



The SPARTANA

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

VOLUME 57, NUMBER 3 • SPRING/BUDGET 2018

STARPOINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

High School Athletes Partner Up with Fricano Students for Reading

The Fricano students were thrilled to have some of the school district's own student athletes spend some time reading to them.

The High School students were the March guests of the school's PARP activity "Drop Everything and Read". "It has been such a great addition to our PARP program this year," says teacher Lauren Richau. "We have loved having the community involved and sharing their love of reading with the students. We were excited to have the Starpoint Athletes as part of #OneStarpoint and to continue our theme of "Reading is a Ball".



Cameron Antonio



Jacob Manns and Aaron Chase, Front Row: Eli Metzger and Keaton Kerr



Justus Quiros, Jack Riester, Violet Lis and Paige Beutler.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Starpoint Community,

Our most important goal as a school district is to ensure we are providing a safe learning environment for our students and staff. In light of recent school tragedies across the United States, I wanted to share with you the measures that the Starpoint Central School District has taken toward this critical goal.

Over the past few years, we have worked very closely with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, NYS Troopers, and a private security consultant company to implement the following measures to enhance student safety:

- Added a full-time School Resource Officer, who is a S.W.A.T. trained Niagara County Sheriff's Deputy beginning in the 2016-17 school year
- Completed a campus-wide, in-depth security assessment in 2016
- Implemented regularly scheduled, police-involved, lockdown drills at every school building prior to these drills being mandated by NYS
- Trained all staff on the mindset of an active shooter to assist faculty and staff with the knowledge of how to identify a student at risk and how to protect our students if the District is confronted with a threat in or outside of school
- Implemented a single-point of entry with enhanced camera systems, buzz-in system, and monitors at each building entrance
- Installed high definition security cameras throughout the entire campus
- Trained bus drivers on the topics of medical emergencies, threats, and weapons
- Implemented a visitor ID management system which monitors a national sex offender database
- Hold regular discussions with our school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors regarding at-risk students

Despite taking these proactive steps to enhance campus safety, the District is moving forward with other initiatives in the coming months to further strengthen our campus security. In the near future the following safety procedures will be implemented:

- Beginning April 1st, we will be requiring that all visitors to the school show proper Government Issued Picture ID to the outside door access camera prior to entering the building and at the front desk when visiting any building
- We will be starting extensive front door security and infrastructure improvements, which include a secure vestibule at each of our single-point of entry building entrances
- Renumbering of classrooms district-wide to assist first responders in locating a problem area
- Installing additional indoor and outdoor high definition security cameras
- Consolidating all after-school events into two or three buildings, with a single-point of entry at these buildings
- Enhancing security at large-scale, after-school events such as sports games, musicals, concerts, etc.

We will continue to work with the local authorities to ensure the continued safety and security of our students. Parents and community members are also instrumental in reporting if they see someone or something that may cause suspicion. I encourage parents and community members to contact the Niagara County Sheriff's Office and the school district if they notice anything that looks suspicious.

Thank you for always supporting our students, staff, and the #OneStarpoint school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sean M. Croft
Superintendent of Schools

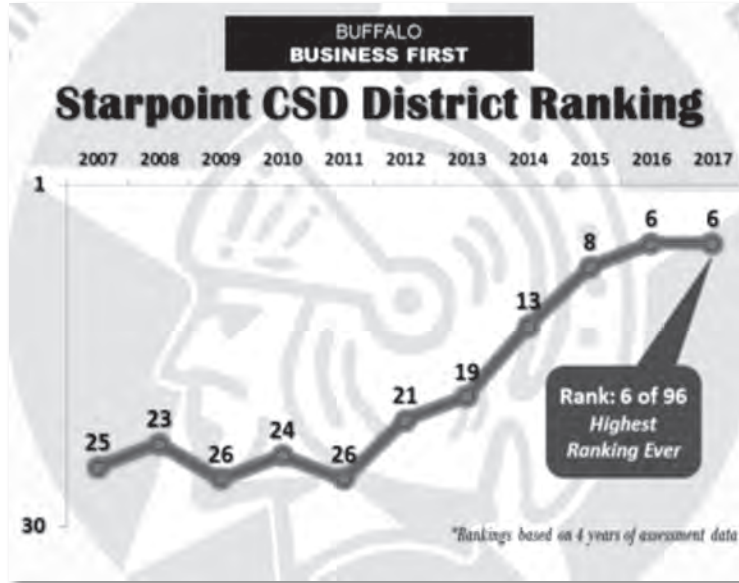


Sean M. Croft, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Dear Residents:

The Starpoint Board of Education continues to place a very high value on quality educational programs while keeping a constant eye on its fiscal responsibility. As an entire #OneStarpoint community we have made tremendous strides in improving student achievement over the past few years. Starpoint continues to stun the Western New York community with our rapid rise in the Business First rankings; including being ranked #6 of 96 school districts in Western New York in 2017.



However, as we prepare a fiscally responsible budget for 2018-19, Starpoint is not resting on our success. Last year we made important strides by expanding STEM courses for students and adding an additional Kindergarten teacher to keep class sizes low due to increased enrollment.

Within our 2018-19 budget you will see:

- Further expansion of safety and security measures across the district to enhance the safety of our students.
- Further expansion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) courses for students. New Project Lead the Way STEM courses will be

added to the Middle and High Schools.

- An additional TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) to assist the K-5 buildings with student behavioral difficulties and discipline referrals.

Our 2018-19 budget is projecting a tax rate increase of 1.88%. See the chart below for what the changes will be in certain tax bills:

Home Assessment	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000
Annual Tax Increase for 2018-19	\$44.40	\$62.90	\$81.40	\$99.90

In addition, the proposed 2018-19 school budget is UNDER THE PROPERTY TAX CAP LIMIT of 3.69%:

Total Budget 2018-19	BUDGET-to-BUDGET % ↑	Tax Levy % ↑	PROPERTY TAX CAP	Tax Rate % ↑↓
\$56,105,468	↑ 3.99%	↑ 3.29%	3.69%	↑ 1.88%

Tax Levy: The total amount of taxes to be collected from all district taxpayers.

Property Tax Cap: The allowable amount of taxes to be collected from all district taxpayers.

Tax Rate: The amount of taxes each taxpayer is projected to pay per \$1,000 of assessed value of their home.

Budget Hearing Date: May 1, 2018 - 7:20 p.m. - Board of Education Conference Room

Please become an informed voter. Detailed information about the budget is available in this publication or on Starpoint's website at www.starpointcsd.org or upon request by calling the Superintendent's Office at 210-2352. Your vote is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT as we strive to work together to meet the educational needs of our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sean M. Croft
Superintendent of Schools

#OneStarpoint



Board Election and Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 15, 2018 • 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Starpoint High School



Sophomores Visit College Fair

The school counseling department took sophomore students on a field trip March 21st. Students went to the Buffalo convention Center where over 200 colleges across the nation were represented. The students were able to gather information and talk about what the schools had to offer.

The field trip ended with a visit to D'Youville College to hear a presentation on the many different programs they offer and then a campus tour.

Students Show Off Creativity at 25th Annual Invent-A-Thon

The students at Douglas J. Regan Intermediate School came dressed to impress at the 25th Annual Invent-A-Thon Fair.

A record number of third, fourth and fifth grade inventors, 133 in all, put on an incredible display of creative and imaginative thoughts. They had a chance to show off their inventions to family and friends in the gymnasium at the school on February 15th. Their designs ranged from simple adaptations of commonly used devices to more advanced designs. The students' innovations wowed the attendees. Many of the young inventors said their ideas came from wanting to make their life simpler or solving a problem for a loved one. One of the winners, Henrietta Rasmusson, said she was inspired to create "The Fetch-O-Bot" to help her grandmother retrieve items that were dropped underneath a piece of furniture.

The concept of the Invent-A-Thon is to get students thinking of creative ways to solve problems which is a huge part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative that is taught in school districts.

Fourteen students walked away with ribbons after the fair for their incredible inventions and were honored by the Board of Education at a recent meeting.

Congratulations go to: Emma Holler, Lily Curione, Teaghan Fowler, Madaline Walby, Ava Catanese, Nathan Hammond, Isabella Figliomeni, Leilah Badura, Danica Pitman, Ella Churpita, Henrietta Rasmusson, John Giacco, Kayley Williams and Kaiden Williams



Regan Intermediate Stars Have Popsicles with Principal

The latest batch of Regan Intermediate School's Spartan Stars were recently rewarded with a popsicles with their principal, Monica Daigler.

The students were recognized because of their hard work, organization and great behavior.



Despite Snow Storm - the Show Must Go On!

Kudos to 8th grade clarinetists, Adrienne Licata and Michaela Staskiewicz, who braved a snow storm to attend the NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band in Syracuse, NY.

They rehearsed for two days and had an amazing concert where they premiered a new composition. They were the only students from Niagara County in the ensemble!



Music Department Celebrates Music Month with Choral-O-Rama

The Starpoint Music Department Celebrated March, which is Music in our Schools Month, with a Choral-O-Rama at the High School.

Music teachers, Johna Wiegand (2nd Grade Music Club), Nicole Peets (4th and 5th Grade Chorus), Julie Arlotta (6th, 7th and 8th Grade Chorus) and Roger VanDette (Combined High School Choruses) conducted their students with a varied and ambitious program that included "The Star Spangled Banner", "Hey Ho, Joshua Fit the Battle", "You're My Best Friend", "ABC", "Count On Me", "Flashlight", "How Far I'll Go", "Beautiful City" and then everyone joined in for the finale of "Sweet Caroline".





STARPOINT SCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

EXPENDITURES	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	% of Budget
P1. Training for Instructional Staff on New Standards	\$152,705	\$180,186	
P2. Regular and Occupational Instruction	\$15,853,414	\$16,159,684	
P3. Instruction for Pupils with Disabilities	\$5,381,674	\$5,885,702	
P4. GED and Community Education Programs	\$134,683	\$137,060	
P5. Libraries, Computer- Assisted Instruction	\$1,062,613	\$1,146,711	
P6. Guidance, Psychologists, Social Workers	\$1,399,594	\$1,446,390	
P7. Health Services	\$590,535	\$609,702	
P8. Co-Curricular Activities	\$233,207	\$234,241	
P9. Interscholastic Sports	\$488,590	\$506,308	
P10. Transportation Services	\$4,117,676	\$4,249,794	
P11. Research, Planning & Evaluation	\$8,000	\$8,000	
P12. Legal Services - Negotiations & Labor Relations	\$95,440	\$95,680	
P13. Central Services: Printing, Mailing, and Data Processing	\$214,432	\$223,782	
P14. Employees' & Teachers' Retirement, Unemployment and Health Benefits, Social Security, Workers' Compensation	\$8,753,813	\$9,318,839	
P15. Transfer to Other Funds-Summer School for Pupils w/ Disabilities, School Lunch Fund	\$61,000	\$62,000	
PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$38,547,376	\$40,264,079	71.76%
C1. Operation of Buildings	\$2,710,727	\$2,711,050	
C2. Maintenance of Grounds and Buildings	\$627,652	\$659,633	
C3. Assessments - Town of Pendleton Water & Sewer	\$44,500	\$44,500	
C4. BOCES: Administrative Charges for Capital	\$21,095	\$21,678	
C5. Employees' Retirement, Unemployment and Health Benefits, Social Security, Workers' Compensation	\$908,849	\$925,798	
C6. Principal Payments on Bonds	\$4,955,677	\$5,414,873	
C7. Interest Payments on Bonds/RAN	\$1,644,196	\$1,290,299	
C8. Transfer to Other Funds - Capital	\$0	\$100,000	
CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$10,912,696	\$11,167,831	19.91%

EXPENDITURES	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	% of Budget
A1. Board of Education, District Clerk, District Meeting	\$32,400	\$34,600	
A2. Superintendent's Office	\$229,252	\$239,562	
A3. Business Office	\$364,693	\$383,794	
A4. Legal Services, Personnel, Public Information	\$112,178	\$117,770	
A5. Central Services: Printing, Mailing, and Data Processing	\$31,000	\$31,000	
A6. BOCES: Student/Financial Services and Administrative Charges	\$650,479	\$685,652	
A7. Insurance	\$207,780	\$222,325	
A8. Curriculum Development, Principals Offices/Operations	\$1,746,220	\$1,797,075	
A9. Employees' & Teachers' Retirement, Unemployment and Health Benefits, Social Security, Workers Compensation	\$1,114,909	\$1,161,780	
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$4,488,911	\$4,673,558	8.33%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$53,948,983	\$56,105,468	

REVENUES	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	% of Budget
R1. Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,800,000	\$2,900,000	5.17%
R2. State/Federal/BOCES Aid	\$22,093,512	\$23,160,012	41.28%
R3. Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$375,467	\$419,436	0.75%
R4. Other Revenues	\$360,500	\$375,500	0.67%
R5. Real Property Tax	\$28,319,504	\$29,250,520	52.13%
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET	\$53,948,983	\$56,105,468	

**Board Election and
Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 15, 2018
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Starpoint High School**

PROPOSED BUDGET COSTS					
Based on \$150,000 Assessed Value Home	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Contingent Budget	Current Vs. Proposed	Current vs. Contingent
Estimated Tax Rate (Varies by Township) per \$1,000 of assessed value	\$19.67	\$20.04	\$19.40	\$0.37	-\$0.27
Without STAR	\$2,951	\$3,006	\$2,910	\$55	-\$41
Basic STAR (\$30,000 Assessed Value Exemption)	\$2,360	\$2,405	\$2,328	\$45	-\$32
Enhanced STAR (\$50,000 Assessed Value Exemption)	\$1,967	\$2,004	\$1,940	\$37	-\$27
Enhanced STAR with limited income(Calculated with 25% savings)	\$1,475	\$1,503	\$1,455	\$28	-\$20



Board of Education Candidates

School Board Member Qualifications

- Must be able to read and write.
- Must be a qualified voter of the district.
- Must be a resident (but need not be a taxpayer) of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately before the election.
- Cannot have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year.
- Cannot reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family.
- Cannot be a current employee of the school board.
- Cannot simultaneously hold another incompatible public office

Gregory G. Brehm



Incumbent

Address:
3222 Upper Mountain Road, Sanborn, NY 14132

Family:
Elaine - wife; Tyler (Lieutenant jg in the U.S. Navy) and Lindsey (attends D'Youville College in the Pharmacy program) - children

Education:
AAS in Computers at College of Sequoias, Visalia, CA

Occupation:
A-V Technician at Niagara County Community College

Nicholas K. Kwasniak



Address:
6054 Fisk Road, Lockport, NY 14094

Family:
Katherine - wife; James, Maria and Alexander - children

Education:
Starpoint Graduate, Graduate of Local 22 Trade School

Occupation:
Executive Director of Environmental Services

Mark E. Ewart, Sr.



Incumbent

Address:
4041 Mapleton Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Family:
Maureen - wife; Mark, Jr. & Robert - children

Education:
BSEE - Rochester Institute of Technology
AAS Industrial Technology - Alfred State College

Occupation:
SAIA Communications, Inc.

Anthony C. Perez



Incumbent

Address:
3886 Slusaric Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Family:
Sherryl - wife; Tony & Phil - children

Education:
Masters in Software Engineering - Drexel University
Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering - SUNY at Buffalo

Occupation:
Principal Electrical Engineer at Greatbatch Medical

Proposition 1

Shall the general fund budget totaling \$56,105,468 as adopted by the Board of Education for the school year 2018-19, be approved and the required funds be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, to be levied and collected as required by law?

Vote for three (3) - Board Member Election

Elections will be for three members of the Board of Education. Three seats for 3-year terms.

Budget Public Hearing Date

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 - 7:20 pm in the Board of Education Conference Room

Meet the Candidates Night – Date and Time To Be Announced

Sponsored by the Starpoint PTA • Facilitated By –The League of Women Voters

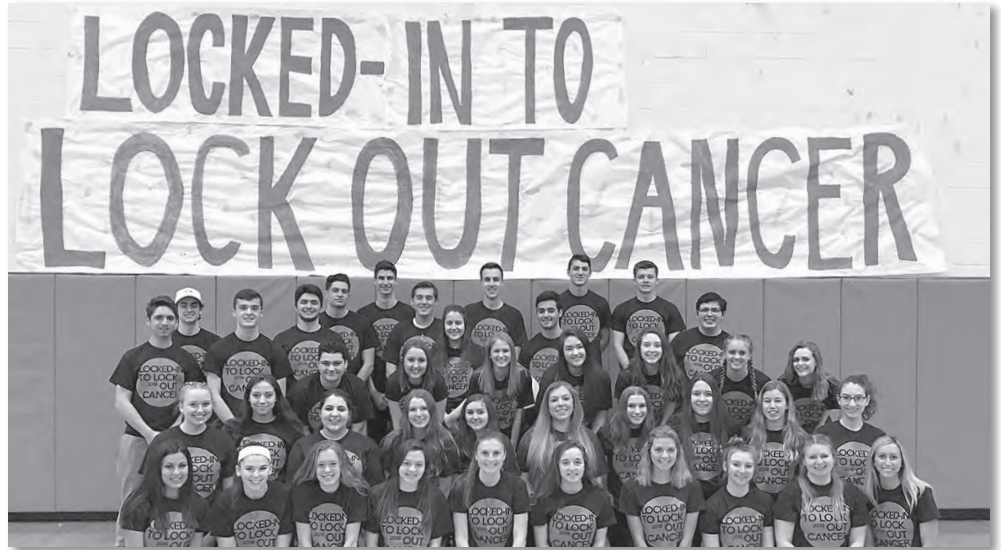
Please check our website for the date, time and location of the event or contact the District Clerk at #201-2352 for detailed information



Working Together for an Artistic Cause

One of Mrs. Lindsay Abramo's 5th grade Art classes and Mrs. Kelly Tomasello's Digital Multimedia class of 10th - 12th graders, are collaborating on a very unique project. They will be creating a stop motion animation together complete with video and sound effects.

The students have been meeting every Thursday for the past several weeks and so far have come up with a simple video concept and have built the set. "My students have worked on it every day, but meet back on Thursday with Mrs. Abramo's student," explains Mrs. Tomasello. The students are beginning to animate and will start editing and adding sound and video effects. "The 5th graders wait excitedly at the door to see the big kids turn the corner," says Mrs. Tomasello. "It's going to be a memorable experience for both grades!"



Getting Locked In For a Good Cause

The weekend of March 16th-17th saw over 250 students at Starpoint High School, participate in the sixth annual "Locked In to Lock Out Cancer" event. They pledged to stay awake ("locked in") at the high school from 7:00pm to 7:00am to raise money for cancer research for Roswell Park.

The 30 person planning committee, headed up by Nicole Valentine, collected donations from local businesses and organizations over the past several months to help make the event the huge success that it was.

The participants enjoyed a fun evening of contests, entertainment, music and food. The students said it was worth being tired to raise money for such a worthy cause. Thanks to the event, the staff dress down day and the Caps for Cancer fundraiser over \$16,000 was raised. That makes a six year total of nearly \$70,000!

Thanks to the entire Starpoint community for your support!

Mary Poppins is Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

The cast, musicians and crew of the Starpoint High School musical brought the audience to its feet with their performance of Walt Disney's "Mary Poppins".

The talented cast headed up by Brooke Allen as Mary Poppins, Christopher Palumbo as Bert and Daniel and Magdalene Lord as Mr. and Mrs. Bank was outstanding with their singing, dancing and acting.

A special thank you goes to Producer, Jason Gielow, Stage Director, Amanda Kennedy, Assistant Producer, Marie Vergils, Choreographer Julie Haylett, Vocal Director Marnie Aldrow, Pit Orchestra Director, Stephanie Teichman, Costume Designer Kelly Tomasello and Stage Crew Manager Patty Oliphant who helped the students bring the magic to the stage!

Congratulations on another Kenny Award nominated performance!





Starpoint Students Recognized at PAL Awards

Anthony Robinson, Samantha Shea, Brooke McNamara, and Jacob Walters were among 24 student-athletes that were recognized at the Niagara Police Athletic League (PAL) awards dinner in February.

Niagara PAL asks each of the 12 area high schools to submit a male and female student for Prep Athlete of the Year. Nominees must not only be a great athlete, but excel academically. Area Athletic Directors along with PAL representatives then vote.

Samantha Shea is a four-year varsity track, three-year varsity soccer athlete and competitive figure skating athlete. She excelled at track as a freshman and earned fourth place at the Section VI state qualifier. She is undefeated in the 400 in league and earned ECIC All-Star status in 10th and 11th grades, and she won second place at ECIC Championships in the 400 and 4x400 last year. At the state qualifier, Shea finished third in the 400 and fourth in the 4x400. She is a two-year team captain and two-time MVP. In soccer, Shea is a three-year starter and captain. As a senior, she dominated the league's top scorers and earned second team All-ECIC honors. In addition, Shea is one of the top figure skaters in WNY. She was a finalist at the North Atlantic Regionals, silver medalist at the Empire State Games and gold medalist in the Senior Ladies free skate. Shea is a member of the honor society and has earned multiple scholar-athlete awards. She plans to study nursing in college while competing in track and field.

Anthony Robinson is a three-year varsity football star. He received first team All-Class A North in 10th, 11th and 12th grades, and has received All-WNY selections, broken three school records, rushed for over 1,000 yards his senior season, and been named Class A North Offensive Player of the Year, Buffalo News Prep Talk Player of the Week and fourth team All-NYS. The Spartans won three straight Class A North titles and were 2016 Section VI Class A finalists. Robinson is also a three-year varsity wrestler and is currently ranked No. 1 in Western New York in his weight class. He has broken two school records in wrestling and took fourth at Eastern States so far this season. His team was league champion last year. Robinson is also a four-year varsity track athlete, finishing third in the discus at the sectionals



(LtoR) Samantha Shea, Brooke McNamara, Anthony Robinson and Jacob Walters.

Fricano Math Night Another Huge Success

Over 100 families showed up for the third annual Math Night at Starpoint's Fricano Primary. Second grade teacher, Lauren Richau, says they have received a lot of positive feedback and it is a great way for families to bond. "The night is for kindergarten to second grade and each grade level has a dice game, a domino game and a card game related to math. These are games that the families can also play at home together. We also have drawings to win math games that they can take home."

The PTA also generously provided refreshments for all of those who attended. And a special thank you to the High School Math National Honor Society students who spent the evening explaining and playing games with the students and families!



Regan Intermediate Students Shine in Jungle Book Adaptation

Thanks to the inventiveness of Music teacher Nicole Peets, Regan Intermediate School has the first ever elementary drama club in the history of Starpoint!

This first performance was in November where Miss Peets and 40 fifth graders put on their first production. It centered on stories that Miss Peets compiled and adapted and wrote the music for. After the successful first production, she and 50 fourth graders tackled the "Jungle Book". Every student who signed up was given a role and once again Miss Peets put her talents to work to make a spectacular show. "I composed music to fit with the Jungle Book and I directed and choreographed the show. The parents provided props and costumes for the production which I am very grateful since our club is currently running on donations from parents and teachers. We really appreciate their support!"

The students performed "The Jungle Book" in front of a very appreciative crowd of 300 people on March 7th. Bravo everyone!



(LtoR) Tessa Cianflone, Maria Giomondo, Olivia Roberts, Natalie Prosser, Braylee Washburn, and Kennedy Bush.



STARPOINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Lockport, NY 14094

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Superintendent of Schools

www.starpointcsd.org



Why Vote?

Because you can.

Because you set an example.

Because you show respect for what educators do.

Because your response is needed.

Because your community and its children depend on you.

From 4/28/08 On Board published by the New York State Schools Boards Association

Voter Qualifications

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. At least 18 years of age.
3. A district resident for a period of 30 days immediately preceding the vote.
4. A person who is not otherwise prohibited from voting under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law.

NOTE: A false declaration of voting qualifications is a misdemeanor and is punishable by law.

Proof of residency is required - Driver's License, Non-Driver ID Card, a utility bill, or a Voter Registration Card. (You may sign a declaration of residency if you do not have your proof of residency with you at the polls.)

**Board Election and
Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 15, 2018
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Starpoint High School**



**Starpoint Art
Department 5th Annual
Arts and Crafts Fair**

**Saturday, April 28th • 11am-2pm
170 Student Crafters (Grades 3-12)**

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots will be provided upon proper application to any qualified voter who will be unable to vote in person due to illness or physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration (unless for a felony conviction), travel outside the voter's county or city of residence for employment or business reasons, studies, or vacation on the day of the election (§§ 2018-a(2), 2018-b(2)).

Applications for absentee ballots can be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk, 4363 Mapleton Road, on any weekday, except holidays, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

If the ballot is to be mailed to the absentee voter, the completed application must be received by the District Clerk no later than seven days prior to the election, May 8, 2018. If the ballot is to be issued personally to the voter at the Office of the District Clerk, the completed application must be received by the District Clerk no later than one day prior to the election, May 14, 2018.

The absentee ballot must be returned to Dorothy Szpaicher, District Clerk, either in person or by mail, no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2018.

