



# School District News

*The following propositions will appear on the voting ballot along with the election of one (1) school board member.*

## Four propositions will appear on the voting ballot.

### Proposition #1

Authorization to adopt the 2022-23 budget of \$37,687,668.

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### Proposition #2

Purchase of Buses

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### Proposition #3

Establishment of  
Bus Reserve

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### Proposition #4

Purchase of  
Buildings and Grounds Equipment

## Budget Public Hearing/ Meet the Candidate Night

*May 5, 2022, 5:30 p.m.  
Alden High School Library*

## OTE School Budget Vote and Election

*May 17, 2022*

*9 a.m. - 9 p.m.*

*Alden High School Auditorium*

Additional voting information can be found on page 6.

# Annual Budget OTE

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
In the High School Auditorium

## Message from the Board President

As of the time of this publication, we find ourselves entering a post-pandemic phase. Our students, staff and families have been waiting for this moment for two years. Our families are able to make their own decisions about the health and safety of their children; and we, as a District, are able to move forward with the average, day-to-day life of students in schools.

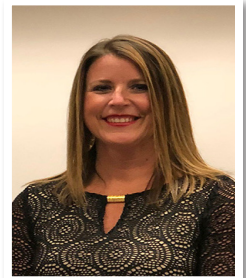
Our beautiful new pool is being used daily by students and members of our community. Seniors have been able to enjoy the use of the pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays while our students are busy learning in their classrooms. The new design and additions allow for neither group to come into contact with each other. What a wonderful way for our community to enjoy their new facility. The Town of Alden Recreation Department, as well as Community Education, have also been able to resume with classes teaching swimmers of all ages how to be safe in and around the water.

As I reflect daily on war-torn Ukraine, I feel blessed and lucky to live where and how I do. The pandemic took its toll on us all, as our opinions divided many friends and families. It is my hope that as Americans we can all learn from this war, and the importance of working together for the common good of our community.

My hope is that we can soon return to a time when differing opinions were respected and not scrutinized and shamed on public forums; a time when our main focus was for the success and joy of the children in our community. They are our common good. They are our future. We continue to be in this together.

Sincerely,

Jill Hopcia  
Board of Education President



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION for the 2022-23 School Year

Start and end times for the instructional day will be changed for the 2022-23 school year as follows:

**Primary School:** 8:05 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Intermediate School:** 7:50 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**Middle School:** 8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**High School:** 8:55 a.m. – 3:34 p.m.



# District News



## ACS Hosts Swim Sectionals and ECICs

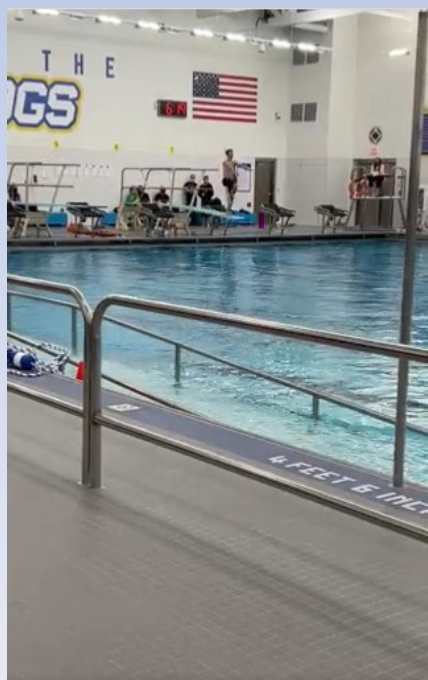
As part of the Alden Central School District Vision 2020 Capital Project, the Aquatic Center received a complete rebuild. After five years of planning and more than a year of construction, the multi-million-dollar project was completed and ready for students and the community to use on September 7, 2021.

The center now has eight lanes, two more than before, two diving boards, a state-of-the-art scoring system, more seating, new locker rooms and separate entrances. These changes allowed the District to host the ECIC swimming and diving competitions.

The Aquatic Center is not just for students; it has also been made available for community open swims, learn-to-swim programs and Alden Senior Citizens' activities. The facility's new separate entrance allows the community to use the facility without interrupting student learning, and makes it easier for spectators to enter for events and competitions.



Alden Central School District hosted the 2021 ECIC Meet



Alden Central School District hosted the 2021 Diving Sectionals



Community members enjoying the new Alden Central School District Aquatic Center



Water Aerobics at the ACSD Aquatic Center



ECIC Girls Meet

## WE'RE HIRING! Community Education Coordinator

The anticipated effective date will be July 1, 2022.

Interested applicants should contact Superintendent Adam Stoltman at (716) 937-9116, ext. 4171. Deadline for applications is May 20, 2022.





# District News



## Inaugural Crystal Bulldog Award Winner to be Named

The Inaugural Crystal Bulldog will be awarded this June to a deserving graduating senior from the Class of 2022, as voted on by all high school staff and students. The annual award will go to a senior who is recognized for consistently exhibiting the collective values of the Alden High School community, including integrity, respect, compassion and service to others.

In the spring of each year, high school staff members will have the opportunity to nominate deserving seniors for the award. Once the nominees have been vetted by the Building Student Achievement Team, a vote will take place. All staff and students will be eligible to vote for one of the nominees.

The winner of the Crystal Bulldog Award will be announced at the annual Spring Awards night, and will be given the honor of addressing their graduating class at commencement in June.

## Testing Kit Distribution

Administrators handing out COVID-19 test kits before students returned to school after Winter Recess.



## Domino Master Teacher

On March 15, Alden High School chemistry teacher Michael Domino achieved a career milestone with his induction into the New York State Master Teacher Program. Mr. Domino, who holds several leadership positions in the school and is known throughout the District as a deeply compassionate and dedicated educator, joined a class of 230 Master Teachers of STEM-related courses from 159 school districts across New York State. Congratulations to Mr. Domino for this remarkable achievement.

The Alden Central School District is looking to fill cafeteria positions that are available in the Primary, Intermediate and High School buildings. Interested in applying? Contact Reanna Lizauckas for more information at (716) 937-9116, Ext. 4186.

**NOW HIRING**



# Wall of Fame 2022

On September 16th, the Alden Athletic Wall of Fame will induct the class of 2022. The ceremony will take place in the Walter Conrad Auditorium in the High School at 5:30 PM where the inductees will be presented with their Wall of Fame plaques. Then, candidates will be announced to the Homecoming crowd at the start of the football game at 7:00 PM.

The criteria to be nominated for Wall of Fame is outlined below:

## **Athlete:**

1. Minimum of six (6) years out of Alden High School.
2. Distinguished himself/herself in athletics/sportsmanship/citizenship at Alden Central School.
3. Further Consideration: Distinguished himself/herself in athletics during a collegiate/professional career; has been a contributing citizen. Through his/her professional career, she/he has been a contributing citizen.

## **Honorary member:**

1. Contributed to the Alden Central Interscholastic/Athletic and/or Intramural program as a coach, administrator, contributor, and through his/her professional career, has been a contributing citizen.
2. Demonstrated extraordinary dedication to and support of the school
3. Has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the school's interscholastic athletic and/or intramural program.

All nominations are reviewed by a Wall of Fame committee and then remain on file with the athletic department to be reviewed each Wall of Fame induction year. Athletic inductions occur every other year. All nomination forms can be accessed through the Athletic Homepage Shortcuts: [www.aldenschools.org/Page/14709](http://www.aldenschools.org/Page/14709)



# District News

## Spring Tips for School Bus Safety

Changing clocks and a new season have made roads and highways throughout the nation a bit more dangerous, according to the National Road Safety Foundation.

Parents can feel confident knowing children who travel on school buses are utilizing the safest means of transportation available. Modern school buses are built with safety as a top priority, but it is always important to review safety precautions with children who ride the bus.

### Safety Tips for Students:

- Walk, do not run to your bus stop.
- Get to your bus stop five minutes early. Never chase or approach the bus while it is moving.
- Do not play at the bus stop. Pay attention to your surroundings. Listening to music or playing video games can distract you from watching for traffic.
- Stay out of the street while waiting for the bus.
- Stay at least fifteen giant steps from the road and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop, the door to open and the driver to give the okay to board. Use the handrail.



### Safety Tips for Drivers:

- Be aware it is illegal to pass a school bus stopped to load or unload students, including those on school grounds.
- Know and understand laws governing motorist driving behavior near a school or school bus.
- Learn the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists if they are going to stop. Amber lights are activated 300 feet before the stop and red lights are activated when the bus has stopped, and the doors are opened. Watch for students.
- Watch for students on bicycles and walking to school.

## Did you know that riding a school bus is 70 times safer than riding in the family vehicle?

In fact, the most dangerous part of school bus ridership is getting on and off the bus. It is vital that student riders take their time, pay attention to surrounding traffic and make sure that the bus driver can see them at all times.

## Need Alternate Drop-Off Location for the 2022-23 School Year?

Requests must be received by July 31 of each school year to be in effect for the start of school. Late requests will not take effect until the third week of school. A student may have one alternate location and it must be the same each week. Examples: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday pick up at home, Tuesday and Thursday pick up at childcare and Monday – Friday drop-off at the childcare. This consistent scheduling is needed for the safety of our students. During this past school year, students have traveled to the wrong location because of the confusion about their intended drop-off location. This confusion has caused unnecessary stress for students, parents, staff and administrators. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please call 716-937-9116, ext. 4500 with any questions/concerns.



# Primary School



## ACSD Kindergarten Registration

Are you a resident of the Alden Central School District? Do you have a child who will turn 5 years old before December 1, 2022? Are you planning for your child to attend kindergarten at Alden Primary School this September?

Good news, we are still accepting Kindergarten registration packets for the 2022-23 school year.

If you have a child who will be joining our school in the fall, do not delay in beginning the enrollment process. Although our initial deadline has passed, we will continue to assist families who have missed the April deadline. Please be sure to submit registration paperwork as soon as possible to ensure that we have your child scheduled for a screening appointment this summer.



Our registration packet for incoming students is currently available online. If you do not have access to a printer, you may also pick up a paper packet in the Primary School lobby from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. To ensure that your registration is complete, please have copies of the following:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of required immunizations
- Two proofs of residency
- A copy of your child's most recent physical exam
- Court/custody papers (if applicable)

Immunization requirements for entry into kindergarten in New York State are listed below. Due to New York State Law, requests for religious exemption are no longer accepted.

- DTP Vaccine - (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis) - 5 doses, or 4 doses if the 4th dose was received after age four (4) years
- Polio Vaccine - 4 doses, or 3 doses if 3rd dose was received after age four (4) years
- MMR Vaccine - (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) - 2 doses
- Hepatitis B Vaccine - 3 doses
- Varicella Vaccine (Chicken Pox) - 2 doses

Kindergarten screening is currently planned for June 8 for current Universal Pre-K students and July 12 for all other students. Appointments for screening will be scheduled once registration packets have been received. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Primary School at (716) 937-9116, Ext. 6191. We look forward to welcoming you and your child in September.

## Staying Active at Alden Primary School

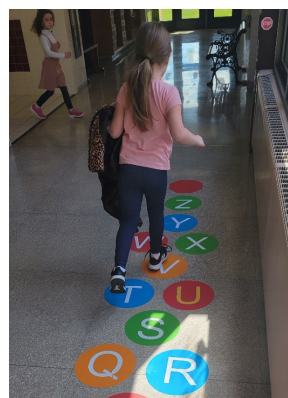
Promoting movement and physical activity is critical to the success of our Primary School students. Movement throughout the day helps students to reenergize their bodies and their minds, assisting young learners with their focus and their concentration. Research has shown that movement during the school day benefits academic performance and improves overall behavior. At Alden Primary School, teachers have been working hard to incorporate brain breaks and movement into their instructional day.



Websites like GoNoodle provide short videos that guide students through dance steps, stretches, and exercise moves.



Our indoor recess room provides a space that classes can visit to get the wiggles out during the winter months and on rainy days.



Our sensory hallway has been a hit and will be expanding in the coming months.



Putting our playground to good use, even when it's chilly.

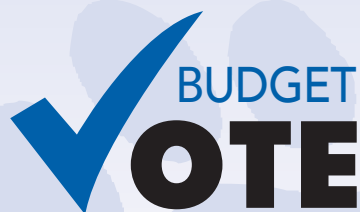
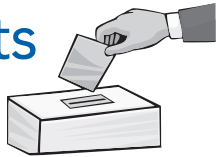
## Voter Qualifications

All voters must be United States citizens, age 18 or older on the day of the Annual Budget Vote and Election, and residents of the Alden Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to the voting day.

## Absentee Ballots

Voters may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at the polling place on May 17, 2022. To receive an absentee ballot, voters must obtain an application form from Ms. Tracy Rogers, district clerk. The application must be returned to the district clerk at least seven days before the Annual Budget Vote/Election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter; or at least one day before the Annual Budget Vote/Election if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter at the district office from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Absentee ballots will be counted only if they are returned to the clerk of the board by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote. For more information, contact Ms. Rogers at (716) 937-9116, ext. 4171.



**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**  
**9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Alden High School**  
**Auditorium**



## PROPOSITION NO. 1 - 2022-23 BUDGET

The Board of Education of the Alden Central School District is seeking voter authorization to adopt the 2022-23 budget of \$37,687,668

Proposed Budget \$37,687,668 1.44% Increase

Projected Tax Levy \$16,451,998 2.58% Increase

The proposed budget of \$37,687,668 includes an increase of \$534,824 or 1.44%.

### TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

Component	2021-2022	2022-2023	Change
Program	\$27,498,854	\$27,833,515	\$334,661
Administration	3,548,209	3,709,926	161,717
Capital	6,105,781	6,144,227	38,446
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,152,844</b>	<b>\$37,687,668</b>	<b>\$534,824</b>

### Budget Increases:

> **Salaries** **\$220,857**

Salaries are anticipated to increase by 1.2% next year. Salaries and wages are impacted by retirements and contractual increases based on negotiated agreements. There will be a 1.5 FTE reduction in the educational program due to student course selections and decreasing enrollment. The budget proposal will continue to provide students a solid academic program K-12 and a full assortment of secondary electives.

> **Contractual** **\$176,106**

Special education tuition and related services are the largest driver of expenses in this category as small changes in the number of special education students and services can have a large impact on the budget. Additionally, legal, general liability insurance, and network/computer security are anticipated to increase next year.

> **BOCES** **\$139,604**

One of the District's goals has been to integrate technology into the classroom and learning environment. The District continues to purchase a significant amount of its computer instructional and technology services through BOCES, as New York State reimburses the District at a rate of 68.2% for these types of eligible BOCES expenses. Additionally, there is an increase in special education services for next year. Just as stated above, small changes in the number of special education students and services needed can have a large impact on the budget. This can vary significantly from year-to-year. Special education costs are not eligible for BOCES Aid; however, the District receives Excess Cost Aid to offset some of the cost.

> **Supplies** **\$41,824**

Supply costs increasing by approximately 3.9%. They are being impacted by inflationary and supply chain issues, with the largest impact seen on maintenance of our heating, ventilation, and plumbing supplies. The District continues to look for ways to reduce costs in all departments and operational areas.

> **Benefits** **\$22,071**

Benefits are the second largest expenditure category for the District. Due to the continuing COVID pandemic, some medical surgeries and procedures were put on hold, helping health insurance costs remain lower than anticipated. Pension costs relating to the NYS Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) are anticipated to increase next year from 9.8% to 10.3% of salaries; however, NYS Employees' Retirement System (ERS) rates are anticipated to decrease next year from 18.5% to 16.0%. The District is required by New York State to provide these retirement benefits.

> **Equipment** **\$18,648**

This budget line, totaling \$157,078, includes equipment for educational programs, security enhancements, State-aided classroom technology, and facilities maintenance.

*Continued on page 7*



## PROPOSITION NO. 2

### PURCHASE OF BUSES

The Board of Education of the Alden Central School District is seeking authorization to expend \$485,000 from the voter-approved School Bus Reserve Fund to purchase three (3) 66-passenger buses and one (1) 35-passenger wheelchair bus for use in the transportation program.

The District's transportation department maintains a fleet of 48 buses. Our well-trained drivers ensure safe, efficient transportation of students to and from Alden Schools as well as a number of private, alternative learning centers and parochial schools. Last year, our bus fleet traveled over 488,000 miles.



The proposed bus purchase is a continuation of an on-going bus replacement program instituted by the District. Annual replacement of vehicles over 10 years old and in excess of 100,000 miles is recommended. When a bus becomes cost prohibitive to maintain, or it meets the District's criteria, it is identified for replacement. With voter approval, the District will continue on its established bus replacement schedule with the purchase of three (3) 66-passenger buses and one (1) 35-passenger wheelchair bus.

*Note: The cost of buses and equipment is supported by the School Bus Reserve Funds and has no future impact on the tax levy.*

## PROPOSITION NO. 3

### ESTABLISHMENT OF BUS RESERVE

The Board of Education of the Alden Central School District is seeking voter authorization to establish a new reserve, Capital Reserve – School Bus Reserve Fund 2022. This reserve shall be used to fund the acquisition of school buses and similar vehicles, as well as equipment and supplies to be used in the District's transportation department, and the amount of this fund shall not exceed \$5,500,000. Legally, we cannot put more money into our existing bus reserves, as reserves cannot be replenished once used. State Transportation Aid received from previous bus purchases would be used at a later date to fund the new reserve.

In the newly adopted State budget, all school districts in New York State are required to purchase zero-emission buses starting in 2027 and the entire bus fleet must be converted to zero-emission by 2035. The proposed proposition will be critical to help finance future purchases of zero-emission buses, which are currently almost three (3) times more expensive than diesel buses.

## PROPOSITION NO. 4

### PURCHASE OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS EQUIPMENT

The Board of Education is seeking authorization to expend \$48,000 from the voter-approved Buildings and Grounds Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to purchase a one-ton, four-wheel drive pick-up truck with plow.

Our pick-up trucks are utilized year-round for day-to-day operations, including snow removal which takes a toll on the vehicle. The new truck will be used for the same type of duties.



*Note: The cost of equipment is supported by Buildings and Grounds Equipment Reserve Funds and has no future impact on the tax levy.*

## Board of Education Vote

One of the seven seats on the Board of Education will be open for election on May 17, 2022. Board members will be elected for a five (5) year term to begin July 1, 2022 and expire June 30, 2027. The one candidate receiving the highest vote total will be elected to the seat. Per New York State law, nominating petitions for board candidates were due to the district clerk on April 18, 2022. A budget public hearing will be held May 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the High School library.

See candidate bios on page 9

## Budget Information

continued from page 6

### Budget Decreases:

#### > Debt Service (\$84,286)

Debt Service includes all interest and principal payments on serial bonds and bond anticipation notes for all approved capital projects. Debt service costs are offset by State Building Aid revenue, energy savings and the use of the Debt Service Reserve. There is no local tax impact related to the Vision 20/20 capital project.

### Additional Information:

#### > Transfer to Capital (Capital Outlay Project)

A Transfer to Capital expenditure of \$100,000 includes interior renovations of the High School corridors. Work may include repairing and replacing wall tile, painting of walls and tile, repairing and restoring lockers including painting of lockers, replacing ceilings, refinishing and replacing trim, restoring terrazzo floors, and modifications to electrical and mechanical switches, devices and equipment. The District anticipates receiving approximately 78.2% of this back in Building Aid the following year.



## Alden Tax Levy History

Year	Levy %
2013-14	1.48
2014-15	1.52
2015-16	0.00
2016-17	0.00
2017-18	0.00
2018-19	2.27
2019-20	2.79
2020-21	2.82
2021-22	1.95
2022-23	2.58
10 yr. Average	1.54

## Understanding Your School Taxes

Three Factors That Affect Your Tax Rate

1. The Tax Levy from the school district.
  - From the budget approved by district voters;
  - Set by district voters at the May budget vote.
2. The Equalization Rate set by New York State
  - New York State balancing property values in the different Townships;
  - The lower the equalization rate, the higher the full value and the higher your tax rate;
  - Fixed in August by New York State Property Tax Division.
3. The Total Assessed Value of the District set by the Tax Assessors of the towns.
  - Home values and new construction;
  - The more improvements to the entire community, the higher the assessed value and the lower the tax rate;
  - Set by Town Assessors in June;
  - Individual household's value changes from improvements and similar house sales.

## 2022-23 Proposed Budget Q&A:

1. **New York State's approved 2022 budget includes a \$2.1 billion dollar increase for education. Why is Alden's State Aid only increasing 0.2%?**

There are a couple of items impacting State Aid revenue for the 2022-23 budget year. Foundation Aid makes up the largest portion of our State Aid revenue, approximately 63.5%, and is used to support our educational programs. The State is in the second year of a three-year phase-in of the Foundation Aid formula. Due to the timing of this initiative and the District's decreasing enrollment, Alden is receiving the minimum funding increase for the 2022-23 budget year.

Second, certain expense driven aids are expected to decrease next year. The District's debt service payments are matched closely to our expected Building Aid. Both the revenue and the debt service payments are anticipated to decrease next year. Transportation Aid estimates for the 2022-23 budget year is based on actual spending in the current year, which is trending lower due to staffing shortages.

2. **What impact does the Vision 20/20 work have on this year's budget? Is the tax levy increasing because of the construction that is occurring?**

The costs associated with Vision 20/20, and all other capital projects, are reflected in the debt service component of the budget, totaling \$2,452,000. The District anticipates receiving State Building Aid of approximately \$2,216,000 in 2022-23 to offset this cost. The difference will be paid from an existing Debt Service Reserve and from energy savings related to the Vision 20/20 Energy Performance Contract. As discussed prior to the Vision 20/20 vote, there will be **NO additional local tax impact** related to Vision 20/20 or any other prior capital projects in the 2022-23 proposed budget.

The original proposition for Vision 20/20, approved in December 2017, included a \$4 per year tax impact for a \$100,000 home for Phase 2, the Aquatic Center. With the exception of this, the local share of this project was paid from existing capital reserves, as approved by the voters. The District is pleased to report that the Aquatic Center was completed in August 2021 and the final costs came in under budget, therefore the original \$4 per year impact to taxpayers was eliminated and the taxpayers will have NO future tax impact from this project.

3. **Can capital reserves authorized, such as the one used to pay the local share of Vision 20/20 capital project or one to the purchase school buses, be used to offset annual operating deficits?**

No. Money that is appropriated for a capital reserve by the community cannot legally be used to offset annual operating deficits.

4. **New York State is requiring all new school buses purchased starting in 2027 to be zero-emission and have a full switchover of its current diesel bus fleet to zero-emission by 2035. Why is the District planning to purchase diesel buses in 2022, Proposition No. 2, and how will this initiative impact the District in the future??**

While the District strives to be as environmentally friendly as possible, it does not currently have the infrastructure to support electric or zero-emission buses yet. This new initiative will require the District to plan a future capital project to incorporate electric charging stations into the bus parking lot.

The District has implemented a ten (10) year bus replacement plan for its fleet. Proposition No. 2 is seeking community approval for the purchase of three (3) 66-passenger diesel buses and one (1) 35-passenger diesel wheelchair bus. If approved, these buses will be more than ten (10) years old, and will need to be replaced prior to the 2035 deadline.

Additionally, the District is asking the community to support Proposition No. 3, creation of a new bus reserve, to help finance future purchases of zero-emission buses, which are currently almost three (3) times more expensive than diesel buses. The bus reserve, as well as capital building reserve funds, will be needed to offset the costs to implement this new initiative, including the infrastructure needed to support new zero-emission buses by 2027. The District receives Transportation Aid on approximately 70% of the cost of buses.

Continued on page 17



# Board of Education Candidates



## Raymond Cooper

My name is Raymond Cooper, and I am running for a seat on the Alden School Board. I am a father, husband and a teacher who has grown up in Alden. We are raising our children in Alden. I am grateful for the education that the Alden Central School District provided me. I look forward to my children continuing their education in Alden.

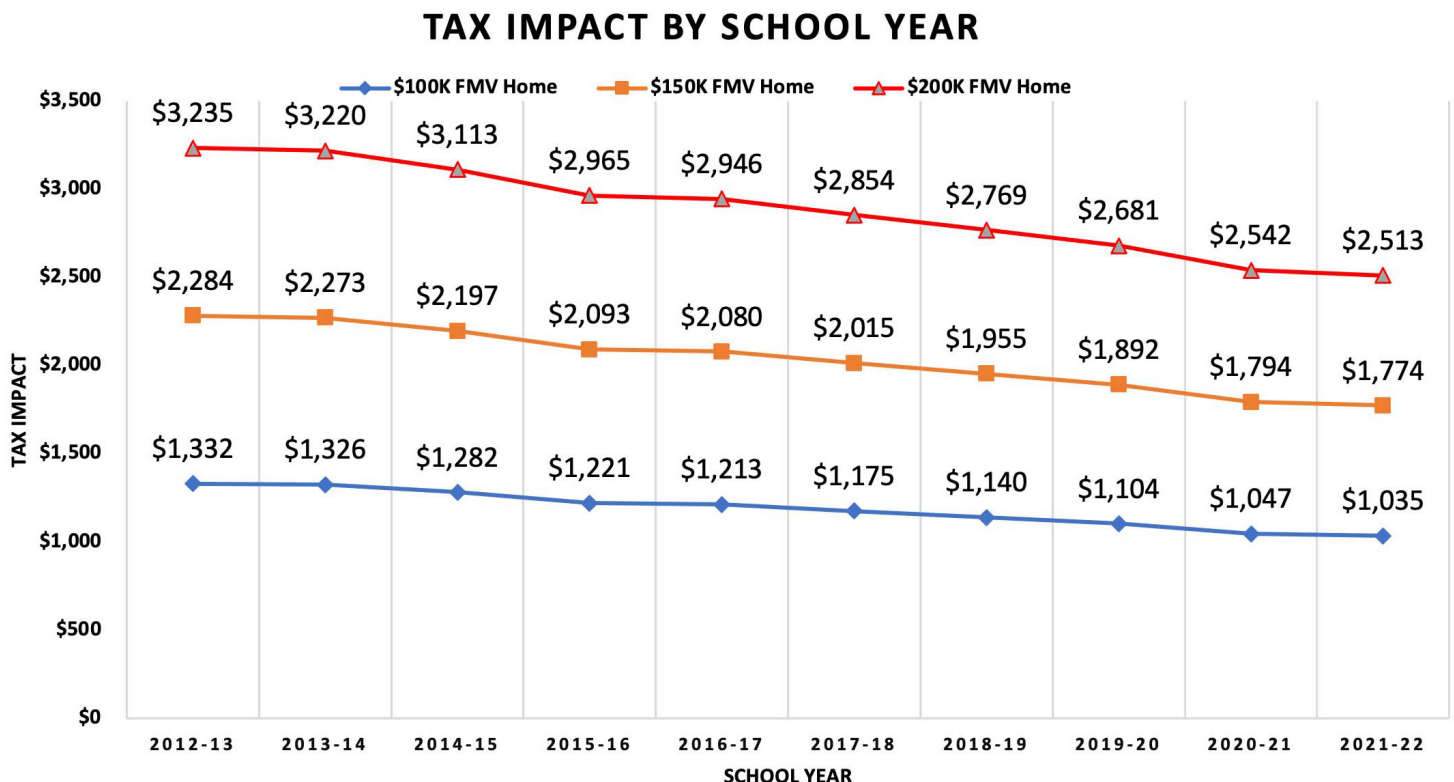


I am currently a technology education teacher and I have been in the profession for 13 years. I knew that I was going to be a teacher since my freshman year in high school. It is my dream career, and I would not choose anything different. There is only one reason someone goes into the teaching profession, and if you are a teacher, you know it is for the students. I was also a volunteer firefighter in the Alden Hook and Ladder Co. for 12 years, and I realize that community involvement is key. There was always a saying in the firehall garage that said, "If you just did half of what you expected everyone else to do for you, everyone would have less work to do." I hope to continue to improve our community's school system and provide for our children, our students, and our community.

## Scott Dreyer

Hello fellow Alden residents, my name is Scott Dreyer, and I am running for the open School Board position within the Alden Central School District. I am writing this in the hopes of receiving your vote in this year's upcoming election. I have proudly raised four children alongside my wife Lisa, as a 35-year town resident. I serviced the State of New York for 32 years as a correctional officer until retiring in 2017 and have since taken a position as a Town Park employee as I have sought ways to positively impact our community. I am running for a school board position because I feel passionately about the impact education has on our children and therefore our future. I believe that I can be a strong voice on behalf of the community in ensuring that our children receive the best education in order to establish a strong foundation for our youth. We must have a strong focus on the common core values and traditions that our country was built on. The foundation of education should be the core subjects such as science, math, literature, fine arts, foreign language and social studies as well as trades. Thank you for taking time out of your day to read this. I will leave you with this final thought, "My actions will speak louder than words."

## Tax Impact by School Year





# Alden CSD Budget Notice

## 2022-2023 Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$37,152,844	\$37,687,668	\$37,273,882
Increase for the 2022-23 School Year		\$534,824	\$121,038
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		1.44%	0.33%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$16,038,212	\$16,451,998	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	N/A	N/A	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	N/A	N/A	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$16,038,212	\$16,451,998	\$16,038.212
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$16,053,042	\$16,484,023	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$16,038,212	\$16,451,998	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$14,830	\$32,025	
Administrative Component	\$3,548,209	\$3,709,926	\$3,538,504
Program Component	\$27,498,854	\$27,833,515	\$27,655,978
Capital Component	\$6,105,781	\$6,144,227	\$6,079,400

\*The contingency budget figures represent the expenditure budget cap based on State Education Department regulations. A contingency budget would require the reduction of \$47,103 in equipment and \$19,631 in salaries. Certain non-contingent expenditures may be reduced as necessary, including programs and support services for students. Final contingency budget decisions will be made by the Board of Education, if required. A contingency budget would require the District to charge fees for any use of the facilities or athletic fields. It would allow for additional funding for leasing and repair of equipment, as well as funding for contractual services to enhance educational programs.

Description	Amount
<b>Proposition #2</b> - Purchase of Buses Authorization to expend \$485,000 from the voter established "School Bus Reserve Funds" to purchase three (3) 66-passenger buses and one (1) 35-passenger wheelchair bus for use in the District's transportation program.	\$485,000
<b>Proposition #3</b> - Establishment of Bus Reserve Authorization to establish a Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose of such reserve shall be to fund the acquisition of school buses and similar vehicles, as well as equipment and supplies, to be used in the District's transportation program, the ultimate amount of such fund shall not be greater than \$5,500,000.	N/A – Establishment of reserve only
<b>Proposition #4</b> - Purchase of Buildings and Grounds Equipment Authorization to expend \$48,000 from the voter established "Buildings and Grounds Equipment Reserve Fund" to purchase a one-ton four-wheel drive pick-up-truck.	\$48,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings <sup>1</sup>	\$446

The Annual School District Budget Vote for the fiscal year 2022-2023 by the qualified voters of the Alden Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Alden Central High School in said District on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM, prevailing time in the auditorium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote.

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



## PROJECTED REVENUE:

Revenue Description	2021-2022	2022-2023	Change
State Aid	\$15,762,897	\$15,793,930	\$31,033
County Sales Tax	\$1,800,000	\$1,925,000	\$125,000
Local Sources	\$285,240	\$266,740	(\$18,500)
Federal Sources	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Fund Balance - Appropriated for Taxes	\$3,156,495	\$3,100,000	(\$56,495)
Fund Balance - Use of Reserves	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$40,000
Property Tax Levy	\$16,038,212	\$16,451,998	\$413,786
<b>Total Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$37,152,844</b>	<b>\$37,687,668</b>	<b>\$534,824</b>

## PROJECTED EXPENDITURES:

### PROGRAM COMPONENT

Program costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (i.e. health, guidance, psychological & social services, library and athletics). Also included are textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs, and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

Item	2021-2022	2022-2023	Change
Salaries	\$15,538,050	\$15,586,928	\$48,878
Benefits	\$7,750,789	\$7,775,568	\$24,779
Equipment	\$100,380	\$120,997	\$20,617
Supplies	\$775,584	\$807,108	\$31,524
Contractual	\$1,604,984	\$1,735,390	\$130,406
BOCES	\$1,729,067	\$1,807,524	\$78,457
<b>Program Component Total</b>	<b>\$27,498,854</b>	<b>\$27,833,515</b>	<b>\$334,661</b>

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of all certified staff that spend 50% or more of their time in administration, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also included are school board costs, curriculum development, staff development, financial services, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing, BOCES administrative costs, research, planning and evaluation.

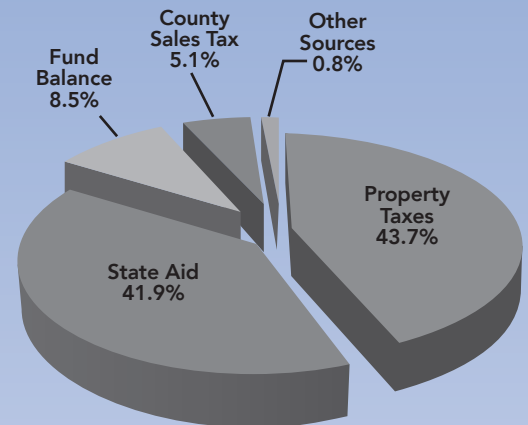
Item	2021-2022	2022-2023	Change
Salaries	\$1,587,291	\$1,655,657	\$68,366
Benefits	\$669,022	\$685,516	\$16,494
Equipment	\$500	\$500	\$0
Supplies	\$35,330	\$35,630	\$300
Contractual	\$429,613	\$445,023	\$15,410
BOCES	\$826,453	\$887,600	\$61,147
<b>Administrative Component Total</b>	<b>\$3,548,209</b>	<b>\$3,709,926</b>	<b>\$161,717</b>

### CAPITAL COMPONENT

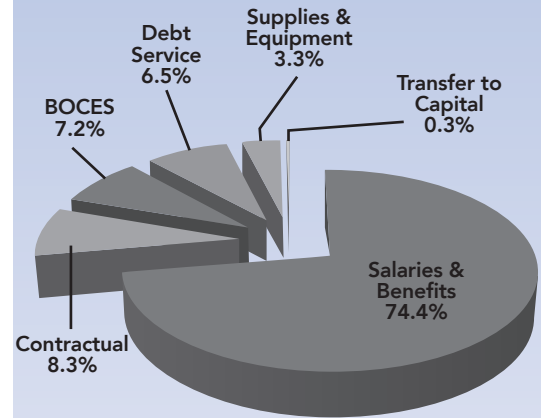
Capital costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, utilities, general insurance, and court-ordered expenses such as tax refunds.

Item	2021-2022	2022-2023	Change
Salaries	\$1,410,514	\$1,514,127	\$103,613
Benefits	\$861,036	\$841,834	(\$19,202)
Equipment	\$37,550	\$35,581	(\$1,969)
Supplies	\$255,000	\$265,000	\$10,000
Contractual	\$905,610	\$935,900	\$30,290
Debt Service	\$2,536,071	\$2,451,785	(\$84,286)
Transfer to Capital	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Capital Component Total</b>	<b>\$6,105,781</b>	<b>\$6,144,227</b>	<b>\$38,446</b>
<b>Total Proposed Expenditures</b>	<b>\$37,152,844</b>	<b>\$37,687,668</b>	<b>\$534,824</b>

### 2022-23 Revenue Breakdown by Category



### 2022-23 Expenditure Breakdown by Category



**BUDGET**  
**OTE**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**  
**9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Alden High School**  
**Auditorium**

## Projected Tax Impact & STAR Savings for the Town of Alden

- The tax rate is projected to increase from \$18.20 to \$18.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value based on current year assessments and equalization rates.
- Basic STAR tax savings would be \$446

## STAR Assessor's Office Information

For more information, please go to: <https://tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/eligibility.htm>. Any questions about your property assessment or STAR subsidy should be directed to the assessor's office in your town of residence:

**Alden Assessor - William Sivec**  
(716) 937-6969, ext. 7

**Lancaster Assessor - Rebecca Baker**  
(716) 683-1311

**Marilla Assessor - Charles Manganaro**  
(716) 652-5497, ext. 405

**Newstead Assessor - Tina McQuillen**  
(716) 542-4573, option 4

**Darien Assessor - Deborah Conti**  
(585) 547-2274, ext. 1025

**Bennington Assessor - James Kirsch**  
(585) 591-2157



# STAR Tax Relief

## STAR Tax Relief & Property Assessments

The income criteria for the STAR credit and the STAR property tax exemption can be found in the table below. You cannot receive both the credit and the exemption.

### Eligible Types of Property

- Houses, condominiums, cooperative apartments, manufactured homes, and farm houses
- Mixed-use properties, including apartment buildings (but only the owner-occupied portion)

### Eligible Homeowners

Factor	Basic STAR	Enhanced STAR
Residency	The property must be the primary residence of an owner.	The property must be the primary residence of at least one age-eligible owner.
Age	No age restriction.	65 or older.  All owners must be at least age 65 as of December 31 of the year of the exemption, except where the property is jointly owned by only a married couple or only siblings, in which case only one owner needs to meet the age requirement.  Surviving spouses can retain an existing Enhanced STAR benefit if they're at least age 62 as of December 31 in the year the benefit will continue. Otherwise, they may receive the Basic STAR benefit.
Income	\$500,000 or less for the STAR credit, \$250,000 or less for the STAR exemption.  The income limit applies to the combined incomes of only the owners and owner's spouse who resides at the property.	For 2022, \$92,000 or less.  The income limit applies to all owners (residents and non-residents), and any owner's spouse who resides at the property.



# Intermediate School

## Equivalent Fractions



Mr. Buono's class talking about equivalent fractions.



## Elementary All-County Musicians

On March 12, seven fifth and sixth grade musicians performed at Kleinhans Music Hall. Five members performed with the All-County Chorus. They included: Andrew B. and Jackson C. from the Intermediate School and sixth grade students Amanda B., Chloe F. and Rebecca V. Additionally, two of our Alden Middle School sixth grade band students performed with the Elementary All-County Band. Ryan M. performed on trombone and Emma W. was part of the flute section. The students auditioned and have been preparing with Mrs. Nye and Mrs. O'Neill during February and March. These students had an opportunity to work with amazing guest conductors. Alden Intermediate and Middle Schools are extremely proud of these students for the wonderful job they did representing Alden.



Sixth Grade All-County Chorus Members



Fifth Grade All-County Chorus Members

## Ready, Set, Action

Miss Glowny's fourth grade class was thrilled to recently welcome SUNY Buffalo State Professor and former Alden teacher, Dr. Chris Shively, who began working with the



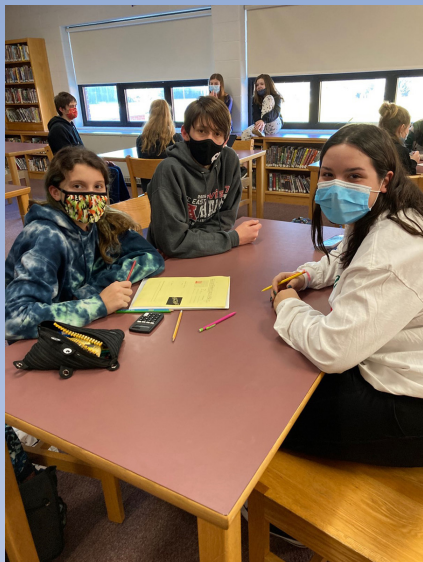
class on a reader's theater science unit about our immune system. Reader's theater allows students to develop reading fluency by reading aloud parts in scripts. Each week, students practice reading parts orally within small groups before performing for an audience of their peers. Within the script, students learn about the parts of the immune system, create models and revise their models based on what they learned. In just a few short weeks, the students have increased their science content knowledge while simultaneously building confidence in their reading abilities.

## 'Meet the Band' Concert



In March, Alden Intermediate hosted a special spring concert. Members of the fourth and fifth grade bands each chose an adult volunteer to appear in the performance. This included parents, relatives, school staff members, and family friends. Leading up to the performance, the young musicians taught their adult "students" at home to play their instruments. During the concert, the adults came together to perform live for first time, much to the delight of the audience as well as their very proud band students.





## Leadership Tutoring Group

Lily G. and Sophie M., students from Mr. Turton's leadership course, have been working on forming a tutoring group for sixth and seventh grade students. During this course, they have been working on finding High School students to volunteer in this group, and Middle School students to attend. The first meeting was held on December 21 in the Middle School library. Another was held on January 18. Middle School students had the opportunity to work on assignments while High School students developed leadership skills.



## Middle School

### Middle School Band Students Celebrate "Music in Our Schools" Month

On March 15, the Middle School instrumental students performed in a "Music in Our Schools" month concert. Members of the grades 6-8 bands performed a variety of genres in small and large group settings. Sixth grade band members performed various folk songs. Seventh grade band members delighted the audience with pop culture themes including songs from "The Avengers," "Batman," "Rocky" and the "Indiana Jones" film series. Members of the eighth grade band performed songs from the score of the "Star Wars" movies. The evening was wrapped up with over 120 band members playing "The Hey Song" and "Sweet Caroline." The song "Sweet Caroline" was originally scheduled to be performed in March 2020. Although it was performed virtually that year, the Middle School students felt strongly that they wanted an opportunity to perform this live for an audience. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for the audience to see the progression of the musicians throughout the Middle School. It was great to be able to play on the High School stage for a live audience. Please join us on May 10 at 7 p.m. in the High School auditorium for our final Middle School band concert of the year.



*Sixth Grade All-County Band Members*

### Jr. High North All-County Festival

On March 19, five students from Alden performed with the Jr. High North Chorus. Middle School students Addy B., Noah L. and Caitlyn T. were members of the SSA chorus. Michael J. and freshmen Lily K. performed with the SATB chorus. The festival was held at Akron Schools. The students had a wonderful experience working with outstanding conductors. They have been busy preparing with Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Larrabee. The Middle and High Schools are extremely proud of these students for representing Alden.



*Jr. High All-County Chorus Members*



# Middle School



## Alden MS Drama Club Bringing Back SMILES in *Annie, Jr.*



The song "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" took on a whole new meaning this past March as the cast of *Annie, Jr.* hit the stage with their beautiful maskless smiles in the classic rags-to-riches tale. Drama Club advisor and ticket sales coordinator, Heather Stotz, was happy to report a sold-out crowd on Friday, and all other shows were nearly sold out as well. Erin Tryka, director, was thrilled to move past the challenges of the pandemic and into the full live theater experience once again. It was truly magical.

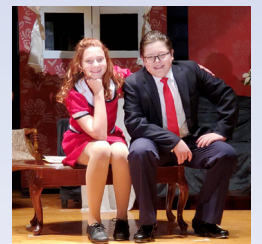
*Annie, Jr.* featured amazingly talented vocalists, with seventh graders Elise S. (Annie) and Noah L. (Oliver Warbucks) in the lead roles. Other powerhouse vocalists included Gianna C. as Miss Hannigan and Morgan E. as Grace Farrell. The orphans Haley L. (Molly), Catherine G. (Tessie), Rylee S. (Pepper), Alison S. (Duffy) and Chloe F. (July) tapped their way into the hearts of all. Humor and conflict came through clearly with the talented Jester P. (Rooster) and Kendra L. (Lily) while they attempted to kidnap sweet little Annie just as her dreams of having a real family were about to come true.



Technical and Stage crews consisted of students in grades 6-8. This was hugely impressive, as they worked for weeks to make sure the set changes, lights, sound and props were all exactly where they needed to be to bring the magic alive.



The musical was filled with audience favorites such as "Hard Knock Life," "Little Girls," "Easy Street" and "Don't Need Anything But You." Choreographers Melanie Henning and Kirsten Lerner used a variety of dance arts including tap, jazz, lyrical and ballet to bring the story and stage to life. Vocals were once again filled with harmony and energy due to Jill Olka's skilled direction. Amy and Grace Sheehan, the amazingly talented mother-daughter duo, teamed up one last time to create beautiful costumes. Rebecca Buell's expertise with lights and sound and Mason Brody's artistic set design truly brought the audiences into the world of 1930s New York City. And we never would have accomplished our goals without help from family volunteers



such as Mr. Brody, Mr. Henning, Mr. Olka and Mr. Sheehan, along with parent volunteers such as Julie Sentz, Alison Kolarich, Jennifer Cuttitta, Jennifer Stahl, and Rachel Leonard.

We want to thank everyone who came out to support our show. Look for announcements about next year's middle and high school shows coming soon via WACS News.



## *Eighth Grade Celebrations Return*

It has been a challenging two years, and we have been unable to celebrate our eighth grade class together as a group since 2019 until now. This year, our eighth grade students will be honored at an end-of-the-year casual picnic and afternoon awards presentation. Family members of the eighth grade students will be invited in the afternoon to see students receive awards and gifts, as they celebrate an end to the group's middle school years. This year's picnic and award celebration will be held on June 9. More detailed information will be shared with eighth grade families. We are so excited to be able to bring the entire Class of 2026 together.

## Class of 2027 Chicken BBQ

The Alden Middle School seventh grade students are once again hosting their Annual Krolicks Chicken BBQ on Tuesday, May 17.

The activity kicks off the first of four fundraisers the students will host that benefit the Class of 2027 events

that will include the eighth grade class trip, field trips and the end of year eighth grade picnic.

Dinners are \$12 each, pre-sale and take out only. Dinners will be available for pick up from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from any seventh grade student or in the Middle School office.

Please call Mrs. La Bar at (716) 937-9116, Ext. 2193 if you have any questions.



## *Middle School*



## Alden Bulldog Council

### Alden Middle School Student Government

This year the Alden Bulldog Council is led by Daniella Mancuso as president, Claire Whiteford as vice president, Claire Estrada as treasurer, Riley Wood as secretary and Caitlynn Tyczka in the position of public relations. The council continues to meet monthly to work on a variety of projects. All students are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings and participate in the activities.

The officers and members have done a great job brainstorming and planning ways to regain normalcy at the Middle School as well as find ways to make our new normal work. We have continued to support local charities throughout the year by holding events such as pajama/hat days, spirit weeks, Socktober and canned food drives. For most events, we suggest a monetary donation with a minimum of \$1 to participate.

We were very excited to host Socktober once again this year. We asked for donations of new socks, hats, gloves, scarves and soap throughout the month of October. We were thrilled to collect and donate more than 1,200 items to support The Buffalo City Mission. The homeroom that collected the most donations won a breakfast with a variety of treats and beverages.

We have had many spirit days this year and it has been so much fun to see the students participate. Some of the themes for the spirit days have included Red/White/Blue or Bills Day, Orange Day, Unity Day, Hat Day and Pajama Day.

In honor of National Principal's Month in October, students worked hard to show Mr. Smith how grateful they are for all he does at Alden Middle School. They filled out hundreds of cards with reasons they love our school and things they wanted to thank Mr. Smith for. They had a blast decorating his office with balloons and all the cards.

The council was thrilled to be able to get back to visiting the students at Alden Intermediate School. The Middle School students are always very excited to demonstrate what a good leader and role model looks like and have a little fun at the same time. We went over to visit fifth grade students for Thanksgiving, where we talked about what it truly means to be grateful and thankful. The Middle School students had a blast leading the discussions, doing a read aloud and assisting the fifth graders with "thankful" feathers that were used to make a classroom turkey that was displayed outside each classroom. The council went over to visit fourth grade students for Valentine's Day. Although February is known for love, it is also the month that we recognize the character trait of kindness in the Middle School. The Middle School students led fourth graders in a great discussion about what does and does not show kindness. We assisted the fourth graders in making holiday crafts for their classmates with messages that showed genuine kindness for each other. Most recently, the council headed to third grade classrooms to talk about spring and finding the beauty in everything, inside and out. We read the Ugly Duckling and talked about things that are beautiful on the inside.

The council also has two major events planned for the end of the year. We are excited to announce that we will be having a Fun Night for grades 6-8. It will be held at the Middle School. Tickets will be on sale during all lunch periods during the week of the event. Final details about the Fun Night, including the date and time, will be released soon. The other major event is Delay the Day. This is our favorite fundraiser, but we have not been able to do this for the last couple years. All students are encouraged to bring in spare change to be counted in homeroom. The day is delayed until all change has been counted. All money is donated to charity. We look forward to sharing more information about the event.





# High School



## Graduating Seniors Recognized for Academic Achievement

Fifty seniors from the Class of 2022 have earned academic honors for their Grade Point Averages (GPA) while in high school (7 semesters / 3.5 years). These students make up almost 43% of the graduating class of 115 students. Congratulations to all of our high achieving students on this honor. At the commencement ceremony in June these students will wear special honor cords indicating each designation.

### Summa Cum-Laude ("With Highest Distinction")

These are students who have maintained a 3.5 year GPA of 97-100%.

Gaffney, Kailey Claire  
Hillman, Lexie Grace  
Hoerner, Caleigh R.  
Kelly, Amelia Lyn  
Kersten, Jenna  
Noel, Grace Anne

Partell, Kaitlyn Jane  
Piechocki, Margaret Grace  
Stachura, Kara Alexa  
Uhrich, Abigail Grace  
Wilson, Kristina Marie

### Magna Cum-Laude ("With Great Praise")

These are students who have maintained a 3.5 year GPA of 94-96.99%.

Bartram, Elliana Grace  
Camp, Kelsey Rose  
Harris, Bronwen Louise  
Hart, Aidan Alexander  
Lauer, McKenzie  
Matthewson, Aubrey  
Morrison, Maryann  
Nuwer, Rachel E.

Pruetz, Andrew Lawrence  
Ribbeck, Lawson Albert  
Riddoch, Grant T.  
Roberts, Madysen E.  
Tyczka, Alyssa Brooke  
Urban, Kyle Lewis  
Wils, Rebecca Lynn  
Witka, Kalianna Ashlee

### Cum-Laude ("With Distinction")

These are students who have maintained a 3.5 year GPA of 91-93.99%.

Amrhein, Luke Marcus  
Baker, Jacob Henry  
Czelusta, Gretchen  
Decker, Audrey  
Fix, Braden Paul  
Foss, Cheyenne Elizabeth  
Hartz, Tyler Clayton  
Horst, Jessica Noel  
Hoy, Hannah  
Kersten, Tyler James  
Kruk, Justin  
Monin, Eric

Phelinger, Olivia  
Rivera, Isabel Marie  
Sheehan, Grace Katherine  
Sheehan, Michael William  
Simon, Jack James  
Skimmer, Sydney  
Strasser, Thomas  
Tryka, Rayahna Nadine  
Wanat, Lillian E.  
Wasch, Kailey M.  
Zanghi, Megan

## Congratulations to All!

## Q&A:

Continued from page 8

### 5. Did the District receive federal stimulus funds and if yes, are the funds included in proposed 2022-23 budget? What can the funds be used for?

As part of the federal relief package last year, the District received \$1,476,000 from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and \$1,786,000 from the American Rescue Plan. The funds must be expended between July 2021 – September 30, 2023 and July 2021 – September 30, 2024 respectively.

These federal grant funds must continue to be treated as grants and are not allowed to be included in the 2022-23 proposed budget. Federal grant funds must be used to supplement, not supplant normal operating costs, and are recorded in the Special Aid fund. The grants can be used to address student learning loss, including such items as lowering class sizes, extending the school day or year, and/or providing additional emotional and social support. Also, funds can be used to purchase additional educational technology, provide resources to clean and sanitize facilities, make facility repairs and upgrades to reduce the risk of virus transmission, and other activities to maintain the operation and continuity of school operations.

### 6. If the budget is not approved and the District must adopt a contingency budget, what will be impacted?

The District will need to reduce the expenditure budget by an additional \$414,000. In addition, the District would need to follow all laws associated with a contingency budget including removing non-health and safety related equipment purchases and some salaries. Certain non-contingent expenditures may be reduced as necessary, including programs and support services for students. The District would also have to charge fees for any use of the facilities or grounds.

## Harkness Student Feature



Rachel G. is a senior from Alden High School and is enrolled in the Culinary Arts program at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career and Technical Center.

"I enrolled in BOCES because I love cooking and being in the kitchen and wanted a chance to learn more techniques to use in the kitchen," Rachel said.

In the fall of 2022, following graduation, Rachel plans on going to college.

Under the instruction of John Marinelli, Rachel has learned about nutrition, kitchen safety, food preparation and more.

"She is always ready to work, a leader in the classroom, and is respectful of others. She goes above and beyond what is asked of her," said Marinelli.

"This program has provided me an advantage to reach my goals by teaching me new techniques and methods to use in the kitchen," Rachel said.

As part of public education, Erie 1 BOCES offers a variety of career and technical programs during the regular school day to high school students in Erie County. High school students interested in learning more about how they can participate in various programs such as sports science, web and gaming technologies, nursing or aviation technology, should visit [www.e1b.org/cte](http://www.e1b.org/cte) or speak with their high school counselor.



## High School

### Alden High School is Branching Out into New Territories

Alden High School and the school's student-run company, Bulldog Manufacturing, have completed Phase 1 of their metalworking curriculum expansion. On March 3, the technology wing's metals manufacturing area expanded its operations with the addition of four manual milling machines. This step was the first in the current \$105,000 expansion into new areas of the skilled trades. This expansion has been the culmination of years of professional relationship development and months of dedicated efforts from industry partners, Bulldog Manufacturing advisers and students. These efforts included providing tours to officials from the East Aurora Union Free School District and Lewiston-Porter Central School District, organizing an industry partner open house and building relationships with various business representatives. Donors thus far include RJ Watson, Integer, Casey Machine Company, Buffalo Allied Technologies, MGS Research Corp., Apple Rubber Products, Moog, Seal & Design Inc., A.W. Miller, Industrimax, Pfannenberg Manufacturing, Stony Manufacturing, and Bulldog Manufacturing. Expansion efforts are still continuing, with hopes to raise more funds over the next year. This expansion is the first step in growing the offered programs at the High School, which will increase post-graduation options for students in high-demand manufacturing pathways. These machines will be available to all who decide to take a metals class in their high school career as well as students working with Bulldog Manufacturing. As employment needs within the trades grow exponentially over the next few years, this expansion will give High School students a head-start in growing fields such as machining, CNC technician professions, engineering, and computer-aided design.



In addition to this expansion, Bulldog Manufacturing has been preparing for the close of the 2021-2022 school year. With the seniors of the program graduating, department managers have been ramping up efforts to prepare next year's leaders. The organization will soon be welcoming a new group of team members. Recruitment with the Classes of 2023 and 2024 ran over the course of two months with final interviews conducted in late April. Keep an eye out for an announcement of our 2022-23 team before the end of the year.

If you're interested in keeping up with the students' work or want to place an order, follow Bulldog Manufacturing on Instagram ([bulldog.manufacturing](https://www.instagram.com/bulldog.manufacturing)), Twitter ([AldenBulldogMFG](https://twitter.com/AldenBulldogMFG)) and Facebook ([AldenBulldogMFG](https://www.facebook.com/AldenBulldogMFG)), or visit [bulldogmfg.aldenschools.org](http://bulldogmfg.aldenschools.org).





# High School



## Drawing and Painting Artists' Experience at the Botanical Gardens

High School drawing and painting artists, under the leadership of Mrs. Cometto, pioneered a new artistic collaboration at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens on December 10, 2021.

Our High School artists explored new and innovative artistic techniques and media through an artist workshop led by teaching artist, Judith Kosinski, and discovered the rich cultural and natural wonders of the Botanical Gardens through a discovery tour with plenty of opportunities for the students to develop their artistic skills. At the end of their day of rich artistic discovery, students left with several completed works of art and a newfound admiration for the beauty and natural offerings of our historic local living museum.



## Blackwater Bots

Written by Jared Baesen

On January 16, Alden High School's robotics team, the Blackwater Bots, went to Corning Painted-Post High School in Corning to compete in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifier match. This was the team's first qualifying match since 2020. Before the event, the team was challenged with building a robot that can complete tasks on the competition field, and create an Engineering Notebook and Portfolio, which shows the design and engineering process of the robot and document any of the team's community outreach activities. The team is comprised of mostly rookies, but was able to complete the challenges.

The Blackwater Bots received the Judge's Choice Award, which is awarded to teams showing unique efforts, performance or dynamics. The award showed the students that their hard work was recognized and inspired them to keep improving. Into the future, the team wants to develop its skills in coding, robot building, pit set-up and community outreach. To learn more about the team, visit [www.aldenrobotics.org](http://www.aldenrobotics.org).

## Alden High School's Model UN Ranks 4th out of 41

On March 22, the Alden High School Model UN Club participated in the Model UN General Assembly Conference that was held at the University at Buffalo's North Campus, under the sponsorship of the International Institutes of Buffalo.

Ten Alden High School students, along with their faculty advisor, Mrs. Jamie Williams, attended the conference as delegates for the United Kingdom. Alden was among the 28 Western New York high schools that participated in the conference, representing 41 member countries.

Alden's delegation came in fourth place overall in the conference competition. Additionally, Andrew P. and Nathaniel B. won the "Excellence in Committee" award for their hard work in the Special Political Committee, debating issues such as the situation in Palestine, COVID vaccines and the increased restriction of nuclear arms. Scoring was based on the accurate representation of the delegate nation's true positions, preparation and knowledge, presentations skills, ability to work with other delegations to reach compromise, rules of procedure and the delegates' decorum during the conference.

The morning began with a keynote address from Nojin Kwak, vice provost for international education at the University at Buffalo. Students then spent the remainder of the day in their committees working on true-to-life issues that are affecting the world today, with the hope of making positive change.

The Model UN students put forth a tremendous amount of research and hard work to achieve these awards. Great work Bulldogs.





## Skimmer Competes at the State Bowling Championships

Alden Athletics would like to congratulate Sydney Skimmer on her trip to the State Bowling Championships on March 12. This is Sydney's second time qualifying for the State Championship, with her first trip cancelled due to event restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sydney was our senior captain and a leader on the team. Sydney has been a member of the Varsity Bowling team since seventh grade and brought a wealth of experience to the team as an avid bowler both with the team and outside of school. Sydney was top female bowler in Section VI, bowling a high game of 289 and high series of 708 and posting an average score of 216.58 for the 2021-22 season. Sydney will continue to bowl after graduation and we wish her the best as she continues her education and her pursuit of that perfect game.

## Swim Sectionals

Alden Central Schools hosted the 2021-22 swim sectionals.



## Athletics News

### ECIC Swimming Division Championships

Alden's Aquatic Center was honored to host the ECIC Swimming Division Championships this winter season. On January 26, ECIC large and small schools competed for the ECIC Championship Title. In the morning, Divisions III and IV competed with 13 teams and over 90 swimmers. Alden competed in this Division and placed second behind East Aurora. In the afternoon, the ECIC Division I and II competed for the Championship title where 14 teams competed with over 90 swimmers. Orchard Park brought in the win and Williamsville East came in second. This year both Varsity Girls and Boys swim teams received second place at the ECIC Championship for the first time in years.

On February 14, the Section VI State Diving qualifiers were held. Divers from around Section VI competed in 5 different dives to qualify for the NYS Diving Championship. There were nine divers who made sectionals and all dove 11 dives each to compete. Senior David Marshall from Panama High School moved on to compete in the State Meet Championship.



# Winter Athletic Highlights



The Alden Athletic Department would like to thank all the coaches, players, and spectators for their cooperation during our winter athletic season. We celebrate our seniors and thank them for their positive contribution to Alden Athletics.

This winter we were proud to show off the Aquatic Center by hosting small and large school Boys ECIC Swimming Division Championships on January 29, and Boys Sectional Diving on February 14. We received many positive comments on how beautiful our facility is and how organized our staff was in organizing and running these large events.

Thank you to our coaches for the many hours they each put into their sport as well as their passion for coaching and teaching our athletes character and the spirit of the game. The coaches wrote a recap of their seasons below.

## Boys Varsity Basketball

*Coach: Tim Stone*

The Alden Boys Varsity Basketball finished with a 12-9 record, making it back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 2009-10. One of the season's highlights was Johnny Watson's career high of 42 points against CCA, the second-most in school history. There was also the Senior Night blowout win against Eden, where the fans were spectacular in their enthusiasm. All the seniors played in the first half, scoring 51 points, including eight three-pointers. "That was the most fun I have ever had at a basketball game," said Walker Wrest.

## Girls Varsity Basketball

*Coach: Kevin Shadle*

The Girls Varsity Basketball team played extremely hard all season long, finishing with a 9-11 overall record and a 7-5 division record. As the season developed, the team took on a defensive personality. The girls played tough defense game in and game out. With a solid defense in place, the team was able to focus on becoming a more potent offense. From the start of the season until the very end, the team improved offensively to become a more balanced team. Leading the Bulldogs in scoring was senior Jenna Kersten with 196 points, followed by junior Cassidy Bauer with 117, junior Kayla Becker with 87 and senior Kaitlyn Partell with 86. Leading the team in three-pointers was Kaitlyn Partell with 13, followed by Cassidy Bauer with 9. Top rebounders for the team were Desiree Zielinski with 111 rebounds, trailed by Abigail Uhrich with 84, Jenna Kersten with 72, Kendall Shadle with 60 and Emma Koch with 56. Jenna Kersten led the team with steals with 40 for the season, followed by Desiree Zielinski with 31, Kayla Becker with 24 and

Kendall Shadle with 21. Desiree Zielinski and Cassidy Bauer paced the team with 21 blocked shots each, followed by Emma Koch with 17 and Kayla Becker with 16. Thank you to seniors Jenna Kersten, Kaitlyn Partell, Abigail Uhrich and Noelle Fulle for leading by example on and off the court.

## Boys & Girls Bowling

*Coach: Ed Carll*

The Boys Bowling team finished the season with a record of 4-6. The team was led by team captain Marty Rzepka and Michael Sheehan. Senior Thomas Strasser also pitched in to help the Bulldogs be a competitive squad. Collin and Dillin Fisher showed why they are the future of Alden Bowling, putting up great scores. Ethan Davidson and John Mikulski completed the team, and the pair saw great improvement through the season. The team faced the challenges of COVID throughout the season and stepped up and competed respectively.

The Girls Bowling team finished the season with a record of 7-3. Captain Sydney Skimmer led the team to an impressive second place finish in their division. Hannah Bishop, Emily Wetzler, Kaitlyn Panek, Amanda Shisler and Sydney all represented Alden at Sectionals. Rounding out the team was Aurora Tryka, Sylvia Witmer and Erika Beiber. They were asked to step-up throughout the season and performed admirably.

The young team had a great year and is looking forward to improving next year. Among the highlights of the season was Sydney Skimmer leading Section VI with an overall average of 216.58, and posting a single high game score of 289. Sydney also qualified for her second trip to the New York State Bowling Championships.

## Varsity Cheerleading

*Coach: Shannon Retzlaff*

This winter season, the Varsity Cheerleading team was excited to get back to traditional competition. The team started out their competitive season by attending the Iroquois Cheer Off, where they placed second. They then went to the ECIC championship, where they impressively placed second in a tough division. Jessica Horst and Kara Stachura were recognized as ECIC All-Stars. The team then competed at the Fire and Ice Show Off and finished their great season at Sectionals. The team put in a great performance at sectionals and finished in fourth place; the best result the squad has ever had at the sectional championship.

In addition to their competitive season, the team also had fun supporting the Varsity Boys Basketball team. It was a great winter season.

## Boys & Girls Rifle

*Coach: Art Eggink*

The Varsity Rifle team had a good season this year with lots of growth and potential, finishing with a 6-8 record. With the difficulty of many new shooters and first-time competition in 3 positions for most of the team, this season was about growing the individual athletes. Every athlete pushed to increase their ability, focus and precision, which will lead the team toward a great season next year. We had four athletes qualify for sectionals: Sylvia White, Jaclyn Principe, Aidan Hart and Jordan Strasser. Each of these athletes competed in the three-position event as individuals. Even though the team was not able to take home the victory at Sectionals, the growth that was shown is an indication of how great the team can perform next year. Unfortunately, the team is losing its captain, senior Aidan Hart. He did a great job of keeping the motivation of the team high and helping everyone on the team improve.





# Winter Athletic Highlights

## Varsity Boys Swimming

*Coach: Nancy Bennett*

The Varsity Boys Swimming had an outstanding year, finishing with a league record of 8-1. The team finished second at the ECIC championships for the first time under coach Nancy Bennett. The team also repeated a second-place finish at the Class C championships for the first time in school history. Junior Matt Cole broke a school record that had stood for 12 years when he completed the 100 backstroke with a time of 58.68 seconds. The team qualified 15 athletes to the ECIC championship, 15 athletes to the Class C championship and seven athletes to the state qualifier meet. Seniors Bobby Kersten, Tyler Kersten, Andy Pruetz and Aaron Horton all qualified to the Class C meet, with Bobby Kersten, Tyler Kersten and Andy Pruetz going all the way to the state qualifier meet. Another highlight for the season was the addition of two new divers, Ayden Daigler and Jacob Klinski, to our program. Additionally, Adam Pruetz was voted the Gary Grant award at the ECIC B meet. The team had a total of 19 swimmers this season, the highest level of participation in coach Bennett's time as coach. We look forward to many new faces and an exciting outlook for the 2022-23 season.



## Unified Bowling

*Coach: MaryBeth Marko*

This year's Unified Bowling team was thrilled to be back "on a roll." Although it was a tough season with more losses than wins, each athlete consistently improved their individual scores throughout the season. Not only were they successful on the lanes, but they were also successful in building wonderful bonds and friendships. Some highlights included the powerful partnership between Andrew Lotz and Katie Wilson, who scored their highest game against Eden with Andrew getting 101 pins and Katie getting 146. Tommy Brown and Nathan Sobieraj continually kept high scores alive with pins in the hundreds for many games. Carter Zaleski had an amazing debut to Unified Bowling and continuously improved his game. He added to Alden's success when bowling high scores with Mackenzie Mertz and Rebecca Clifford. Carissa Congdon, Anna Rogers, Olivia Wery, and Ellen Ritchie were incredible team members, constantly increasing their scores and adding to Alden's wins.

Katie Wilson summed up the season well by saying, "The Unified Bowling team has been an amazing experience to be a part of. I love walking into practice every day and seeing the smiles on my teammates' faces. Throughout the season, I have gained many new friendships and created new memories for life."

## Junior Varsity Boys Basketball

*Coach: Zack Stone*

The Junior Varsity Boys Basketball team dominated league play this year, finishing with a 10-2 record, to go with an overall record of 12-7. The team was made up of ten freshman and one sophomore, making it a year of growth and development due to the hard work put in during practice for the young team. Many different players stepped up during the season to help secure win after win. Freshman captain Robbie Westmiller helped to solidify the defense with his sensational play and teamwork. Fellow freshman captain Nate Jegierski and sophomore Quinn Grover helped lead the offense with their outstanding three-point shooting. Throughout the season, the

boys worked as a team, understanding that there are many aspects to being a successful team. This mentality helped the team have six different players all be single-game high scorers, as well as everyone on the team contributing on the scoring end. Many wins came down to the wire and players stepped up to make the big play. Ending the season against Eden in one of the most intense games of the year, Alden was down with only seconds to go. Josh Kruk managed to steal the ball and make the game-winning layup as time was expiring, sending the jam-packed crowd into pandemonium. The team has the future of Alden Basketball looking bright.

## Junior Varsity Girls Basketball

*Coach: Jeff Kryszczuk*

The Junior Varsity Girls Basketball team played nine non-league games this year, due to many league rivals folding their Junior Varsity teams. The team finished the year with a 3-2 league record, and 5-9 overall. Some new teams, like City Honors and Nichols, were added to the team's schedule as they searched for new opponents. The team had several closely contested games, losing three games by less than four points. The team was very young with only two returning players from last season. The team scored 450 points, averaging 32.14 points per game this season. On defense, the team gave up 501 points this season, averaging 35.78 points against them this season. Among the highlights of the season was a big 49-47 win over Lackawanna, and a 43-42 loss to Depew. The team grew this season despite many hardships, and has lots of promise for next year. Some final statistics for the JV Girls Basketball team were Jillian Uhrich leading the team with 143 points and averaging 10.2 points per game; captain Brianna Brunner had 91 points and averaged 7.6 points per game this season. Other scorers in order are Claire Shadle, 73 points; Skylar Domres, 58 points; co-captain Alyssa Case, 47 points; Mylah Urso, 20 points (playing only 12 games); Adrianne Mangione, 10 points (playing only 12 games). Vanessa Wrazen and Lakeysha Potter showed promise for next year.

I would like to thank the parents and fans for their support this season. Through these difficult times, it was nice to be able to play a season.

# Winter Athletic Highlights



## Modified Boys Basketball

Coach: Mike Borton

The Modified Boys Basketball team finished the season with a 12-2 record. The team was an extremely competitive group and showed up for each and every game, with their losses to Lackawanna and JFK each by 2 points. The athletes were hard-working and did everything that I asked of them, while gaining valuable experience and having fun along the way.

The Baby Bulldogs team was led by captains Jon Koch, Josh Klinski and Liam Shaver, who were the only three players returning from last season. Tyler Lucas had a great season specializing in defense, but he also led the team in scoring for several games. Seventh grader Jordan Helms started almost every game and had a solid first season, and we expect big things from him in the future.

Some season highlights include a tremendous comeback at Lackawanna after being outscored 19-2 in the third quarter, with the tying the game with less than a minute left, only to lose on a lucky bank shot in the final seconds. Playing at home against Akron, Liam Shaver hit a three-pointer with four seconds left in overtime to give the Bulldogs the 30-29 win. Liam, who we like to call the tiger killer, again sent Akron home with a loss on late lay-up to give our team the 26-25 win. Seventh grader Jonas Jahn had a buzzer-beating three-point shot at Eden at the end of the third quarter, leading his teammates to storm the court as he flexed all of his 75 pounds. The Bulldogs beat previously undefeated JFK at their place by two points in a nail-biter, with Jon Koch scoring 19 of our 27 points. The Bears repaid us by beating us at the buzzer in another very tight game.

Overall, I am extremely proud of this team and what they were able to accomplish this season under the circumstances. The future is bright, as we see kids have the basketball bug and the recreation program helping as a feeder system. We have much work to do, and the season is never over.

## Modified Girls Basketball

Coach: Kevin Baumann

The 2021-22 Girls Modified Basketball team finished the season with a 7-6 overall record, and 7-5 in league play. I was very proud of not only how hard this team played and practiced, but the strides they made developing and sharpening their basketball skills. The team was competitive in every game and played tenacious defense.

The team was led by seventh graders Kara Partell and Brooklyn Jankowski. I look forward to watching their development and contributions to the girls basketball program at Alden. Other players that contributed significant points were seventh graders Anya Holzman, Kaitlyn Watson and Raegan Russell, along with eighth grader Taylor Reardon.

The future of girls' basketball at Alden is bright with the development and commitment of this young modified team. I am extremely proud of this team and what they accomplished, and I am excited to watch these girls grow and go on to play Junior Varsity and Varsity basketball. It was a pleasure coaching this group of girls and I look forward to doing the same next year.

## Modified Co-Ed Swim

Coach: Wendy Zelasko

Assistant Coach: Liz Osucha

This year, we had 30 members on the modified co-ed swim team. In our first meet of the season against West Seneca East, the team broke 62 personal records. We swam against Depew, where the swimmers broke 43 personal records. Swimming against West Seneca East for the second time, Alden set 56 personal records. The team continued to work hard in the water throughout the season and in the last meet of the year, our Alden Bulldogs broke 37 of their personal records for the season.

Four awards were given out at the end of the season. The most dedicated male swimmer award went to Ryan Clotfelter and the most dedicated female swimmer award went to Sydney Hoffman. The most improved male and female swimmer award recipients were Aiden Jezioro and Caitlyn Tyczka. This was a very successful season for these swimmers in our brand-new pool. Way to go Bulldogs!



## Iroquois/Alden Federation Hockey Team

The Iroquois/Alden Federation hockey team finished its 2021-22 season with a 10-9-1 record. We started off the season 7-0-1 and ranked #1 in the Small School early on in the season. The team battle hard all season through injuries and some adversity throughout the end of the season. We lost our playoff game to Frontier 3 - 2 in the pre-quarterfinals. The coaching staff would like to thank senior Willmar Froman, for all his dedication and leadership these past three years with our program. Also we would like to thank our trainer Jim Fecio for all his support this past season!



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## *District News*

### Updated Calendar Information

#### *May 2022*

May 10: PS PTO Meeting  
May 13: MS Exploratory Reports Posted To The Portal  
May 17: Annual Budget Vote and Election 9 AM - 9 PM HS Cafeteria  
May 17: MS Chicken BBQ for 7th Grade Fundraiser  
May 17: MS 35 Week Interim Reports Posted To The Portal  
May 18: HS 35 Week Grades Posted to Parent Portal  
May 19: MS Spring Chorus Concert 7 PM HS Aud  
May 19: IS PTO Meeting 6:00 PM  
May 20: HS Prom 6-10 PM Kotecki's Grandview Grove  
May 20: PS 1st Grade Fun Night  
May 24-25: MS Science Performance Assessment Grade 8  
May 26-27: MS Coffee House Days  
May 30: Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

#### *June 2022*

June 1: HS Spring Awards Celebration 7 PM  
June 2: HS Finale Concert 7 PM  
June 3: Early Dismissal K-12 / Staff Development  
June 3: PS 2nd Grade Fun Night  
June 4: HS SAT Administration @ Various Sites 8 AM  
June 6: MS Science Written Assessment Grade 8  
June 6-14: HS Local Exams  
June 8: MS 8th Grade Reception 7pm HS Aud  
June 8: PS Kindergarten Screening  
June 9: HS Senior Class Night 6 PM  
June 10: MS 8th Grade Picnic  
June 11: HS ACT Administration @ Various Sites 8 AM  
June 14: HS Qtr. 4 Grades Close  
June 14: Senior Class of 2022 Parade of Graduates  
June 14: IS Flag Ceremony 2:30 PM  
June 14: IS 3rd Trimester Ends  
June 14: PS PTO Meeting  
June 15-17: HS Local and Regents Exams  
June 16: MS Final Exams Student Dismissal 11:00 AM  
June 16: IS PTO Meeting 6:00 PM  
June 16: PS Field Day  
June 17: MS Final Exams Student Dismissal 10:30 AM  
June 17: Early Dismissal K-5 11:30 AM  
June 20: Juneteenth Observance  
June 21-23: HS Local and Regents Exams  
June 21-22: MS Final Exams Student Dismissal 11:00 AM  
June 21: IS/MS 5th Grade Moving Up / 6th Grade Orientation  
June 23: Last Student Day of School for Students  
June 23: HS Graduation Rehearsal 10:30 AM  
June 23: MS Final Exams Student Dismissal 10:30 AM  
June 23: IS Progress Reports Sent Home  
June 23: Early Dismissal K-5 11:30 AM  
June 24: Staff Rating Day  
June 24: HS Graduation 7 PM  
June 29: MS 4th Quarter Report Cards Posted To The Portal