

For More Information



Jefferson physical education students jump rope during an "Amazing Race" competition.



Persell instrumental music teacher, Peter Lindblom, teaches a trumpet lesson.

Reminder on JHS Graduation Ceremony Dates

As a reminder to parents/guardians and students, Jamestown High School's Graduation Ceremony will be held Friday, June 24, 2005 at 7 p.m. in the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena. Baccalaureate Service will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2005 at 7 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church.

Looking for more information on the May 17 vote and how to register to cast a ballot? The following is a list of ways residents can obtain information about both:

Budget Hearing at the Ring Elementary School on May 4, 2005 at 7 p.m.

Budget Document Available

The complete 2005-06 Budget document will be available on April 27 and can be reviewed at the Board of Education Administration Building at 201 E. Fourth Street, Jamestown, New York.

Voter Information

Polling Places will be located at six Jamestown Public Schools: Ring, Washington, Love, Lincoln, Fletcher and Bush. The polls will be opened from noon to 9 p.m. on May 17. Please call the Administration Building at 483-4420 for any questions on polling locations, or where you should vote.

Voter Eligibility

To be eligible to vote in the Jamestown Public School District Budget/Board of Education Election, an individual must be: at least 18 years of age; a United States citizen; a resident of the Jamestown Public School District for at least 30 days prior to May 17, and a **registered voter**. All qualified voters residing within

the City of Jamestown, and who were registered for the preceding general election, and still reside in the same school election district, OR all qualified voters residing outside the City of Jamestown but within the confines of school districts formerly known as Kiantone Number Three and Busti Number Seven, who voted or were qualified to vote at the preceding general election, and still reside in the same school election district are entitled to vote at the annual School Board Election and Budget Vote being held May 17, 2005.

For Individuals Not Registered

In order to be entitled to vote, people must present themselves personally for registration before the Board of Registration of the Jamestown Public School District in the third floor Conference Room of the Board of Education Administration Building, 201 East Fourth Street, Jamestown, New York **on May 3, 2005 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who are not able to vote in person on Election Day may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Applications can be obtained through the District Clerk, in person, by mail, or by phone. (District Offices, 201 E. Fourth Street, Jamestown, New York; 483-4420). Those wishing to receive the ballot by mail must apply at least seven days before the vote. Ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 17, 2005.

Superintendent of Schools
Raymond Fashano

Board of Education 2004~05

Joseph Pawelski, President
Timothy Thomas, Vice President
Joseph DiMaio, Laurel Lucas,
Deann Nelson, Thomas Pope,
Christine Schnars

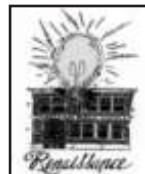
To contact Board members, call
Sue Caronia, District Clerk



JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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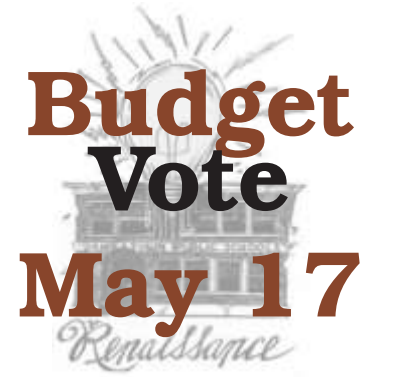


News from Jamestown School District

Renaissance

Make a Lasting Impression

May 17



Jamestown Public Schools

MESSAGE from the
SUPERINTENDENT
Raymond Fashano

Dear Residents:

Well, we have had a different budget year! New York State passed an on-time budget for the first time in twenty years. This is good news in some respects because the Jamestown School District now knows the revenue side of the budget. In layman's terms

- we know how much state aid we will receive before the budget vote on May 17, 2005.

This is the first time that this has happened in my career and I have been involved in developing seventeen budgets. From this perspective, it is very good news for this year. The bad news is there is not enough money to build any capacity back into the school system for what we had lost the past two years. The school district had laid off about 140 positions that included teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators over the last three years..

The Board of Education and administration have been working diligently, since the first draft of the budget demonstrated a 12.58% local property increase, to decrease the local tax effort. The Board of Education worked through several regular board meetings and some work sessions to trim your tax burden to a 1.9% increase. In essence, our budget expenditures are up 4.27% and the local tax levy will be increased by 1.9%.

There are several reasons for our budget increase:

Retirement Systems - The Teacher Retirement Systems has increased by \$2,141,837 in four years. This year alone it increased \$505,618. Our Employees Retirement System increased from 2002-03 to the present 2005-06 budget a total of \$839,183.

Teacher Retirement System (TRS)

	Actual 2002-03	Actual 2003-04	Budget 2004-05	Budget 2005-06
Rates	0.36%	2.52%	5.63%	7.97%
Amount	\$41,887	\$927,779	\$1,678,106	\$2,183,724
Dollar Increase		\$885,892	\$ 750,327	\$ 505,618

Employee Retirement System (ERS)

	Actual 2002-03	Actual 2003-04	Budget 2004-05	Budget 2005-06
Rates	1.40%	4.90%	14.00%	14.00%
Amount	\$ 63,715	\$112,814	\$902,449	\$902,898
Dollar Increase		\$ 49,099	\$789,635	\$ 449

Message from Superintendent continues on page 2



Lincoln first grader, Adasiah Gifford, works on drawing a dinosaur as part of her English Language Arts project based on the book *Dinosaur Toes*.

Budget Details

Interesting Facts About JPS

- While K-12 enrollment remained relatively stable, the 2003-04 kindergarten class was the largest in several years (428 students).
- Our 03-04 student enrollment was, 2% Asian/American and Indian, 8% Black, 9% Hispanic, and 82% White.
- Our elementary average class size was 18 in 2003-04.
- The percentage of families eligible for the federal free lunch program increased over the passed three years from 39% to 41% to 46%.
- JPS employed 491 teachers in 2003-04.

- From the NYS Report Card published February 2005



Bus Purchase Proposition Info

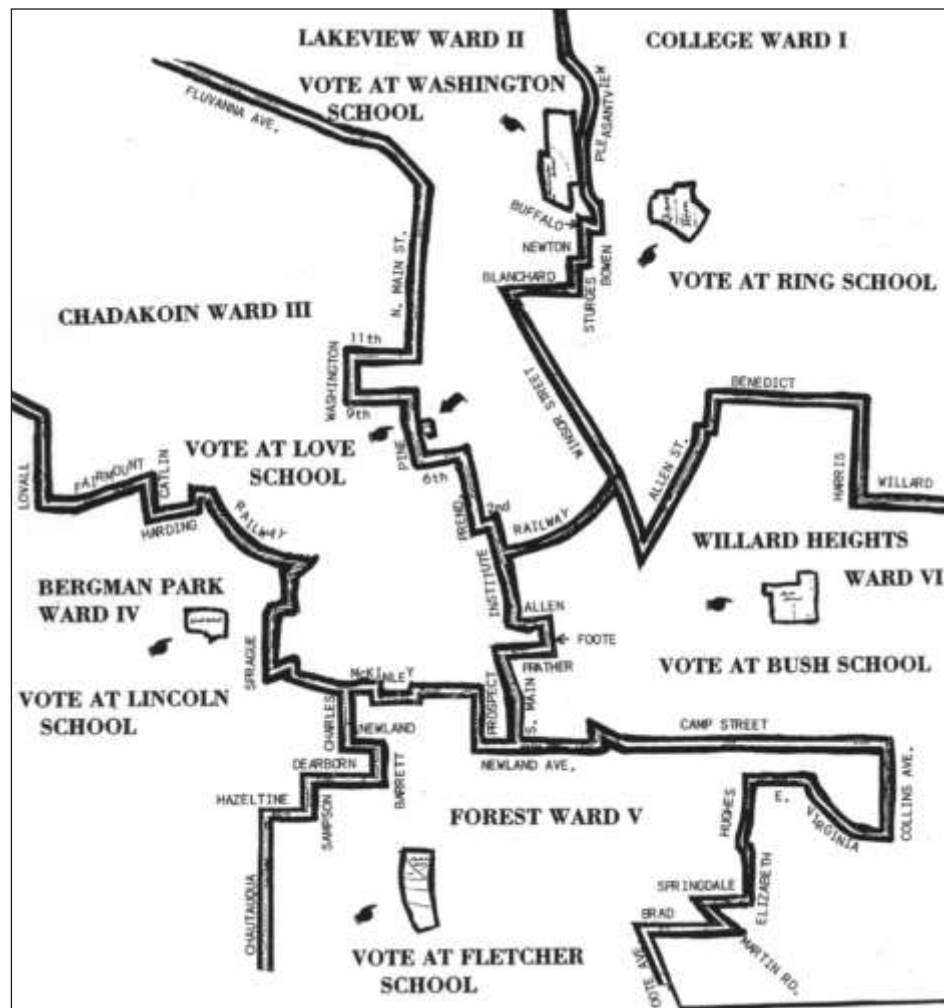
Jamestown currently operates 43 buses that transport students with disabilities within the City limits, provides transportation to students outside the City limits to and from school, and transports students on field trips and to athletic events.

Due to budget constraints, we have been unable to replace buses as desired. We have six buses that are ten years old, or older, and many with high mileage.

The proposition will allow the District to purchase up to \$350,000 in new buses. This value is based upon purchasing two 66-passenger buses, one large bus with wheelchair lift and stations, and four vans.

This proposition does not have any financial impact on this 2005-06 budget. If the proposition is approved, the District will borrow the necessary funds after July 1st so that the first payment will be due in the 2006-07 school year. We anticipate paying off the borrowing over a five-year period as our state aid for bus purchases is received over a five-year period.

Where Do I Vote?



Instructional Results

Good News in Our Schools!!

Elementary Schools

Bush

- The percent of students scoring at level 4 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math is higher than similar schools across the state, ELA (5%) Math (7%).



Ring third grader, Mark Morrison, uses the "Jump Start" computer program, which stresses learning about geography, Math, Social Studies and English Language Arts.

Fletcher

- The number of students scoring at level 1 on the ELA and Math has declined by 44%.

Lincoln

- The percentage of students far exceeding state standard in Math increased from 16% in 2003 to 44% in 2004.

Love

- The percentage of students meeting State standards in English Language Arts more than doubled from 2003 to 2004.

Ring

- Grade four Math scores increased sharply in 2004.

Rogers

- 81% of fourth grade students met or exceeded state standards in Science.

Middle Schools

Jefferson

- Grade 8 ELA scores jumped 10% from 2003 to 2004.

Persell

- More than half of the eighth graders far exceeded the state standards in Science.



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Officer, Bob O'Connor, showed students animal skins during a recent Science unit on local mammals.

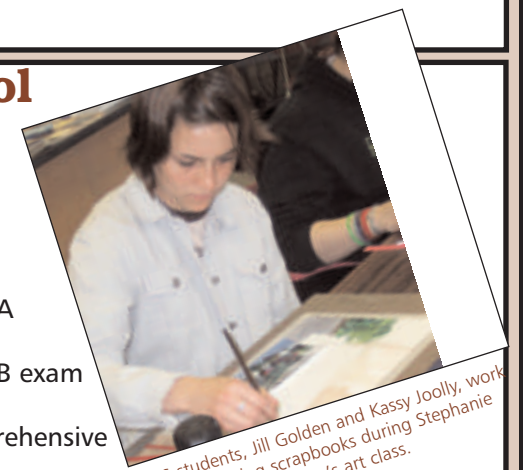
Washington

- The percentage of students far exceeding NYS standards in Science has increased from 38% to 40% to 44% over three years

High School

JHS

- 73% of JHS graduates earned a Regents (or higher) diploma
- 90% passed the Math A exam (at 65 level)
- 94% passed the Math B exam (at 65 level)
- 95% passed the Comprehensive Spanish exam (at 65 level)
- 100% passed the Comprehensive French exam (at 65 level)



JHS students, Jill Golden and Kassy Jolly, work on collaging scrapbooks during Stephanie Cutrona's art class.

Budget Information

Questions & Answers



Bush third graders in Tari Geisler's class play a math game called "Chicken Foot" to practice their addition and multiplication of doubles skills.

Q. What has been the main obstacle to overcome to finalize the budget?

A. Mandated increases in teacher and employee retirement systems

Q. How much does Jamestown depend upon New York State for revenues?

A. Jamestown gets over 70% of its revenue from New York State. Even though local taxes will be held to 1.9%, Jamestown was not able to rebuild the capacity from the last two years with the loss of about 140 jobs.

Q. How many jobs were lost in this budget?

A. Jamestown will still layoff five more people from various positions and one teacher position due to attrition. A few other positions will be absorbed into grants.

Q. Have any programs

Rogers 3rd/4th multi-age teacher, Lisa Certo-Card, shows students how to calculate area and perimeter.

and health insurance increases.

Q. Did the state have a budget on time this year?

A. Yes. For the first time in 20 years, school boards, superintendents and business officials know how much money they will receive (revenues).

been modified in this budget?

A. Yes. Jamestown, along with the neighboring school districts of Falconer, Frewsburg and Southwestern formed a special education consortium to share services and make for a more efficient use of personnel. Jamestown will also be bringing back students from Randolph Academy and BOCES alternative education program in an attempt to save dollars for our taxpayers.

Q. Are there other propositions besides the budget vote?

A. Yes. The first proposition will be to vote on a budget expenditure not to exceed \$58,550,558. The second proposition will be to vote on bus purchases. The third area of voting will be to elect three board members.

Q. Will my taxes increase from this budget?

A. Yes. The tax levy will increase 1.9%. For a house assessed at \$20,000, the taxes will increase \$23.50 per year. For a house assessed at \$30,000, the taxes increase \$35.25.

Note: This is based upon 2004-05 assessed valuation and equalization rates. The 2005-06 assessed valuation data will not be known until late May and 2005-06 equalization rates will not be available until August.

Q. Will District offices be moving in 2005-06?

A. That determination has not yet been made. The District has sent out a Request for

Q. Why did this budget increase?

A. The major reasons for budget increases are salary increases, teacher and employee retirement cost increases and health insurance increases. There were minor increases in materials and supplies, contractual expenses, equipment, increases in textbooks and in BOCES services.

Q. How many Board of Education seats are up for election?

A. There are three board seats up for election. All seats are for three year term of office. The incumbents are Mr. Joseph Pawelski, Mr. Timothy Thomas and Mr. Thomas Pope.

Proposal (RFP) for possible relocation of the district offices. The District is presently studying the RFP's that have been submitted. No decision has been reached at this point in time.

Q. When is the budget hearing?

A. This year's budget hearing will be Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at Ring Elementary School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Q. When is the budget vote?

A. The budget vote date for all schools in New York State is Tuesday, May 17, 2005 from noon to 9:00 p.m. at various voting sites.

Q. What happens if the budget is defeated?

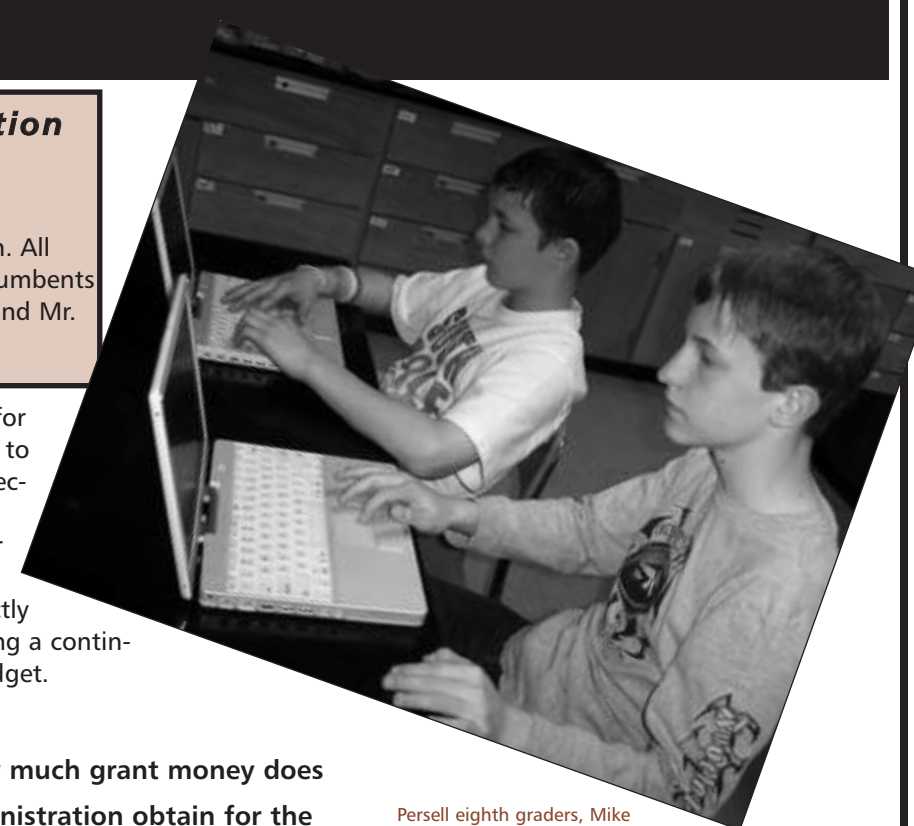
A. If a school budget is defeated, the Board of Education has two options. First, it may decide to present a modified budget to the voters for a second vote. If this second vote happens, it will be held on June 21, 2005 (third Tuesday in June). This is a new law enacted this year by the State Legislature. If the school budget is defeated a second time, the District must adopt a contingency budget. The second

option is for the board to skip the second vote altogether and proceed directly to adopting a contingency budget.

Q. How much grant money does the administration obtain for the school district?

A. In the 2004-05 school year, the total amount of grant dollars obtained by administration totaled \$10,031,098. This paid for 166.25 full-time equivalent positions. The last time the study was done (2000-01), the District received \$6,309,785 and the amount paid for 113.54 full-time equivalent positions. Jamestown Public Schools has continued to aggressively apply for and acquire a variety of grants to fund programs, staff and equipment to positively impact students and local taxpayers.

Love students participated in a recent wax museum to learn about local lore through a collaboration with the Fenton Historical Center.



Persell eighth graders, Mike Linkous and Frankie Zavala, use the mobile computer laptops to review for the NYS Science exams.



MESSAGE from the **SUPERINTENDENT**
Raymond Fashano

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Health Insurance Costs — The District (through cooperative negotiations with its respective unions) has changed most personnel to the Chautauqua County Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan for School Districts. The HMO rates have increased 18-19% per year, while the rates for the Chautauqua County Plan had been increasing by single digits. For example, the rate of increase for 2005-06 is 5.61%, not 18-19%. This is a huge savings for taxpayers when you are dealing with an organization which employs over 900 people. Therefore, in a budget that increased another \$2,397,881, the combined increases of retirement systems and health insurance total almost one-third of the increase in the budget. These are areas that the school board or administration have little control over.



Technology Academy students, Josh Bowman and Andrew Dickerson, learn to repair a motherboard for a computer during Chris Jewell's Information Technology Class.

The other major area for increases is employee salaries. Jamestown Public Schools has seven recognized unions that bargain with the Board of Education through the negotiations process. These unions include the Jamestown Principals' Association (JPA), the Jamestown Coordinators' Association (JCA), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), the Association of Jamestown Paraprofessionals (AJP), the Jamestown Teachers Association (JTA), the Jamestown Support Staff Association (JSSA), and the Jamestown



Fletcher music students learn to play the recorder during music class.

Educational Support Staff Association (JESPA). All seven unions have to be negotiated with individually. There is also bargaining with non-union groups that include confidential personnel, independents and central administrators.

Jamestown Public Schools has negotiated fairly with its unions and non-union groups to remain competitive. Fair wages allows us to develop the best workforce and retain personnel in the field of education. A good organization is made up of good employees and I am proud of the employees that keep this organization going on a daily basis.

You are currently paying less school taxes then you paid in 1997-98 as JPS has not inflated our budget by the STAR revenue.

On another front, you have probably read that Jamestown has joined with several other small cities districts in a statewide lawsuit regarding state aid to schools of need. The districts involved felt the need to file this lawsuit because Governor Pataki and the state legislature have not addressed the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit that was won for New York City Schools. The Governor and the state legislature have had well over a year to find a solution to the state aid distribution system. They have failed to do anything about New York City. Many feel we cannot solve the New York City school problems without fixing the state aid formulas for the entire state.

Small City School Districts have similar problems in educating needy students. The research tells us that a student who is needy costs double the amount to educate. Needy children are centered in urban areas throughout the state. In this state session of obtaining a budget on time, the CFE Lawsuit was not addressed. In fact, the Governor appealed the decision and basically tied it up in the court system for probably another two years. This paved the way for an on-time budget, but did not fix the unequal distribution of state aid.

The needs of the city districts have not gone away and we have lost capacity of many jobs for the last few years that helped our children tremendously. The Small City Association felt we must file a lawsuit so that redistribution of state aid becomes a reality in the near future.

In closing, this budget for 2005-06 carries a low tax levy increase of 1.9%. We have done our very best to balance the needs of the children and keep in mind the taxpayers' ability to pay the bill.

It is important that you get out and vote! We have three seats on the Board of Education up for election and there is a bus purchase proposition on the ballot. Please take a few minutes on May 17, 2005 to vote at your respective polling locations.



JHS 12th graders, Rachel Olson and Michael Calimeri, prepare an egg drop in their Regents Physics class. Students learned about about momentum and impulse through the experiment.

Budget Breakdown 2005-06

Expenditures

Where Tax Dollars are Spent

	2005-06 Proposed Budget	% of Budget
Operating Expenses:		
Salaries and Wages	\$ 32,239,750	55.06%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 11,267,274	19.24%
Supplies, Textbooks, Equipment	\$ 1,609,691	2.75%
BOCES Services	\$ 3,932,715	6.72%
Other Contractual Fees (utilities, tuition, rent)	\$ 4,097,350	7.00%
Debt Service Principal and Interest	\$ 5,338,778	9.12%
Interfund Transfer for Summer School	\$ 65,000	0.11%
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 58,550,558	100.00%

Revenues

Where Tax Dollars Come From

	2005-06 Proposed Budget	% of Budget
Operating Expenses:		
State Aid	\$ 41,614,612	71.07%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 1,235,000	2.11%
Interfund Revenue	\$ 600,000	1.02%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 1,079,500	1.84%
Fund Balance	\$ 800,000	1.37%
Tax Levy/STAR	\$ 13,221,446	22.58%
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 58,550,558	100.00%



Rogers Elementary School renovations are currently being worked on as the final phase of the \$74.7 million capital project in the JPS.

City of Jamestown Pre-STAR School Tax

ASSESSED VALUE	TAXES 04-05	TAXES 05-06	DOLLAR INCREASE	PERCENT INCREASE
\$10,000	\$ 611.56	\$ 623.31	\$ 11.75	1.92%
\$20,000	\$1,223.12	\$1,246.62	\$ 23.50	1.92%
\$30,000	\$1,834.68	\$1,869.93	\$ 35.25	1.92%
\$40,000	\$2,446.24	\$2,493.24	\$ 47.00	1.92%
\$50,000	\$3,057.80	\$3,116.55	\$ 58.75	1.92%

NOTE: Above values are based upon 2004-05 assessed valuations and equalization rates. The 2005-06 assessed valuation data will not be known until late May and the 2005-06 equalization rates will not be available until August

Example of STAR Impact

	ASSESSED VALUE	1997-98 TAXES	2004-05 TAXES
Basic STAR	\$20,000	\$1,059.88	\$643.12
Enhanced STAR	\$20,000	\$1,059.88	\$255.12

NOTE: The 2004-05 STAR Exemption per parcel for Basic was \$580.00 and the Enhanced amount was \$968.00.