



Tewksbury Township Board of Education

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Dear Tewksbury Township Residents,

The Board of Education and administration are pleased to share some exciting and innovative things happening in our district. Our students are experiencing curriculum and programs aligned to state content standards which incorporate 21st century skills such as design, collaboration and authentic problem solving. In addition to core academic subjects, our students receive instruction in the fine and performing arts (instrumental/choral music and art), Spanish, and technology. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff in all of these areas.

Last year the district developed a three year Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 with input from the community, staff, parents, and students. Our strategic plan had five goals focused on Curriculum and Instruction, Technology (Infusion and Integration), Community Engagement, Professional Development and Finance, Facilities and Advocacy. (A copy of the Strategic Plan is available on the school website at www.tewksburyschools.org.)

Current progress toward the Strategic Plan includes:

1. Implementation of full-day kindergarten at TES in 2015-16.
2. Expansion of non-athletic extra-curricular activities at TES and OTS:
 - a. TES students have access to a variety of after school, fee-based sessions including drama, fencing, yoga and boat building through the Morris County Arts Workshop.
 - b. OTS students can participate in the following new clubs: Spanish Club, Podcast Club, Photography Club, and Art Club.
3. Providing robust professional development for our teaching staff to support a progressive and challenging curriculum for our students. We have enhanced professional development to include instructional coaching in the areas of writing, math, research, problem based learning, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
4. Substantial upgrades in our wireless and network infrastructures as well as replacement of several SmartBoards and other instructional technology devices in classrooms.
5. Establishment of a committee to review and recommend expanded opportunities for social and emotional learning for our students across all content areas.

Our goal is to provide a first-rate education to our students and to advance district initiatives. However, doing so remains challenging in an environment characterized by minimal state aid, additional unfunded or underfunded state and federal mandates and ever-increasing healthcare costs. The budget approved for the 2016-17 school year addresses these challenges while also balancing our responsibility to provide a high-quality education for our students and a well maintained physical plant.

We continually strive to balance the interests of taxpayers with ensuring a quality education for our children. To accomplish this, we have reevaluated staffing needs in response to a decline in enrollment. The equivalent of 2.5 full time staff will be eliminated in the coming academic year. Additionally we are diligent in seeking out grants in an effort to offset the rising cost of education in lieu of greater taxpayer assistance.

Budget Highlights for 2016-2017	
Total Operating Budget:	\$13,626,756
Total Tax Levy:	\$11,870,336
Increase over 2015-2016 operating budget:	\$457,480
Increase on the average home in Tewksbury:	\$157 per year (<i>average home is assessed at \$544,379</i>)

Additional details about the 2016-17 budget can be found by visiting our district website: www.tewksburyschools.org. We welcome all members of the Tewksbury community to attend our monthly Board of Education meetings to learn more about the exciting programs and initiatives in our district.

The Tewksbury Board of Education remains committed to providing our children with a quality education. Our schools remain an integral draw for newcomers to Tewksbury Township. On behalf of the Board of Education and the school administration, thank you for your continued support of and belief in our children and staff.

Regards,

The Tewksbury Township Board of Education