



# One Webster

Students First. District Proud.

Webster Central School District • Winter 2018-19

## From The Superintendent



*Carmen  
Gumina*

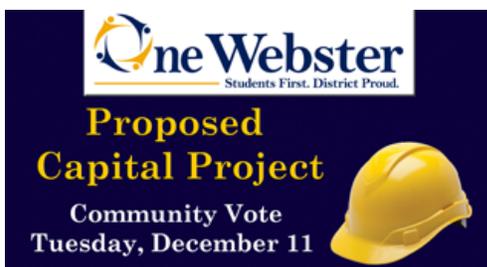
'Tis the season for list-making, gift-giving, and being mindful of all we have to be thankful for in this district. My thankful thoughts immediately turn to nearly 8,400 reasons why I love coming to work each day. Your children (and our staff) truly embody our district's vision, Compassionately Connected, Joyfully Engaged, Always Learning. They consistently amaze me

with the compassionate and joyful ways they give back to each other and to our One Webster community all year long.

Highlighted in this community newsletter are important details regarding the proposed capital improvement project that is up for a vote on Tuesday, December 11. I hope to see many of you that day at the Webster Schroeder High School gym from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. as you exercise your right to vote. The proposed \$69.5 million project will touch all 11 of our schools and our bus garage, and is centered on three pillars: community wellness, safety and security, and infrastructure integrity. You can learn more by reading the information in this newsletter and also by visiting [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org) and clicking on the District tab to check out videos and even more details about elements of the proposed project.

Speaking of community wellness, also included in this newsletter is another outstanding winter program guide offered by the district's community education program. Please be sure to check out educational opportunities and classes for all ages. There are plenty of opportunities that can positively impact our physical and mental wellness, so be sure to sign up today! You're guaranteed to have fun trying new things while connecting with your Webster CSD neighbors.

I wish our One Webster community the best during the holiday season and throughout the year. I look forward to seeing many of you on December 11!



## One Webster Community Project Highlights

The unifying vision of One Webster has been embraced and embodied by our tight-knit community. Our newly proposed capital improvement project builds on the partnership between Webster Central School District and the Town of Webster and is based on three themes: community wellness, safety and security, and infrastructure integrity.

### Here are the quick facts:

This project will touch all 11 of our buildings, as well as our bus garage. State aid will cover 70-75% of the estimated \$69.5 million cost. This translates to an impact of \$25 per year over the bond's 15 years for the average homeowner (based on \$191,700 average home value in Webster).

Our district maintains stable tax rates below the tax cap, which means our community's taxpayers will continue to qualify for the New York State tax rebate programs that mitigate any potential increase in school taxes.

The vote for this project will be held from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, at the Webster Schroeder High School gym, located at 875 Ridge Road.

### Key improvements include:

- Elementary, Willink Middle School, Webster Schroeder High School libraries
- Webster Thomas High School technology wing renovation
- Safety and security, including vestibule renovations at elementary buildings and districtwide radio conversion
- Districtwide parking and traffic-flow improvements
- 2nd phase of playground improvements at elementary buildings
- Purchase land around Basket Road facility for \$324,000 and assume operations; town will apply funds toward an outdoor classroom and learning center at Sandbar Park
- Webster Schroeder High School and Webster Thomas High School field improvements
- Window replacements where necessary and security film installed on all first-floor windows
- Webster Thomas High School pool mechanical upgrades
- Bus garage maintenance and expansion

For more information, visit [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org).

# The One Webster Community Project Explained

## *Why Now, and What Does It Mean for WCSD Taxpayers?*

Webster CSD's proposed capital improvement project will touch all 11 schools and the bus garage. With nearly 8,400 students and thousands of people who make up our community, we are all One Webster, and this project will affect us all. So here are the facts for taxpayers to consider before heading to the polls on Tuesday, December 11.

This capital improvement project centers on three pillars: community wellness, safety and security, and infrastructure integrity. State aid will cover 70-75 percent of the estimated \$69.5 million initiative which translates to an expected impact of \$25 on the average Webster homeowner over the 15-year timeframe of the bond.

As part of the community wellness theme, our district will partner with the Town of Webster to create an outdoor education center for our children at the new Sandbar Park on Irondequoit Bay. Through a one-time payment of \$324,000 to the town—equal to the value of the land surrounding the Basket Road stadium—our students will gain the opportunity to learn about environmental stewardship in a format that inspires curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration with nature. Our community will also see proposed upgrades to

Webster Schroeder and Webster Thomas high schools' fields that will provide better conditions for youth sports and more opportunities for adult leagues, encouraging use by every resident.

Safety and security are always top of mind at our district, and part of this project will be dedicated to improving communication with the Webster Police Department and first responders across the county. Upgraded parking and traffic flow at many buildings across the district will also be addressed.

Maintaining our infrastructure is important to ensuring a safe and productive learning environment for our kids and community members. In that spirit, this project will allow us to proactively maintain and upkeep our pipes, HVAC, lighting, bus garage, and all of our buildings and grounds, avoiding costly future repairs.

Every school district's budget includes a debt service, which comes from borrowing and bonding for major projects vital to maintaining and enhancing facilities, buildings, and infrastructure. Webster's current debt service is among the lowest in the area at approximately 6 percent of our total operating budget. The district continually looks five to 10

years out in order to predict and plan for any major project in our community which helps us maintain a stable tax rate that is below the New York State tax cap.

Over the past 12 years, our budget strategies have resulted in an average tax increase of less than 1 percent on homes in Webster. Taking into consideration all of the towns included in our district, the true full-value tax rate of change is -0.03 percent—the second lowest in Monroe County.

In approximately three years, the 18-year debt service from the construction of Willink Middle School will end. This new capital project debt will take its place, allowing us to adhere to sound fiscal practices and keep our debt service at recommended levels.

Our district maintains stable tax rates below the tax cap, and that means our community's taxpayers will continue to qualify for the New York State tax rebate programs that mitigate any potential increase in school taxes.

The community vote will be held on Tuesday, December 11, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Webster Schroeder High School gym, 875 Ridge Road. Please remember to exercise your right to vote.

## District to Roll Out Before/After School Care Program

Parents of Webster CSD students, keep an eye out for information on the district's new before and after school care program. Follow us on social media at Facebook.com/WebsterCentralSchools, Twitter @wcsdproud and the superintendent's Twitter @superwebstercsd, and on the district website, websterschools.org. Information will be forthcoming in mid-December!

## National Merit Scholarship Recognizes WCSD Seniors

Thirteen Webster CSD seniors are being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

NMSC officials announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual National Merit Scholarship Program, including Webster Schroeder High School's Allison Lisciandro, Lucas Lyons, and Anirudh Sharma. These academically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring. Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Additionally, 10 WCSD seniors have been named Commended Students in the Program. They are Webster Schroeder's Kasthoori Arujunan, Spenser Dewey, Nicholas Romanofsky, and Michael Thomas, and Webster Thomas High School's Bryan Coon, Andrew Finn, Jack Griebel, Rachel Hill, Liam Murphy, and Jack Vuillequez. Each of these students will receive a letter of commendation from their high school principal and NMSC.



*Webster CSD is proud to announce that Webster Schroeder High School seniors (l-r) Lucas Lyons, Anirudh Sharma, and Allison Lisciandro have been named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.*



**It's About Time.**



Learn more about WCSD's plans to alter start times in 2019-20 at [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org).

## Join the Willink Student-Parent Band

Calling all Willink Middle School families and alumni! Join us for the 25th Anniversary Year of the Student-Parent Band.

A Webster tradition since 1994, the Willink Student-Parent Band brings students, family, and community together to create music and have fun in the process. It doesn't matter if you haven't played in 20 years. The band welcomes all levels of experience, beginner to advanced! Register today by visiting [bit.ly/willink-music](http://bit.ly/willink-music) and clicking on the Student-Parent Band link. Rehearsals begin in January with the culminating concert taking place March 9.



## Farmers' Almanac Calls for Snowy Winter School Closings Shared in Myriad of Ways

Rochester area weather is tricky to forecast, but according to the Farmers' Almanac website, it's going to be a "teeth-chattering cold one, with plenty of snow."

Should the weather necessitate school closings and cancellations, Webster CSD families will be notified via the district's automated calling system, Infinite Campus' Student and Parent Portal. Parents can modify how they get this information (text, phone call, email) through the Contact Preferences tab on the portal.

An even faster way to get this news is to follow district social media: Facebook.com/WebsterCentralSchools, Twitter @wcsdproud, and superintendent's Twitter @superwebstercsd, and the district website [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org). Local TV and radio stations will also be informed.

Please note that when the schools are closed due to weather, all aquatics and community education classes are also cancelled along with all programs/events taking place in Webster CSD buildings.

# 2018-19 School Calendar

- Dec. 24-Jan. 1 ..... Winter Recess
- Jan. 21 ..... Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day:  
No School K-12
- Jan. 22-25 ..... Regents Exams
- Jan. 25 ..... Superintendent's Conference Day:  
No School 9-12; K-8 in session
- Feb. 18-22 ..... Presidents' Day/February Recess
- Mar. 14-15 & 21... K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences: ½ days
- Mar. 22\* ..... March Break, No School K-12 (\*This is  
a new 1-day break.)
- April 2-3 ..... Grade 3-8 ELA Testing
- April 8 ..... Superintendent's Conference Day:  
No School K-8; 9-12 in session
- April 15-22 ..... Spring Recess/Good Friday
- May 1-2 ..... Grade 3-8 Math Testing
- May 21\* ..... Annual Budget Vote & Election (\*Note  
date change from previously publicized.)
- May 24 & 27 ..... Memorial Day: No School K-12
- May 28-31 ..... Grade 4 & 8 Science Performance Test
- June 3 ..... Grade 4 & 8 Science Written Test
- June 3, 18-26 ..... Regents Exams/Local Exams
- June 14 ..... Last Day of Classes Gr 9-12
- June 20 ..... Last Day of Classes Gr 6-8
- June 21 ..... Middle School Testing
- June 21 ..... Last Day of Classes K-5
- June 26 ..... Last Day for Teachers
- June 30 ..... Graduation at RIT  
10:00 a.m. Webster Thomas  
2:30 p.m. Webster Schroeder

## Residents Input Sought in Budget Development

As preparations begin for the 2019-20 school budget, Webster CSD is once again turning to its residents for input. The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) assists the district by providing the superintendent with its perspective on school budget development, the budget process, and budget communications. BAC meeting dates are yet to be determined, but the group gathers four evenings between January and April at the district offices located on the third floor at Spry Middle School, 119 South Avenue.

Persons interested in joining BAC should contact Lisa Borrino, secretary to the assistant superintendent for business, at [Lisa\\_Borrino@webstercsd.org](mailto:Lisa_Borrino@webstercsd.org) or 216-0017.

**PUBLISHED BY:**

Webster Central School District  
Tammy Gurowski, *President*  
Linda Dioguardi, *Vice President*  
Sue Casey  
David Metzger  
Maria Rigillo  
Jan Strege  
Mike Suffoletto  
Carmen Gumina, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Cynthia Cushman, *District Clerk*

Periodical  
Postage  
PAID  
Webster, NY  
14580

CAR-RT SORT  
Postal Customer  
Webster, NY 14580

**PRODUCED BY:**

Webster Central School District  
Communications Department  
Jenifer Calus, *Editor*

**WEBSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

Send changes to: Webster Central School District, 119 South Ave., Webster, NY 14580  
Published 7 times a year. Periodical Postage Paid ISSN 0890-393X USPS Publication #671040



## Six Things Taxpayers Need to Know About the Proposed Capital Project

- 1. When and where will the vote be held?**  
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11 at the Webster Schroeder High School gym, located at 875 Ridge Road.
- 2. What is the estimated cost of the proposed capital project?**  
\$69.5 million, bonded over a 15-year timeframe.
- 3. Would we receive any state aid?**  
Yes, 70-75% of the cost would be delivered through state aid.
- 4. What does this mean for Webster CSD taxpayers?**  
The impact on the average Webster homeowner (based on average home value of \$191,700) is expected to be \$25 per year.
- 5. Why should parents care?**  
The project seeks to improve and enhance wellness, safety and security, as well as the operational efficiency of our district's 11 buildings and bus garage.
- 6. Why should residents without school-aged children care?**  
Our community will see upgrades to our two high schools' fields with this proposed project, which will provide better conditions for youth sports, as well as for adult leagues, encouraging use by every resident. Having a desirable school district draws both families and businesses to Webster, leading to consistently high property values and a more stable economy.

For more information, visit [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org).



## Kindergarten Orientation, Registration Set

Parents of incoming kindergarteners in the 2019-20 school year, mark your calendars! Parent Orientation and Registration Night is Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at your student's school. After that, kindergarten walk-in registration is available Wednesday-Friday, February 27-March 1, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at your student's school.

## Universal Prekindergarten

Children who will be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2019, but who may not be eligible for kindergarten (age 5 by December 1) are eligible for Universal Prekindergarten (UPK). This is a five-day-a-week, 2.5 hours a day program funded by a grant from the New York State Education Department. It is renewed on a year-by-year basis and is contingent upon the state legislature passing the state budget. For further information, please check the district website, [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org), beginning in February.



## Help Us Plan for Our Future Students!

If you have children residing in your household who are birth to 5 years old, please visit [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org) today to complete a brief census that will be used to help forecast enrollment.

**Go online now!** The census will close January 11, 2019, and there will be no follow-up postcard reminder. If you do not have access to a computer, you may participate by calling Central Registration at 216-0029.

Please share this information with your friends and neighbors with small children.