

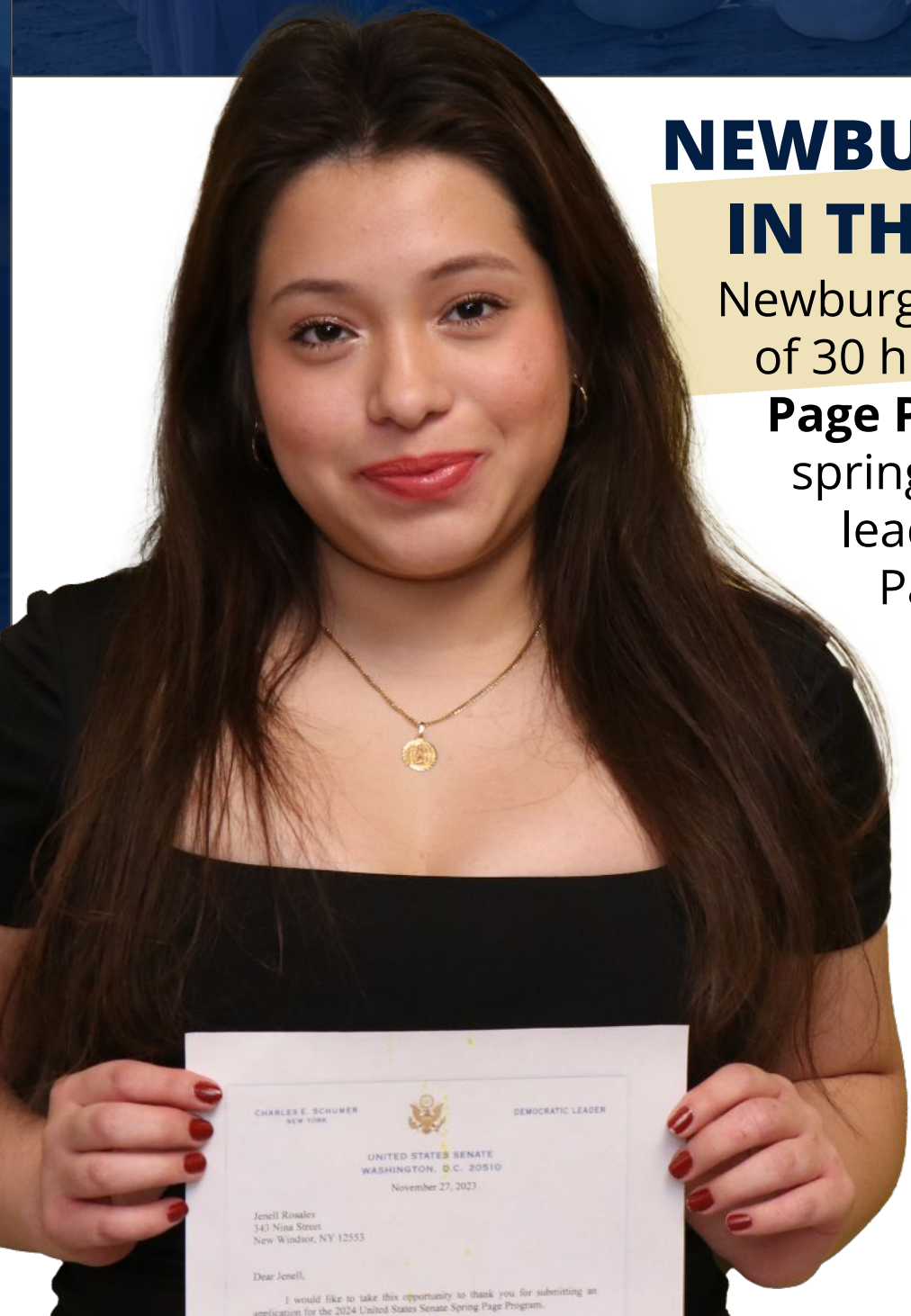
# OUR INAUGURAL ISSUE

Throughout the year we will be releasing NECSD Happenings. This publication aims to share a snapshot of topics that will help our district community learn about what our schools and programs have to offer our students, families, and community. Our goal is to keep our families informed so they feel confident in the quality of education that our children are being provided throughout the NECSD.

FEBRUARY  
2024

## NEWBURGH FREE ACADEMY REPRESENTED IN THE SENATE

Newburgh Free Academy scholar, Jenell Rosales was selected as one of 30 high school students for the **2024 United States Spring Page Program**. Jenell will live and learn in Washington, DC for the spring semester and work alongside students and political leaders from across the country. According to the US Senate Page Program, "Living away from home with students from across the country allows pages to experience a myriad of new ideas and perspectives as well as develop skills in communication and compromise. Pages learn the value of public service while meeting some of our nation's most prominent leaders and witnessing firsthand the political debates of the United States Senate." Jenell plans to study law after graduating from high school next year with goals to become a lawyer, judge, and elected official. Prior to attending NFA, Jenell attended New Windsor School and Heritage Middle School. Jenell currently holds an internship with New York Senator James Skoufis.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Students who attend the NECSD Pre-K Program show higher scores on Grade 3 ELA and Math Exams

4

Points higher on  
NYS grade 3 ELA exam

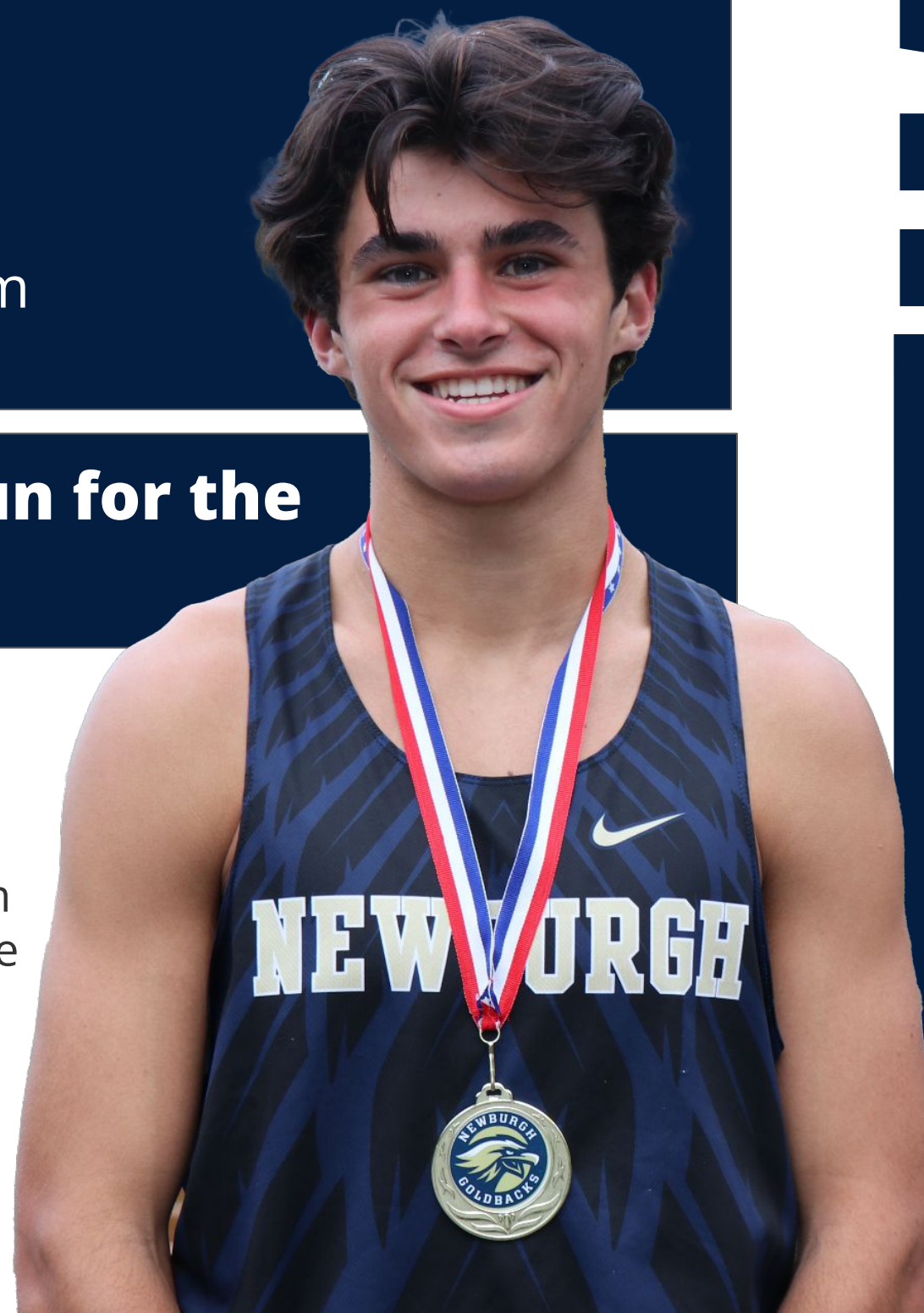
10

Points higher on  
NYS grade 3 Math exam

**Pre-K Registration has begun for the  
2024-25 school year.**

## NEW SCHOOL RECORD SET FOR 800M AND 1000M

Brady Danyluk set new school records in the 800m and 1000m run against the top high school athletes, ranking him 4th in the Nation in the 1000m, according to MileSplit. Danyluk has broken multiple school records in track and cross country this year, including his own. In the fall, he set the Chadwick Lake course record for Cross Country.



# NECSD HAPPENINGS



## NFA JOINS LOCAL UNIONS FOR CAREER PREP

While enrolled in the Construction or Welding Pathways, students become Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certified. In collaboration with Local 17, students receive the required training for this important certification. Our Welding students also visit the union headquarters to learn about career opportunities and requirements for application in our community.

There are 19 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at our high school campuses with growth on the horizon. With the construction of our new building, there are plans to add plumbing and HVAC, and Veterinary Tech as opportunities for our students. All of our programs offer career exploration and develop necessary skills for employment immediately after high school graduation. Many of our programs offer opportunities for professional certification in their area as well.



## CAPITAL BOND UPDATES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

At a recent Board of Education meeting, The district Presented updates on the following projects:

### Heritage MS - Traffic Updates (picture 1)

A plan has been created to update the current vehicle entry, increase the sidewalk for bus loading/unloading, and repave the bus loop. Additional parking places will be added, and there will be a new access road created from Union Avenue. The school will now have two entrances. The purpose of these improvement is to reduce traffic congestion and increase safety. Estimated completion date is August 2024.

### NFA Improvements

The concrete replacement steps in the back part of the building have been replaced and final parts of the project are in the process of being completed over the next couple months. The NFA Locker Room renovation plans have been submitted to NYSED for approval. We expect work to begin in November 2024 and completion during August 2025.

### New CTE Building (pictures 2 and 3)

Newly revised plans for the CTE center have been submitted to NYSED for review. It is expected that construction will begin in June 2024 with a July 2026 completion date.



**For more details about the capital bond visit [www.newburghschools.org/bond](http://www.newburghschools.org/bond)**





## FROM NFA TO RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

Theresa Bruno used to walk the halls of Newburgh Free Academy, a regular performer on the NFA stage. Now, she can be found performing at Radio City Music Hall and the Thanksgiving Day Parade as a Radio City Rockette. Theresa has returned to her former high school to speak to aspiring performers and assist with choreography for dance shows since graduating. When comparing her time as a Rockette to what she learned at NFA, she notes that high school prepared her well, but now she needs more stamina for multiple performances a day. Theresa made sure to note the variety of careers that can stem from her time as a Rockette, so that students should keep their options open if they are interested in a career in the performing arts even if they are not interested in performing. Aside from dance class at NFA, Theresa also highlighted math, letting the current high school students know how important it has been for her to be able to do quick equations on top of counting the time in her head to find and anticipate her mark on stage. Before graduating from Newburgh Free Academy in 2015, Theresa attended Meadow Hill School.

## The district needs Substitute Teachers

All you need to become part of the **Goldback Family** as a substitute teacher is

# 60 College Credits

The college credits can be from any major!

Apply at [newburghschools.org](http://newburghschools.org)



## CBS NEWS FEATURE LIMITING OUR CELL USE DURING SCHOOL

This fall, our middle and high schools began limiting cell-phone use in our schools. Students are provided with a magnetic pouch and each day they insert their electronic devices and lock the magnet for the day. Students Monique May and Tyson Hill from NFA West Campus were interviewed by CBS News journalist Meg Oliver about their experiences. Topics included their initial thoughts, how they view the protocol now, and the impacts limiting cell-phone use has had on their mental health and relationships with friends and family. The segments were aired on CBS News Sunday Morning and CBS Evening News.

More recently, NFA P-TECH student Josiah Placide spoke at a Board of Education meeting in January providing his thoughts on what is going well, what could be improved, and action items for improvement of the protocol. His overall thoughts were positive, sharing:

*"So far, personally, I have seen more student-teacher interactions. There have been more student-to-student interactions, talking to each other more, and having more creative ideas together. There has been more student participation overall. Students project more confidence now by projecting their voices and looking up, rather than looking down at their phones. Students are now more active and enthusiastic during gym or other active classes. During class time, students are absorbing the material more and remembering what is taught in class."*

# CALENDAR

FOR FULL EVENT CALENDAR AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT [NEWBURGHSCHOOLS.ORG](http://NEWBURGHSCHOOLS.ORG)

FEB.  
**19-23**

**DISTRICT CLOSED -  
MID-WINTER BREAK**

MAR.  
**1**

**ALL-DISTRICT  
ART FESTIVAL BEGINS**

FEB.  
**25**

**MIDDLE AND HIGH  
SELECTION ENDS**

MAR.  
**2**

**NATIONAL READ ACROSS  
AMERICA CELEBRATION BEGINS**

FEB.  
**27**

**PARENT CONNECT:  
NYS GRADES 3-8 ASSESSMENTS**

MAR.  
**15**

**NFA SPRING MUSICAL  
OPENING NIGHT**

## NECSD BUDGET

Each dollar we spend comes from three (3) different places.

### State Aid Funding

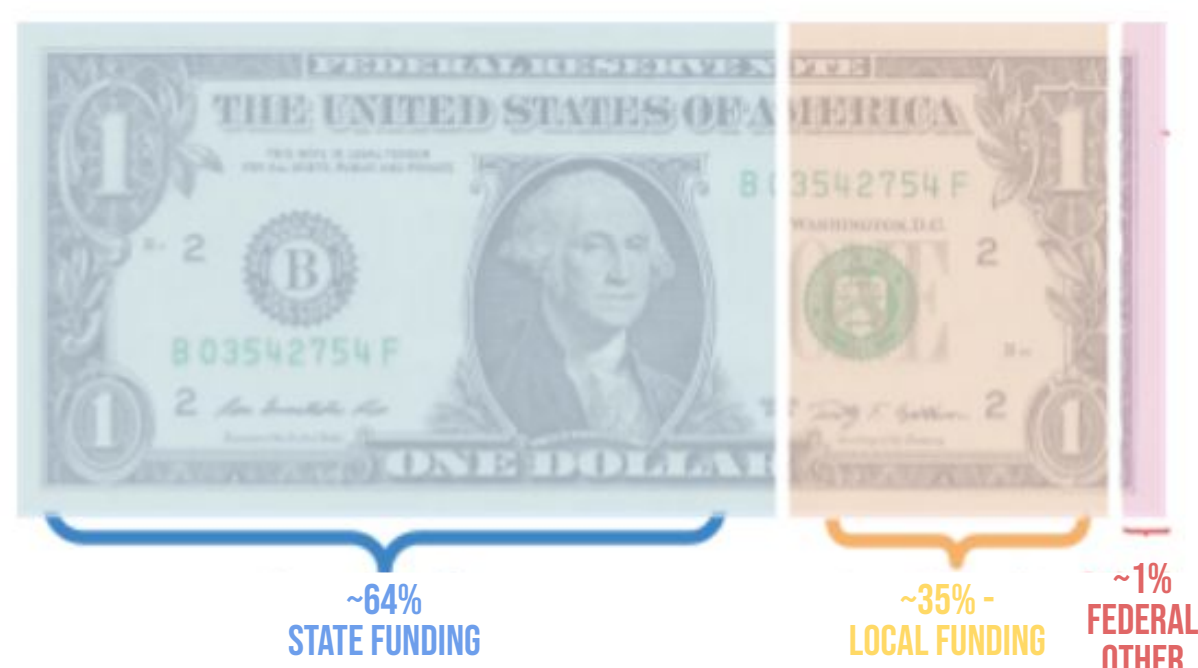
State Aid funding is money provided directly from New York State and accounts for approximately 64% of our budget.

### Local Funding

Local funding includes use fees, interest earnings, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), Utility Taxes, as well as the property tax levy (school taxes). This is 35% of our budget and comes from local sources. The property tax levy is the total amount of money the board approves for the district to collect from taxpayers.

### Federal Funding

Only about ~1% of our funding comes from federal funds.



## 0% TAX LEVY FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS

Even with increasing expenses, the district has had approximately 0% increase in our tax levy to local taxpayers for the last 8 years. This means the total amount we've collected from local taxpayers has not changed. We are the only district in NYS who has been able to accomplish this. However, this has not come without its downside. If the district had even increased only 1% each year over the last eight years our revenue would be over \$10 million dollars higher. This has forced the district to make tough choices these past eight years, and have put us currently in a tough financial position. The district will continue this year to work diligently to keep the tax levy as low as possible for our taxpayers while being able to provide the education environment we believe our students deserve.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### THE NECSD BUDGET VOTE/BOE ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 21, 2024

Unlike municipal budgets, residents spanning multiple municipalities (the Town of Newburgh, City of Newburgh, Town of New Windsor, and a small section of Cornwall and Walkill) vote on the proposed budget and contribute accordingly based on the results. Individual residents have a say - not just elected officials.