazing role model for my daughter. I will advocate for every child to have the resources to get the most out of their education. I would be honored to be on the board.

Ro Avila



As a resident of Delhi and member of the Delaware Academy family, I've worn many hats over the years: teacher, parent, taxpayer, coach (Go Bulldogs!), club advisor, and union president. All of these roles have enabled me to understand the challenges and opportunities that have presented themselves to our school community. Since completing an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from SUNY Cobleskill and a Bachelors and Masters degrees in Elementary Education from SUNY Oneonta, I spent much of my career teaching sixth grade at DA. From 1998-2000, I took a two year leave of absence teaching in Lima, Peru. In addition, I've served on the Policy Board of the Catskill Regional Teacher Center (3 years as president), and three years on the board of the Chendelo Credit Union. After 35 years, I retired last June, focusing on my role as an adjunct professor. At SUNY Delhi, I teach Business Communications, and at SUNY Oneonta I help prepare pre-service teachers for student teaching and beyond. These varied experiences throughout my career have provided me with a unique understanding of what skills our DA students need, no matter what their post graduation plans are. As a school board member, I would use all that I've learned over the years to help Delaware Academy continue its tradition of excellence while being a steward of taxpayer money.

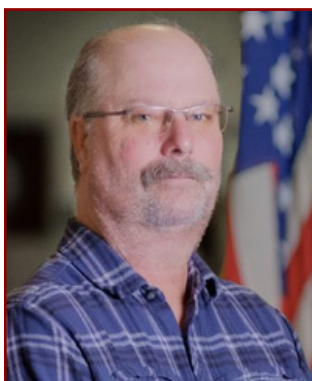
Kimberly Shephard



Kimberly lives in Delhi with her husband John and son Levi who is an 8th grader at Delhi Middle School. Kim's oldest son, Travis, is a 2005 graduate of Delaware Academy. Kim is a teacher at Oneonta Middle School. Her educational experience includes teacher, elementary principal and Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She holds a bachelor degree in elementary education, a master degree in reading education, and school administrator certification. Kim has been involved with children in the Delhi community as a youth soccer coach and Little League coach. She currently serves on the Delhi School Board of Education and is interested in continuing to serve for another three year term. As an educator, she is in the best position to help make decisions, establish policies and programs that afford all students the opportunity for a high quality education. At Delaware Academy, Kim's own children have been afforded challenging and motivational learning and extra-curricular experiences from the amazing teaching and coaching staff. Kim brings the perspective of an educator, parent and tax payer to the role of school board member.



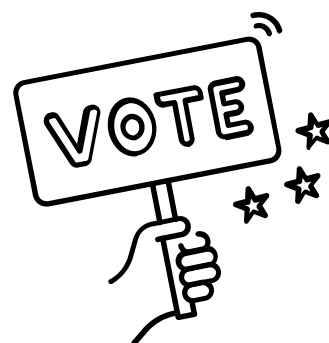
James R. Tucker, Jr.



James Tucker was born and raised in Delhi, and he has lived here with his family for the majority of his life. He attended and graduated from Delaware Academy and is intrinsically dedicated to the school's academic and financial success. He earned his Associate degree from SUNY Delhi and upon this graduation, he enlisted and served in the United States Navy. He returned home to live and work and eventually began his own electrical contracting business of which he has owned and operated for over 30 years. James also started a solar contracting business that he has solely owned and operated for 15 years. James is a strong business-minded person, motivated to see fiscally sound improvements and growth in his surroundings; especially for DA. Having served on the board for the past three years, he is passionate about the solvency and longevity of the Kellogg Fund. He is committed to protecting it for future generations; as Judge Kellogg intended. From the local economy to the environment, James seeks ways to make smart decisions and choices. He is well versed in finance and problem solving, and he is committed to making the world a more efficient and sustainable place. He has been married for over 25 years, and has one daughter who graduated in 2021; the other is about to graduate from Delaware Academy this year. He is invested in the school and the town of Delhi. James's motivations to run for school board are to ensure all of the students of the school district are receiving the education they need to succeed. He would like to continue his part of the decision making process in these unprecedented times, and he has a desire to be part of something larger than himself.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots are available to Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi residents at the district clerk's office during regular business hours of 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. except Saturdays and Sundays or holidays. All absentee ballot applications must be received by the district clerk no later than seven (7) days before the election (May 10, 2023) if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or by the day before the election (May 16, 2023) if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

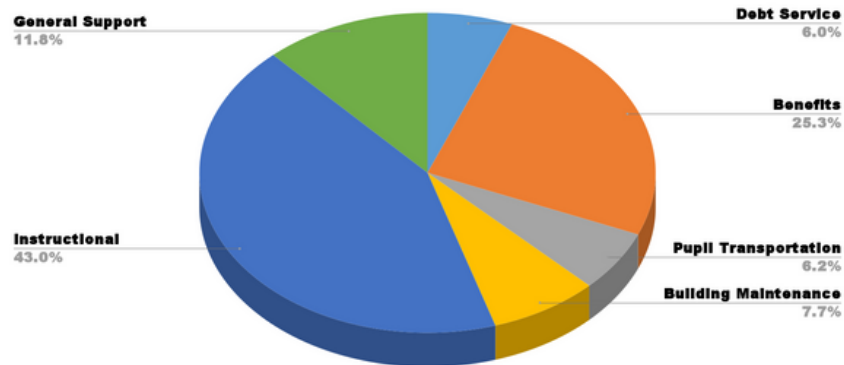


Your
**VOICE
MATTERS**

Expenses

	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
Debt Service	\$1,988,467	\$1,301,738	-34.54%
Benefits	\$5,473,007	\$5,443,447	-0.54%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,360,122	\$1,326,567	-2.47%
Building Maintenance	\$1,629,319	\$1,665,992	2.25%
Instructional	\$8,820,461	\$9,261,805	5.00%
General Support	\$2,297,047	\$2,547,999	10.92%
TOTAL	\$21,568,423	\$21,547,548	-0.10%

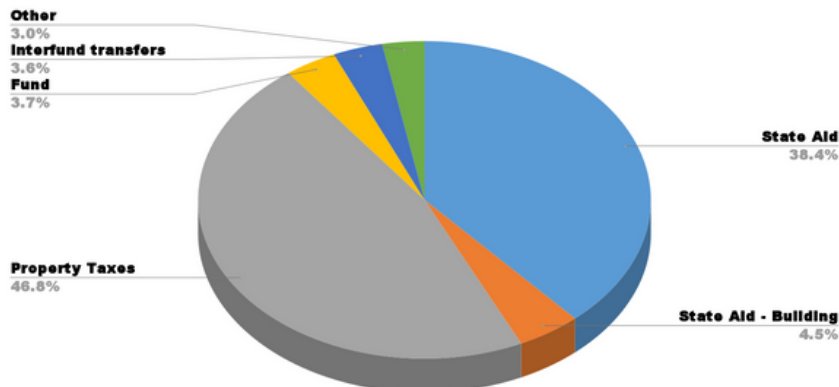
2023-2024 Proposed Budget Expenses



Revenues

	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
State Aid	\$ 7,769,695	\$ 7,914,024	1.86%
State Aid—Building Aid	\$ 1,412,856	\$ 1,468,756	3.96%
Property Taxes	\$ 9,826,347	\$ 9,949,177	1.25%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$ 800,000	\$ 810,466	1.31%
Interfund transfers	\$ 779,720	\$ 838,000	7.47%
Other	\$ 460,000	\$ 588,000	27.83%
TOTAL	\$21,568,423	\$21,547,548	-0.10%

2023-2024 Proposed Budget Revenues



3-Part Budget Summary

Category	2022-2023 Amount	2023-2024 Amount	\$ Difference	% Of Budget
Administrative	\$2,198,652	\$2,257,386	\$58,374	10.48%
Program	\$14,988,648	\$15,545,186	\$556,538	72.14%
Capital	\$4,381,123	\$3,744,975	(\$636,147)	17.38%
Total	\$21,568,423	\$21,547,548	(\$20,875)	

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The Administrative component of the budget includes expenses for central administrative and support salaries and related costs, Board of Education expenses, legal expenses, business office expenses, and insurance.

PROGRAM:

The Program component of the budget includes expenses relating to instruction, including salaries, benefits, textbooks, supplies, transportation, and athletics.

CAPITAL:

The Capital component of the budget includes costs associated with custodial salaries and benefits, building maintenance costs, and debt services costs.

Tax on True Value Comparison



	\$100,000 Home without STAR	\$100,000 Home with Basic STAR	\$150,000 Home without STAR	\$150,000 Home with Basic STAR	\$200,000 Home without STAR	\$200,000 Home with Basic STAR
Current Tax (12.09)	\$1,209.00	\$846.30	\$1,813.50	\$1,450.80	\$2,418.00	\$2,055.30
Proposed Tax (12.24)	\$1,224.00	\$856.80	\$1,836.00	\$1,468.80	\$2,448.00	\$2,080.80
Annual Tax Increase Per	\$15.00 \$1.25	\$10.50	\$22.50	\$18.00	\$30.00	\$25.50
Month Increase		\$0.88	\$1.88	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$2.13

Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi

2 Sheldon Drive
Delhi, New York 13753

Board of Education

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Lauren Raba, Trustee
Kimberly Shephard, Trustee
James Tucker, Jr., Trustee
Kelly M. Zimmerman, Superintendent

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13815
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Current Resident or

ECRWSS
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Vision

Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi will be a leader in academic excellence, preparing students to excel in a diverse and dynamic society.



Mission

Delaware Academy will provide a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities that develop critical thinking, innovation & leadership.

Our community of learners will foster partnerships within our region and beyond, supporting a wide range of career pathways for our students.

Our students will enter society with the ability to embrace change with confidence, altruism, and adaptability.

2023-2024 BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
12:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Middle/High School Gym Lobby



District Goals



- Delaware Academy will support and cultivate an educational environment that prioritizes social emotional well-being of staff and students.
- Delaware Academy will engage in data-informed practices, using multiple sources of information to ensure continuous growth in student performance and outcomes.
- Delaware Academy will evaluate and provide necessary resources to achieve our mission in an informed and fiscally responsible manner.
- Delaware Academy will attract, develop, and retain high quality, student-centered faculty, staff, and administrators.
- Delaware Academy will develop and maintain collaborative relationships with and between our district and the communities it serves.

