

Lakeland Central School District
1086 E. Main Street
Shrub Oak, NY 10588



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TO: LAKELAND RESIDENT

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CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE: DECEMBER 6, 2022

AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF ALL LAKELAND STUDENTS

Dear Lakeland Community,

The Lakeland Central School District is presenting a tax-neutral Capital Project to voters on **Tuesday, December 6, 2022**. The Capital Project is directly aligned with the District's mission, as it will **provide all Lakeland students with the modern learning spaces they deserve and that will help shape their successes for many years to come.**

The Capital Project is part of a long-range plan to address capital improvements across the District. This project would span multiple years and provide the District with much-needed educational enhancements, as well as infrastructure repairs/replacements, **touching every school building.**

WHY NOW?

The District is in a very strong financial position to take on a new Capital Project. We have fully funded our Capital Reserve (\$20 million saved). Combined with New York State Education Department (NYSED) building aid, we can finance a \$57 million Capital Project that is **entirely tax-neutral for residents.**

WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS NEED?

- Optimal learning environments which will be achieved through renovations to common areas such as Library Media Centers and new STEAM Centers. These spaces will support collaboration, project-based learning, and problem-solving, and provide access to the latest technology.
- Enhancements to our infrastructure in every school will help create optimal learning environments. Infrastructure needs include HVAC upgrades, enhancements to the fire alarm systems, roofing improvements, and more (please see inside for more information).

The District's strategic financial planning and vision have brought us to this important and exciting endeavor. The Capital Project is truly an investment in the future of all Lakeland children. We believe that now is the time to shape the future for all Lakeland students and provide them with the learning spaces they deserve.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, from 7 AM to 9 PM at Van Cortlandtville Elementary School on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Gagliardi
Superintendent of Schools

Adam E. Kaufman
Board of Education President

SCAN FOR VIDEO!



Scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone to learn more about the Capital Project planning, finances, and preliminary renderings.

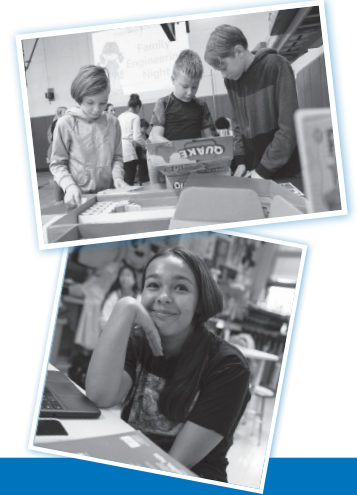


BALANCING EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS WITH INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS...

Why do we need dedicated STEAM Centers and renovated Library Media Centers?

These spaces will provide essential access to launch Lakeland students into 21st-century learning. It is a cost-efficient approach to ensure that every student, in every school can access current, innovative technology that they may not have if it were housed in a single classroom.

These environments are shown to encourage creativity, exploration, innovation, and collaboration with peers as students are exposed to a broader range of work and approaches to problem-solving, ultimately preparing them for college and the careers that await them after high school.



PRELIMINARY PROJECT BREAKDOWN BY BUILDING

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN E.S.

- > Library/Media Center Renovation
- > New STEAM Center
- > Fire Alarm System Enhancements

GEORGE WASHINGTON E.S.

- > Library/Media Center Renovation
- > New STEAM Center
- > Fire Alarm System Enhancements
- > HVAC System Improvements

LINCOLN-TITUS E.S.

- > Library/Media Center Renovation
- > New STEAM Center
- > Fire Alarm System Enhancements
- > HVAC System Improvements

THOMAS JEFFERSON E.S.

- > Library/Media Center Renovation
- > New STEAM Center
- > Fire Alarm System Enhancements
- > HVAC System Improvements

VAN CORTLANDTVILLE E.S.

- > Library/Media Center Renovation
- > New STEAM Center
- > Fire Alarm System Enhancements



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

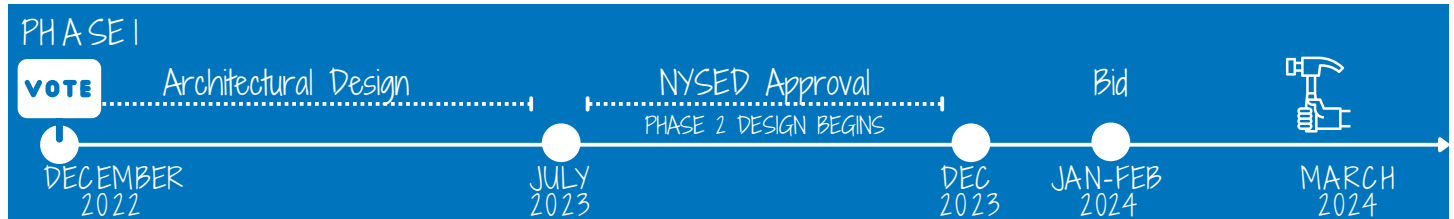


BFES, LHS, LCBMS, and VCES are not receiving HVAC upgrades like the other schools. Why not?

Van Cortlandtville E.S. is one of the oldest buildings in the District and the HVAC upgrades will be funded through the Energy Performance Contract. The HVAC systems at Benjamin Franklin E.S., Lakeland Copper Beech M.S., and Lakeland H.S. are in good working condition and do not require upgrades at this time.

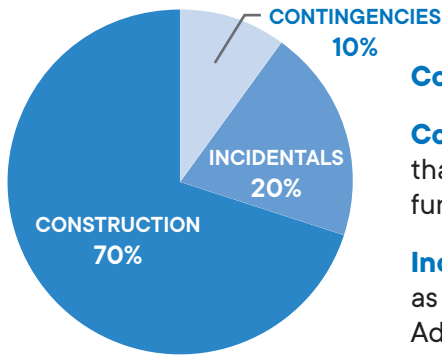


ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STEAM CENTER



Timelines are estimated. The duration of each construction phase is approximately 18 months. A third phase may be necessary based on construction scheduling. Images are not final. Preliminary concept design for illustrative purposes only.

...TO CREATE OPTIMAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS OF LAKELAND



Construction: Building costs including labor and materials.

Contingencies: Funds allocated for unforeseen circumstances that may arise over the course of construction. If possible, unused funds will be allocated toward additional projects.

Incidentals: Costs include third-party partners and fees such as Legal, Construction Manager, Architect, Fiscal Advisor, and Administrative Fees.



LAKELAND COPPER BEECH M.S. SCIENCE ROOM

LAKELAND COPPER BEECH M.S.

- Library/Media Center Renovation
- New STEAM Center
- Reconstruction of Grade 6 and 7 Science Rooms
- Reconstruct driveways and parking lots for traffic safety. Widen sidewalk in front of the building.
- Fire Alarm System Enhancements
- Replacement of Backup Generator
- Electrical Circuit Upgrades for Backup Generator



LAKELAND H.S. MEDIA CENTER

LAKELAND H.S.

- Library/Media Center Renovation
- New STEAM Center
- Fire Alarm System Enhancements
- Auditorium Upgrades
- Bathroom Renovations
- Roof Reconstruction (Partial)



WALTER PANAS H.S. MEDIA CENTER

WALTER PANAS H.S.

- Library/Media Center Renovation
- New STEAM Center
- Fire Alarm System Enhancements
- Bathroom Renovations
- HVAC System Improvements
- Roof Reconstruction
- Replacement of Backup Generator
- Electrical Circuit Upgrades for Backup Generator

PHASE 2



What about the field drainage issues at Copper Beech?

Based on community feedback, field drainage repairs have been prioritized and will be funded through the Capital Repair Reserve Fund, which was established by voter approval in May 2022.



WHEN AND WHERE IS THE VOTE?

- Tuesday, December 6, 2022, from 7 AM to 9 PM
- Van Cortlandtville Elementary School, Route 6, Mohegan Lake

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible to vote in the school district you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age or older
- A LCSD resident for at least 30 days
- Currently registered to vote

NOTE: If you are currently registered to vote in the general government elections, you can vote in the school district election.

BALLOT QUESTION

YES NO

(a) That the Board of Education of the Lakeland Central School District of Shrub Oak, in the Counties of Westchester and Putnam, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct alterations and improvements to District school buildings and sites, substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of Tetra Tech, Architects & Engineers, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$57,000,000; (b) that the amount of \$20,000,000, is hereby authorized to be expended from the District's "Buildings and Facilities Improvement and Vehicles Purchase Reserve Fund" heretofore established by the voters on May 16, 2017, to pay for a portion of said cost, and such expenditure is hereby approved; and (c) that a tax in the amount of not to exceed \$37,000,000 is hereby voted to pay the balance of said cost, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$37,000,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Why now?

A: A capital project is the next step in the District's long-term capital improvement plan. We have assessed our educational and infrastructure needs and have fully funded our Capital Reserve (\$20 million saved). Combined with New York State Building Aid, we can finance up to a \$57 million capital project that is entirely tax-neutral for residents. All key partners (architecture firm, construction management company, energy performance teams, and district-wide instructional STEAM coach) are in place to move forward.

By approving the Capital Project in December, voters are allowing the District to submit to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for approval. NYSED's review can take up to six (6) months after voter approval.

Q: How will the renovations be prioritized?

A: If the Capital Project is approved by voters, the construction management firm will work closely with the architect and District stakeholders to determine the order of projects and sequencing. Many factors go into these decisions, including, but not limited to immediate needs, maximizing State Aid funding, and availability of materials and contractors. Additionally, we will work to ensure equity across the District. The most important aspect of phasing the project will be to minimize the impact that the construction process has on educating our students. Once a schedule of work is approved by the District, it will be shared with the community.

Q: Have accommodations for special needs students been considered and incorporated into the design?

A: Accommodations for special needs students are a priority to the District and design team. Being responsive to individual needs and creating spaces that support students learning in various ways is an important part of the design process. All designs will be ADA compliant and considerate of various needs and abilities.

Q: Hasn't the District been maintaining the buildings all along?

A: The District does ongoing, routine maintenance work every year. The proposed infrastructure upgrades and educational enhancements are not

"routine maintenance" but, instead, a collection of higher-cost prioritized needs that fall outside the definition of routine maintenance. The addition of the "Capital Repair Reserve Fund" will help fund other emerging needs as they arise.

Q: Will New York State provide any financial support for this project?

A: Yes. NYSED Building Aid will pay for 66.5% of eligible projects. Combined with the \$20 million saved in the Capital Reserve Fund, the District can fund up to a \$57 million project that is completely tax-neutral for residents.

Q: How does tax-neutrality work?

A: The District will maintain tax-neutrality for residents by efficiently utilizing available funds. In addition to the \$20 million dollars saved in our Capital Reserve Fund, we will borrow \$37 million dollars for which the District will be reimbursed through NYSED Building Aid. Funding that the District will receive through NYSED Building Aid is greater than the total debt service over the lifetime of the bond (15 years). Therefore, combined with the \$20 million saved in the Capital Reserve Fund, the project will be fully-funded without impact on the taxpayer.

Q: How were stakeholders able to provide input?

A: The District created an *Educational Enhancements Committee* comprised of teachers and administrators across disciplines and schools to help shape the direction for Library Media and STEAM Centers. Students in grades 6-12 provided Library Media and STEAM Center-specific insights through a feedback form in early June 2022. Community members were able to rate priorities and needs through a feedback form available from May 24-June 12, 2022. The community was also invited to participate in two Public Forums in July and September of 2022.

Q: What is the timeline of the proposed capital project?

A: The vote for the Capital Project is scheduled for December 6, 2022. If passed, we will enter into a design phase for approximately a year before construction begins. Depending on the construction schedule, we aim to complete construction by early 2026.