

Dear Parents, Students, Friends, and Supporters of the Putnam Valley School District,

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.
~ *Diogenes Laertius*

The Putnam Valley Board of Education has adopted the proposed 2008-09 school budget. This year voters will cast ballots on the budget and a seat on the Board of Education. Also, a proposition will be brought before the voters seeking to redirect funds from one dedicated fund to another to address our 5-year maintenance plan. This proposition does not raise taxes but would provide the release of funds necessary to maintain our facilities.

This year the Board made every effort to involve the community in developing the District budget. In December 2007, the Board appointed a Budget Committee of various constituencies with one common denominator: each committee member had to be a resident of the district. Over the months of January-March, the Committee reviewed the budget and how the District spends the funds it receives. The focus was to review the District's program. What emerged over these 3 months was that the District was spending its funds in a prudent manner while maximizing opportunities for students. The Budget Committee presented its recommendation to the Board at its April Work Session. Some of the recommendations were for immediate consideration; others more long-term, such as considering increased employee contribution rates for insurance benefits.

We believe a fiscally responsible budget-to-budget plan has been developed, with a minimal increase while continuing to offer an excellent educational program which permits all students to maximize their potential. We look forward to your vote on May 20th.

Sincerely,
Putnam Valley Board of Education

Published periodically by:
**The Putnam Valley
Central School District**
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Please don't
forget
to
VOTE
on
Tuesday
May 20th
from 6 am
to 9 pm

PV Students Honored at Putnam Youth Awards

The Putnam Valley Central School District is proud to congratulate Putnam Valley Middle School eighth grade students Diane Rush and Rachel Fitzgerald, and Putnam Valley High School senior Kerri LoPuzzo, on being selected as winners of the **2008 Putnam County Youth Awards**, celebrated at the 23rd Annual Putnam County Youth Awards Dinner at the Mahopac Golf Club on Friday, April 11. The awards are for outstanding community service efforts and volunteerism.



[L to R] Award winners Diane Rush, Kerri LoPuzzo, and Rachel Fitzgerald



PVHS Bio Classes Explore the Human Body

In January the Putnam Valley High School science department's biology teachers took 130 9th grade biology students and 20 AP Biology students to BODIES: The Exhibition at South Street Seaport in NY City. Students explored ten different galleries focusing on systems in the human body. PVHS bio classes spend the last 3 weeks of the year "being medical students," assigned a fictional patient and then working in small groups to diagnose their patient and teach the class on that particular body system. This is another example of how the District uses multiple resources to enhance student success.

Budget Facts

Doing More with Less: How the District is Working to Save Your Tax Dollars

- **K-12:** Saving dollars after the retirement of a teacher by realigning the teaching workload to eliminate an Academic Intervention Services teaching position.
- **K-12:** The elimination of a district-wide psychologist position by realigning services within each of the three schools.
- **Buildings & Grounds:** Saving dollars through the conversion of a custodial position to a cleaner's position.
- **Athletics:** Saving dollars through elimination of the position of equipment manager. These duties will be absorbed by existing staff.
- **Fuel Consumption:** We are constantly examining ways to conserve gasoline consumption and then putting those measures in place.

Accountability

We are increasing accountability for professional development by requiring that teachers develop a lesson plan and use the technology in a class lesson before being granted course credit for technology courses.

PROPOSITION TWO

Proposition Two: *The Board of Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District shall be authorized to construct repairs and additions, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and other improvements, and costs incidental thereto, at all school buildings in the District, at a maximum cost of \$2,250,000, said sum to be appropriated from the District's general fund without the necessity of additional taxation.*

Proposition Two seeks authorization to set aside existing funds from the Tax Certiorari Reserve to use for required repairs and possible additions within the next few years. The Tax Certiorari Reserve was to pay tax refund judgments resulting from the recent property reassessments. Next year it will no longer be necessary to hold these funds in the Tax Certiorari Reserve.

This Proposition:

- Provides funding for infrastructure repairs and improvements
- Allocates funds for the NYS-mandated "Five Year Repair Plan"
- Requires no borrowing for these repairs (borrowing is expensive)
- Uses existing funds so no additional taxes will be needed
- Is a fiscally responsible way to plan ahead
- Repairs under the mandated "Five Year Plan" include but are not limited to:
 - Repair PVMS roof
 - Replace single pane windows with double pane windows at PVES
 - Replace artificial turf and recondition running track at PVHS
 - Replace bus repair facility

What your tax dollars support:

- Three-year analysis of 2005-2007 NYS Education Dept. (NYSED) assessment data for students in Grades 3-HS shows continued academic improvement, and we forecast that 2008 NYSED assessment measures will continue to indicate academic improvement for our students.
- In 2007-2008 PVHS offered six Advanced Placement college level courses. 116 students received college credit through these AP offerings.
- In 2008-2009 PVHS will offer ten Advanced Placement college level courses *without any additional staffing*: English, Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, World History, U.S. History, Spanish, Psychology, and Economics.
- We are anticipating at least 167 students to receive college credit through AP offerings (some of these students may take more than one AP college level course).
- Putnam Valley's graduation rates are impressive: Since the inception of the High School, the graduating rates for our students continue to be in the 90th percentile.
- PVHS continues to induct record numbers of students into its five academic honor societies:
 - National Honor Society
 - Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
 - Tri-M Music Honor Society
 - Spanish Honor Society
 - French Honor Society

**Our students
continue to shine!**

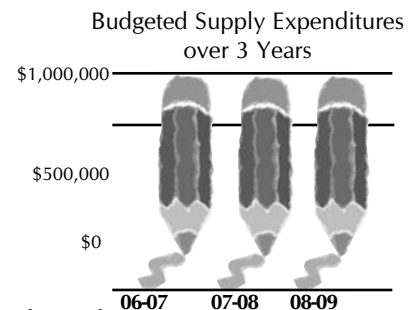
PVCSD 2008-09 Budget Summary

	2007-08 <i>Adjusted for Actual Spending</i>	Proposed 2008-09	Change
Instructional Services			
School Administration & Curriculum Development	1,823,358	1,862,793	39,435
Regular School Programs	12,087,667	12,753,103	665,436
Programs for Students with Disabilities	6,071,432	6,198,381	126,949
Instructional Media	1,423,734	1,515,602	91,868
Guidance	506,984	530,524	23,540
Health / Psychological / Pupil Services	736,405	707,504	(28,901)
Clubs & After School Activities	214,890	222,439	7,549
Interscholastic Athletics	850,454	852,901	2,447
Total Instructional Services	23,714,924	24,643,247	928,323
Administrative Support Services	1,695,503	1,771,785	76,282
Facilities & Maintenance	2,321,660	2,438,824	117,164
Transportation Services			
District Operated Transportation	1,260,118	1,439,520	179,402
Contract Transportation	1,060,526	1,097,842	37,316
Total Transportation Services	2,320,644	2,537,362	216,718
Debt Service	2,994,033	2,981,427	(12,606)
Benefits	7,898,468	8,322,593	424,125
Total Expenditures	40,945,232	42,695,238	1,750,006
Less Non-Tax Revenue	9,112,727	10,032,142	919,415
Equals Tax Levy	31,832,505	32,663,096	830,591
Projected Tax Rate Increase*	Putnam Valley 2.54%	Carmel 2.26%	Cortlandt 4.81%

* Pending release of final tax roll and equalization rate information.

Holding the Line on Expenditures

With the adoption of the proposed 2008-09 Budget, The District will have held the line on expenditures for ALL supplies—from textbooks and paper to first aid supplies, light bulbs, and paint—for three successive fiscal years. This is in spite of steadily rising costs for all consumable items nationwide, a more than 10% increase in costs over the same time period.



Maintaining Educational Excellence

- Through careful realignment of teaching schedules we will increase the number of AP courses at the High School without any increase in staff. AP courses provide challenging college-level material to our high school students and prepare them for postsecondary education.
- Through our ongoing Curriculum Mapping and Data Warehousing programs—both funded through grants at no additional cost to taxpayers—our students are continuing to achieve academic success and test scores are improving in all content areas.
- On all Superintendent's Conference Days and Staff Development Days teachers continue to refine our curriculum and consistently share best instructional practices in all subjects.

Your hard earned tax support of our schools makes possible the continuous academic improvement of our students.

Successful students ➡ Successful schools ➡ Increased property values ➡ Stronger communities

Budget Vote Info & News

Did You Know? . . .

Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Putnam Valley High School Graduates - After only 8 years of having our own high school, the members of the Class of 2004 are graduating from some of the top colleges and universities in the country and are beginning to be accepted for graduate work in education, law, engineering, and more. Other PVHS graduates are beginning summer internships in NY City, Washington, DC and other centers of business, law, and politics. Our students have studied in South Africa, Italy, Mexico, the Balkans, and elsewhere.

The Putnam Valley PTA supports educational excellence in our schools through the sponsorship of such programs as *Putnam Valley Reads: The Standard is 25*, Family Math Nights, Family Science Nights, Spelling Bees at both the Elementary and Middle School Levels, and a very ambitious Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program that offers annual multi-week reading-related activities in a themed program format that encourages students and their families to have fun while reading. This year, both the PVES and PVMS programs concluded with a pizza and movie night during which families gathered to celebrate the completion of the program with a movie based on a favorite children's book.

Important Dates

May 14 - Last Day to Register to Vote @ District Office
May 20 - Budget Vote & Board Election 6 am - 9 pm

Polls are located at Putnam Valley High School
146 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579

USE SEPARATE VOTER ENTRANCE, PLEASE

Breaking News

On April 28, Putnam Valley High School inducted **36** new members into the PVHS chapter of the **National Honor Society** and on April 30, **30** new members joined the PVMS chapter of the **National Junior Honor Society**. Congratulations to all of the new inductees!



SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Putnam Valley Schools - BUDGET 2008

Putnam Valley Central School District
146 Peekskill Hollow Rd.
Putnam Valley, NY 10579