

Stephen Gratto

Superintendent of Schools

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April 19, 2026

Happy Sunday Everyone,

Although our school board meetings are usually held on the first and third Wednesdays of most months, I wanted to let you know that this month's second board meeting will actually be held on Tuesday, April 21st. We have a Tuesday board meeting in April each year so that all of the schools in the Ulster BOCES can vote on the annual BOCES budget. This meeting will be held in the MS auditorium. Here are a couple other items of interest.

Technology Forum on Tuesday Night

The school board is interested in learning more about the public's thoughts on educational technology in the school district. Tuesday night's board meeting will actually start at 5:30 pm with a community technology forum. Board Vice President Liz Bonhag described the event in this manner: "The board is holding a Tech & Learning forum to bring stakeholders together in a structured, respectful space to share feedback on the role of technology in education. Please join the board on Tuesday, April 21st at 5:30 in the Middle School Auditorium to share your experiences, your concerns and your hopes. Your feedback will help inform our district's vision for technology use in our schools."

The forum will start at 5:30 pm and each person who is interested will have up to three minutes to share their thoughts with the school board. The forum will continue until 6:30 pm or until each person who wishes to speak has had their chance to speak. The regular monthly board meeting will begin immediately following the end of the technology forum.

Please realize that this event is intended as a way for the board to understand what the community is thinking and what individuals have experienced. The district will consider the information and use that information to help shape our technology plans moving forward. It is unlikely that the board or the administration will respond directly to any questions that are asked. If you have specific questions about technology (or anything else related to the school) please give me a call or send me an email and I will make sure we get you an answer to your question.

In the interest of making this forum available to everyone, *the board has arranged for volunteers to provide child care services for parents who need it.* If you are interested in taking advantage of the childcare being offered, please send me an email by the end of the day on Monday. Advance notice will enable us to make sure that we have enough coverage to meet the needs of the public.

If you would like to know what students in New York State are required to learn about computers and digital literacy, [please click on this link.](#)

Do you want to run for the school board? - Petitions are due tomorrow at 5 pm!

As you are probably aware, there are currently 3 seats available on our 7 member school board. Applications to run for the board can be found [by clicking on this link.](#) These applications must be handed in to the district clerk in the district office by 5 pm on April 20th. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Electric bus to be delivered on Monday

This is very exciting. The purchase of the district's first electric bus was approved by the voters in May of 2024. Grants were procured to make the cost of the ev bus and the charger similar to the cost of a regular diesel bus.

Unfortunately, the delivery of the bus was held up by a few things, most significant of all was the delay in getting a charger for the bus. The charger is now fully in place and the bus will arrive tomorrow. Training on how to use the bus and care for the bus will be held tomorrow as well. The bus will then be used for around town routes as we research its actual capabilities in warm weather, cold weather, hilly routes, village routes, etc. This will be useful information as we plan the future electrification of our fleet in accordance with New York State laws that require [all school buses in New York State to be electric buses by 2035.](#)

The Budget

The board has approved the budget for 2026-2027 and a \$1,000,000 capital project using savings to address various facility needs in the district. If you wish to see a summary of the budget, [please click on this link](#) to see my March 19 community update. If you have any questions about the budget, please send me an email and I will get back to you. The budget hearing will be held on May 6th and the budget vote will be held on May 19. All district residents should be getting a full budget newsletter in the mail in a couple of weeks.

Do your children ride the bus?

We continue to look for ways for our district to function as efficiently as possible. One thing we regularly look at is the functioning of our transportation department. Planning bus routes is very challenging, because we reserve seats for all students but not all students regularly ride the bus.

As we prepare for 2026-2027, we would like to find a way to better plan our routes based on the number of actual riders. If your child does not regularly ride the bus, either because parents provide transportation, they walk to school, or they drive themselves to school, please click on this [transportation opt out letter](#) provided by Maureen Ryan, our transportation director. If you wish to access the google form that will allow you to opt out (either fully or partially) from district transportation services, [please click on this link](#).

That concludes my update. However, please realize that there is a lot going on in our school that might be of interest to you and your family. Please check out the flyers below and come out and join us for these events.

Best Wishes,

Stephen Gratto - Superintendent





SAVE THE DATE!

PAWS & Play **Community Day**

Thursday, April 30

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Duzine Elementary School

Join us for an outdoor "Farmers Market" style community event
full of fun, food, and family connection!

Food will be available for purchase at:



**C&M Hot Diggity
Dogs**



**La Azteca
Mexican**



Music by:

Coach DeFino

Community Organizations & Resources

- ✦ YMCA of Ulster County
- ✦ Seahawks/Moriello Pool
- ✦ Hudson Valley Open Market
- ✦ My Little Village
- ✦ New Paltz Police Department
- ✦ Ulster County Sheriff's Office
- ✦ Mohonk Preserve
- ✦ Wild Earth
- ✦ Elting Memorial Library
- ✦ Red Sneakers for Oakley
- ✦ Resource Center for Accessible Living
- ✦ Family of New Paltz
- ✦ PTA



Bring a blanket. Bring a friend.

Bring your PAWS spirit!



This is not a drop off event.

Rain date will be 5/1/26

YOUR SCHOOL'S FUNDRAISER

HOW TO ORDER:

STEP ONE:

Scan the QR Code on this sheet to redirect you to our exclusive Ultimate Discount Card™ online store or visit www.ultimatefundraisinginc.com.

STEP TWO:

Add as many cards as you would like from any location / town to your cart.

STEP THREE:

At checkout, select any school or organization from our dropdown menu! If applicable, write the name of the student you would like to benefit.



BUY NOW

STUDENT PRIZE PROGRAM:



Sell 15 cards, get a **\$10 Amazon gift card**

Sell 25 cards, get a **\$25 Amazon gift card**

Sell 50+ cards, get a **\$100 Amazon gift card**

CARD OPTIONS:

Physical Card

A physical Ultimate Discount Card™ will be shipped to you.



Digital Card

A digital Ultimate Discount Card™ will be processed after the order is placed and emailed to you by a member of our team. This card can then be easily stored to your mobile wallet.



CONTACT US

(845) 255-4001 | www.ultimatefundraisinginc.com | offices@ultimatefundraisinginc.com

New Paltz Edition
The ULTIMATE Discount Card™
CONTINUOUS DISCOUNTS VALID UNTIL MAY 1, 2027

delish 10% OFF any purchase New Paltz	Gioia's 10% OFF any food item plus our signature menu New Paltz	MAINCOURSE 10% OFF entrees (excl. catering, beverages, dessert) New Paltz	True Value 10% OFF all orders over \$30 New Paltz
BUY ANY LARGE SANDWICH GET ONE FREE (1 offer per card) New Paltz	New Paltz Bagel Cafe Buy 12 bagels get 6 FREE New Paltz	15% OFF Mon. - Thurs. any purchase New Paltz	GREAT WALL 10% OFF all orders over \$30 New Paltz
10% OFF Entire Check (incl. specialty) 12 Main St. New Paltz	INQUIRING MINDS 15% OFF any purchase (incl. specialty) 12 Main St. New Paltz	15% OFF Mon. - Thurs. any \$25 purchase New Paltz	BURRICO'S BURRITO FREE order of chips and salsa with any entree New Paltz
FREE Hot Coffee with any breakfast sandwich or breakfast burrito 12 Main St.	PHO TIBET 10% OFF entire check (incl. specialty) 12 Main St. New Paltz	Convenient Deli & Cafe 10% OFF storewide 15% OFF after 4PM New Paltz	10% OFF entire check (incl. specialty) 5 Main St. New Paltz
Pickled Pig Deli 10% OFF Entire Check (incl. catering) New Paltz	15% OFF any purchase of \$30 or more (incl. specialty) New Paltz	tokyo sushi 10% OFF entire check New Paltz	10% OFF entire purchase (incl. catering) New Paltz

DISCOUNTS EXCLUDE TAXES AND TIPS. ALL DISCOUNTS ARE VALID UNTIL MAY 1, 2027. OFFERS MAY VARY BY LOCATION. SEE STORES FOR DETAILS. ©2025 ULTIMATE FUNDRAISING INC.

FREE DESSERT with 2 entrees (1 offer per card) New Paltz	THE PARISH \$10 OFF a purchase of \$30 or more (1 offer per card) New Paltz	Jar'd 10% OFF entire check New Paltz	PLAZA DINER 10% OFF entire check New Paltz	Rino's 10% OFF entire check (incl. catering) New Paltz
BUY ANY LARGE SANDWICH GET ONE FREE (1 offer per card) New Paltz	SUBWAY FREE 20 oz. fountain soda with purchase of a 12" sub (1 offer per card) New Paltz	PASQUALE'S 10% OFF entire check (incl. catering) New Paltz	Chestnut any size coffee 99¢ (incl. catering) New Paltz	JACK'S 10% OFF meats, deli, & grocery with min. \$30 purchase (incl. catering) New Paltz
COLONIAL FLOWER SHOP 10% OFF any purchase (incl. catering) New Paltz	Dedrick's 10% OFF art supplies (incl. catering) New Paltz	15% OFF any one in-stock item (incl. catering) New Paltz	BETTERBREAD CENTER \$1 OFF any loaf of bread 4, 6, or 12 pack (1 offer per card) New Paltz	SARVATI \$3 OFF delivery Code: ULTIMATE25 Order at www.sarvatibakery.com
Absolutely Automotive 10% OFF all services New Paltz	New Paltz 10% OFF wine purchases (incl. catering) New Paltz	October Country Comics 10% OFF Cherry Hill Plaza		

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New Paltz Central School District

K-5 Art Show

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026
5 PM - 7:00 PM

@Lenape Elementary School
1 Eugene L. Brown Drive
New Paltz, NY

Celebrating Young Artists

Showcasing K-5 creativity
from Duzine and Lenape
Elementary Schools

Come anytime between
5:00 and 7:00 PM!

Doors will close promptly at 7:30





FEATURING ARTWORK BY NEW PALTZ STUDENT:
Dahlia Haselton

**PKX
 FESTIVAL**

FREE & OPEN TO ALL AGES

IN AND AROUND THE ART EFFECT
FRIDAY, APRIL 24 | 5:30 - 8PM
 Teen Art Exhibit & International Film Showcase
 Bring a Lawn Chair or Blanket to Enjoy the Show
 RAIN OR SHINE

AROUND PERSHING PARK
SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 1 - 5PM
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
 Family Friendly Art-Making Activities,
 Live Performances, Food Trucks, Resources, & More
 RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 1-5PM

**2026 THEME:
 GOLDEN AGE HIP HOP**



**Scan the QR Code
 to Learn More!**
 PKXFESTIVAL.ORG

This flyer is being distributed through New Paltz Central School District as a community service to students and parents for informational purposes only. This program is not affiliated with nor endorsed in any way by the School District.

845.471.7477 | 45 PERSHING AVE. POUGHKEEPSIE | @PKXFESTIVAL

 **Council on the Arts**  **Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet**  **THE ARTEFFECT**  **PRESIDENTS THE 2026 PKX FILM FESTIVAL**

Programs provided by this agency are partially funded by monies received from the New York State Council on the Arts. The Art Effect empowers youth to develop their artistic voice to shape their futures and bring about positive social change.

OPENING DAY!



FARMERS!



MAKERS!

LIVE MUSIC BY



KYLE MILLER!



FOOD!



FUN!



HUDSON VALLEY OPEN MARKET
NEW PALTZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

SATURDAY MAY 2
10AM - 3PM

