



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Maximizing District Resources & Building A Sound Financial Future

*A Budget Well Below Cap That Propels District Goals*

Dear Community Residents,

Once again, the district approached this budget season with educational advancement and taxpayer impact at the forefront of its fiscal plan. As a result of the diligent work done by the Board of Education, administration and community, the district is able to present a proposed budget with a tax levy increase of 2.99%, which falls well below the maximum allowable tax cap of 3.82% but continues to preserve instruction and all academic programs.

In addition to sustaining academic excellence, the district will maintain its innovative MacBook initiative in grades 5-7, expand technology infrastructure to comply with state mandates for computerized testing practices, and strengthen the school-to-college connection in order to develop students who are active learners.

In a strategic move to increase avenues of revenue, the district has made the prudent decision to relocate the Abraham Lincoln programs, including the Pre-kindergarten and Alternative High School, to the primary buildings and high school, respectively. This restructuring provides the opportunity for the district to rent

out space in the facility for community use and bring additional funds, which can help offset various operational costs districtwide. This action is not only a cost savings strategy, but one which supports the cohesive learning exchange we promote throughout the district. Our business department has also remained diligent and, through the practice of competitive bidding, has been able to secure additional revenue and reduce spending across the board.

This proposed budget also supports critical facility updates and enhancements to shared amenities, including the installation of a new track at the high school, a valued recreational resource. The May 21 ballot includes a special proposition to use existing capital funds for significant safety upgrades, including the addition of surveillance cameras across district properties to aid in protecting our students, staff and grounds. New child-friendly surfaces for elementary school playgrounds and the paving of building parking lots and sidewalks are also included to enhance safety. Since existing monies will be used, these projects will not create new taxes, however use of these excess funds must be approved by voters, separate from the budget



proposition (see back).

The district will present a detailed report of the proposed 2013-2014 budget to the community at the Public Hearing, which will take place on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. in District Office.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 21, from 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at Deer Park High School.

Sincerely,

The Deer Park Board of Education  
Eva J. Demyen, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Marguerite Jimenez, *Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations*

## STATE AID BOOST BOLSTERS INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

As a result of restored State Aid, the district was able to further preserve key components of curriculum. At the start of the 2013-2014 budget preparation, the district was faced with a multimillion-dollar deficit when extrapolating its rollover budget. This base increase is a result of increased operational costs realized from state education mandates and contractual obligations, both of which the district has no control over.

In response, the district began to thoroughly examine all areas of the budget and cut spending wherever possible. Throughout this process, students' educational opportunities remained a top priority, and to this end, every course offered throughout the district was analyzed. In accordance with this study, the district restructured curricula to best serve student needs and made slight reductions in staff due to course enrollment levels. Even with these calculated adjustments, Deer Park boasts below average class sizes for the region and instruction remains individualized and differentiated. However, when additional monies were infused into the budget, following State Aid adjustments, the district immediately revisited the working budget to restore select instructional positions that are most vital to the district's extensive course catalog.

The district continues to evaluate all offerings to ensure the depth and breadth of curriculum opportunities for students.

Deer Park Union Free School District  
Deer Park, New York 11729

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## REMEMBER TO VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2013  
Deer Park High School  
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

# A Holistic Approach to Educating Students

## Stepping Stones for Students

While attending the high school, students engage in rigorous curriculum studies. To further challenge students while preparing them for success beyond school, the district has developed multidiscipline college and career readiness programs.

The Senior Internship Program provides students with the opportunity to explore careers of interest, while earning course credit and aims to provide students with an on-site education. Students are placed within a variety of organizations to work as interns and learn about their field or area of expertise, while being mentored through hands-on training. In order to further enhance the internship, core curricular areas including English Language Arts and government have been infused into the program so that students can learn resume building skills and become knowledgeable on current economic issues. This proactive approach gives students a head start in post-high school life and a platform to gain confidence within the workforce.

At the freshman level, students benefit from Career Day. Students tour job stations, which are led by representatives from a variety of industries. Professionals offer helpful information about their educational paths and specifics about their careers in diverse fields. The interactive sessions provide students with valuable insight into areas of career interest and the chance to network with people established in those industries.

In addition, the district offers students the opportunity to enroll in courses where they can earn valuable college credit and enter a secondary academic institution with a foundation of knowledge and a critical financial head start. The high school's vast catalog includes 17 Advanced Placement and 14 College Level Courses with curriculum areas including English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, performing arts, business and world languages.

## The Prep for Success

### COLUMBIA TEACHERS COLLEGE READING AND WRITING PROGRAM

Teachers in grades K-5 have been working with a literacy consultant from Columbia University's Teachers College over the course of the school year. Their work has been guided by an increased focus on nonfiction reading and writing to better prepare students for state assessments and engage students in varied learning methods. The enhanced writing curriculum includes units of study on nonfiction research projects and persuasive, informative and opinion essays, while the reading component approaches nonfiction using text-based evidence to write in response to reading.



### COMMON CORE

**Math:** The district has incorporated fluency drills and math sprints into weekly lesson plans. Both of these activities promote automaticity of processing and solving basic and complex math problems mentally. In addition, the district increased the use of manipulatives, concrete and pictorial models to represent mathematical concepts and solve word problems. Through this diverse approach to learning, students are able to better connect with the material and can "Read, Draw and Write" to solve math word problems that involve real-life situations and applications.

**Reading:** Teachers and administrators participated in training on the grade 3-5 ELA modules and have started teaching the first module of the New York State ELA program. A collaborative effort has been made to study Common Core ELA instructional methods and integrate them into existing classroom programs. This practice has resulted in an increase in students reading high-level complex text, utilizing text-based evidence to write in response to reading and expansion of high level vocabulary.

## POINTS OF FALCON PRIDE

Throughout the school year, the educational community works in a collaborative partnership to drive success. The plethora of available programs, courses and extracurricular activities allows students to explore their interests and develop unique skill sets under the tutelage of the district's teachers, coaches and administrators.

### ACADEMICS

- High School student named a 2013 National Merit Commended Scholar
- Educators qualified to teach Advanced STEM Courses
- High School hosts Allstate Family Driving Challenge
- 54 students named by College Board as Advanced Placement Scholars
- JFK Intermediate students conducted international Skype lessons
- High School qualified for final round in MSG Varsity's "The Challenge" academic competition
- JQA Elementary students participated in St. Jude Math-A-Thon
- World Languages students connected through videoconference technologies
- Hundreds of students & college representatives attended Annual College Fair
- Robert Frost Middle School student competed in Scripps National Spelling Bee
- High School Spanish language students participated in Hofstra Poetry Competition
- JFK Intermediate classrooms visited by NYS Education Department Deputy Commissioner as model program
- High School student selected for Students Inside Albany Conference

### ATHLETICS

- Multiple senior student-athletes sign National Letters of Intent for collegiate play
- District hosts first community Health & Wellness Fair
- Robert Frost Middle School student to represent Long Island in the Brine National Lacrosse Tournament
- 8 Fall squads named New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams & 3 received Sportsmanship Award
- 6 Winter squads named New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams & 3 received Sportsmanship Award
- Boys varsity soccer team claimed League IV Championship
- Boys varsity soccer coach named League IV Coach of the Year
- Boys varsity basketball team wins League IV Championship
- Boys varsity basketball coach named League IV Coach of the Year

### ARTS

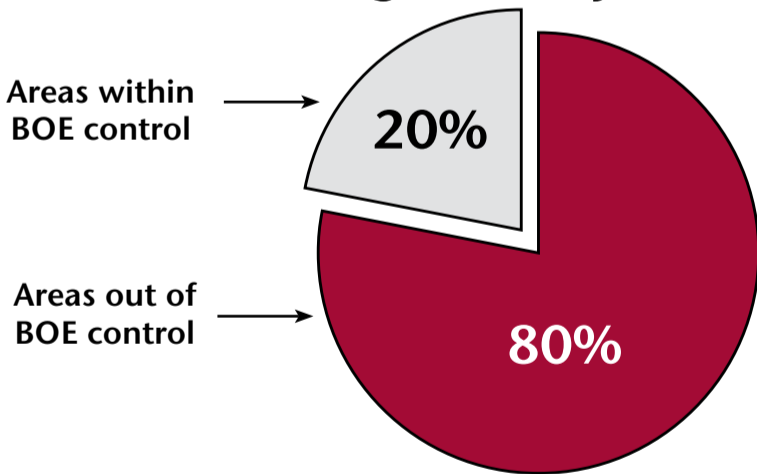
- District named a Best Community for Music Education
- 2 students performed in All State Ensembles & 7 performed in All County Ensembles
- 6 elementary students chosen to participate in the Suffolk County Music Educators Association Parents, Educators and Kids Festival
- 4 students selected for the Long Island String Festival
- 23 JFK Intermediate fifth-grade students accepted to the Eugene Reichenenthal Recorder Festival
- 9 JFK Intermediate students' work selected for Town of Babylon art show
- District sponsored Elementary Arts Day

# E X P E N D I T U R E S

## 2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

	PRESENT 2012-13 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2013-14 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>			
BOE/ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$67,520	\$66,666	-1.26%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	285,176	298,062	4.52%
FINANCE	1,032,562	1,058,875	2.55%
STAFF	516,325	531,219	2.88%
CENTRAL SERVICES	6,919,220	6,726,989	-2.78%
SPECIAL ITEMS (BOCES, MTA Payroll Tax, Insurance)	899,443	901,481	.23%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$9,720,246</b>	<b>\$9,583,292</b>	<b>-1.41%</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$3,856,855	\$3,854,562	-0.06%
TEACHING	31,974,662	32,024,304	0.16%
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS	13,111,637	12,971,765	-1.07%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	95,850	56,900	-40.64%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	2,266,859	2,315,409	2.14%
PUPIL SERVICES	6,304,771	6,346,921	0.67%
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$57,610,634</b>	<b>\$57,569,861</b>	<b>-0.07%</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
<b>TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$4,482,100</b>	<b>\$4,329,241</b>	<b>-3.41%</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$25,814,291	\$28,420,084	10.09%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	660,000	660,000	0%
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$26,474,291</b>	<b>\$29,080,084</b>	<b>9.84%</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICES</b>			
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,931,454</b>	<b>\$3,108,068</b>	<b>6.02%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$101,218,725</b>	<b>\$103,670,546</b>	<b>2.42%</b>

### Percent of Budget Set by BOE



### ESTIMATED REVENUES

ACCOUNT NAME	2012-13 BUDGET	2013-14 PROPOSED
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$4,028,143	\$4,194,709
LOCAL REVENUES	\$3,569,780	\$3,599,780
STATE AID TOTAL	\$23,436,653	\$24,948,353
USE OF RESERVES	\$2,000,000	\$968,137
FUND BALANCE	\$4,625,000	\$4,500,000
TAX LEVY	\$63,559,149	\$65,459,567
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$101,218,725</b>	<b>\$103,670,546</b>

### Budget Highlights

The budget provides for the procurement of no more than 8 large buses and 7 vans for the district's transportation department.

The transfer to capital will be used for the following projects in 2013-2014:

- High School Track
- Repointing of the brickwork at the High School

### 2013-14 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY/RATE

Expenditures	\$103,670,546
Revenues	\$32,742,842
Use of Fund Balance	\$4,500,000
Use of Reserves	\$968,137
Tax Levy	\$65,459,567

Deer Park  
below  
maximum  
allowable  
tax levy rate  
3.82%

<b>Tax Levy % Increase</b>	<b>2.99%</b>
Projected 2013-14 Tax Rate	\$189.67
Present 2012-13 Tax Rate	\$182.84
Tax Rate Increase	\$6.83
Estimated Tax Rate % Increase	3.74%



# ON YOUR BALLOT

## PROPOSITION II ELECTION OF FOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES

- Alfred Centamore       John Gouskos       Keith Rooney       Frank T. Wilkinson

## PROPOSITION III USE OF CAPITAL FUNDS

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000.00) from the existing capital fund, without increasing the proposed 2013-14 budget appropriations or the tax levy, for the following projects and repairs:

- High School Roof
- District-wide Camera Security System
- High School Parking Lot
- District-wide Sidewalks
- Elementary School Playground Paving

Capital Fund projects carry no impact to tax payers

## Questions and Answers

**Q:** What are the main components of a school district budget?

**A:** There are two accounting segments that comprise the district budget—expenditures and revenues. Expenditures are calculated for instruction, central services, transportation, and other categories listed in the chart entitled “Expenditures.” The district derives revenue to fund expenditures from the tax levy, State Aid, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) from Suffolk County for businesses operating in Deer Park, interest on account balances, BOCES reimbursements, and related services as seen on the chart entitled “Estimated Revenues.” The budget must be structured to balance expenditures with anticipated revenues.

**Q:** What is the difference between tax levy and tax rate?

**A:** The tax levy is the amount of money the Board of Education requests from the Town of Babylon in order to balance the budget after state aid and other revenues are taken into consideration. The tax rate is not set by the Board of Education. The Town Assessor calculates the assessed valuation of the properties in the Town of Babylon from which the tax rate is calculated. It is important to note that the new tax levy limit applies only to the school district’s tax levy, NOT to tax rate or individual tax bill.

**Q:** What happens if the budget is defeated?

**A:** Should voters defeat the proposed budget on May 21st:

- The budget may be presented for one more vote prior to July.
- If the Board opts not to have a second vote, it can immediately adopt a Contingency (austerity) Budget, which this year would force the district to operate with a 0% tax levy increase under the new tax cap law.

If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district MUST adopt at 0% by law.

**Q:** How would a 0% tax levy affect the district?

**A:** As in the past, under a normal Contingency Budget, free community use of buildings, equipment purchases, non-emergency capital projects and spending on certain non-mandated student programs would be prohibited. In addition, the below areas would be subject to reductions.

- Class size
- Athletics
- Co-curricular clubs
- After-school busing
- Student supplies
- Instructional supplies
- Field trips
- All summer school programs



## VOTER INFORMATION

### Voter Eligibility & Registration:

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 21 Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election you must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- eighteen (18) years of age or older (we encourage eligible students to exercise their right to vote)
- a resident of the Deer Park School District for 30 days prior to vote
- registered to vote with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, or registered with the school district

Registration is required if you have not voted within four years in a general election or school election. Registration will be held on:

- Tuesday, May 7, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at JFK Intermediate School
- Wednesday, May 8, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at JQA Elementary School
- Monday, May 13, 4:00-8:00 pm at Deer Park High School
- Thursday, May 16, 4:00-8:00 pm at May Moore Elementary School

For more information, or to obtain an application for an absentee ballot, contact the District Clerk at 631-274-4013 or visit the district’s website, [www.deerparkschools.org](http://www.deerparkschools.org) to download a form.

## BUDGET HEARING

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the District Office Boardroom located at 1881 Deer Park Avenue.



Scan this code to go directly to the budget page on our website.



John Gouskos, President • Keith Rooney, Vice President  
Al Centamore • Donna Marie Elliott • Donna Gulli-Grunseich  
Robert Marino • Frank T. Wilkinson  
Lisa Brennan, District Clerk  
Eva J. Demyen, Superintendent of Schools