

Arlington School District

Annual Report

Arlington Memorial High School & Fisher Elementary School

2022





There is no deadline to register to vote.

You can register ahead of time or at the polls on the day of the vote.



Voting Day ➔ Tuesday, March 7, 2023 | 10 AM - 7 PM | Arlington Memorial High School Gymnasium



During our last few academic years, our school community was resilient and hardworking through the most challenging and unprecedented times. As a result, we welcomed our students to the 2022-2023 school year with great excitement and a renewed outlook for the positive things ahead. All signs point to another incredible and productive year filled with everything our community loves; concerts, after-school clubs, sporting events, and school productions.

We thank the Arlington community for your continued support through the transition to SVSU. It is a true privilege to be part of a community where parents, teachers, staff, and students build positive relationships that support academic and social growth.

Serving our schools as your principals remains an honor and a privilege. Together, we're confident we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all our Arlington Eagles!

Sincerely,
Sarah Pickering, Principal, Arlington Memorial High School
Deanne Lacoste, Principal, Fisher Elementary School

Message from the Board

To the Arlington Community:

This year has brought a sense of normalcy to the Arlington Schools. It is wonderful to walk the halls and see our students' smiling, uncovered faces. There is a renewed energy and happiness in our schools that is immediately felt as you enter our buildings. Our students are making great strides emotionally, personally, and academically. These students have proven they can overcome adversity and care for each other.

Our faculty and staff are working hard to overcome any adversities left over from the pandemic and to create a path forward. They have shown remarkable resiliency and strength, and we are proud of the work they continue to do each day for our students.

At the board level, we continue to work hard to complete our transition to the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union. This transition has not been without its challenges and learning curve. There have been bumps in the road, but we continue working with our administrators and leaders each day to iron out the kinks and overcome these challenges.

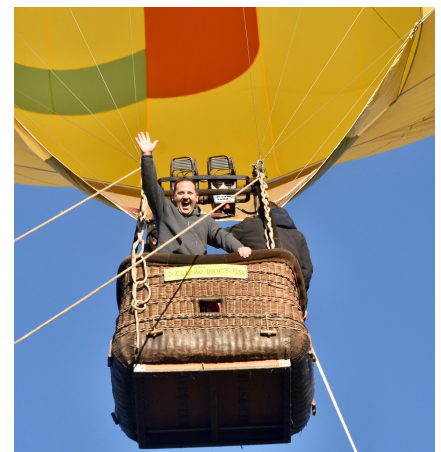
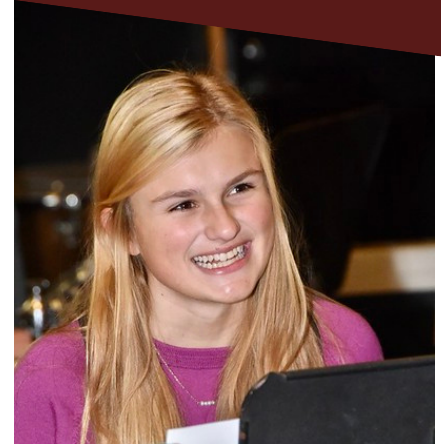
We have learned that some of these challenges will take time to work out and find positive solutions for.

This year has been challenging when it comes to budgeting. Much like every individual and organization, we are seeing significant increases in costs along with another significant increase in our Supervisory Union Assessments. This, coupled with a low Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), we have a near-perfect storm, so to speak. Despite these challenges, the ASD leadership team and the Board of Directors worked to bring a budget that keeps all programs intact while keeping tax increases reasonable. The proposed Arlington School District budget reflects a 9.84% overall increase in spending with a projected tax rate of \$1.4858 for FY24. This is the first time we are projecting a tax rate increase in several years. Over the past five years, the tax rate has decreased yearly. From 1.5686 in FY19, to \$1.5286 in FY20, to \$1.5001 in FY21, to \$1.4507 in FY22, and \$1.40051 in FY23.

The Arlington Schools are incredibly grateful for the tremendous support our community continues to give us. It warms our hearts to see school events so well attended by our community members and to hear the loud cheers for our students at the numerous events they participate in. Our schools are the hub of this community, and the community cherishes them. Your continued support helps us have schools we all can be proud of.

On behalf of the Arlington School Board, I thank you for all you do; we are indeed grateful!

Todd Wilkins, Chair, Arlington School District Board



Message from the Superintendent

As the Superintendent of the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, I try to start each school year with an intention. Last year, we looked at equity and how it impacted our daily lives. We invited speakers to share with our staff their perspectives and expertise. This year we took the same format and invited speakers to highlight different areas of education, giving our staff a snapshot of what makes our schools run. These speakers have enriched my understanding of the school experience, and further developed my empathy for all of the moving pieces within our schools.

That empathy is something that I see throughout the SVSU, from staff and students, custodial workers and coaches, nurses and substitute teachers, bus drivers and cafeteria workers, and everyone in between. It's what creates a positive learning and working environment, and it's something that I hope will continue to be developed for all members of our community.

The shared vision of the SVSU is to commit to developing lifelong learners who contribute to their community and succeed in a diverse and evolving global society. I reflect on this often, and am proud of the work that comes out of this shared vision between all members of our learning community.

I'm proud to say that as a part of this work we are broadening the social/emotional learning focus for our students. The pandemic, unarguably, was difficult for everyone, but especially hard for our youngest and most vulnerable populations. This has created complex challenges that our staff has been meeting head on, with care and understanding. We remain grateful to the teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff, administrators and community partners as we strive to address the needs of all of our children and families.

I'm thankful for the new staff members we have trained in trauma informed practices, such as drumming, restorative practices, and mindfulness through yoga. These practices create an accepting learning environment for our students, particularly those opportunities focused on movement. I truly am thankful for the staff members and partners who make these experiences happen for our students.

So much has changed in the past year, as our transition to our new Central Office in Downtown Bennington became final. I feel more connected to our community than ever, and am grateful for how welcoming our new neighbors have been. I want to thank our school boards for believing in the value of this move, and for supporting us every step of the way.

Please read through our 2022 Annual Report. Within you will find an overview of our year. It's been a busy and exciting year, full of changes and challenges. But, the possibilities are endless as we move forward, allowing us all to imagine what lies ahead for our students. As always, I encourage you to visit our website www.svsu.org for more information on our schools.

Imagine the Possibilities,

James R. Culkeen
Superintendent of Schools
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union



- Fisher is excited to announce they have partnered with the Town of Arlington to name their plow trucks.
- Fire Prevention Week at Arlington Memorial.
- AMHS students prepare for bridge builder competition.



- The sky's the limit! Liberty Balloon Company visited Fisher for a fun morning learning about Hot Air Balloons.
- 13 Arlington Memorial AMARC students worked alongside The RiseUP Group to complete the Arlington Community Mural.
- Fisher hosts its first in-person winter concert in three years.



Our School Community



- Congratulations, Coach Wilkins, on your incredible 18-year coaching career at AMHS!
- AMHS Chinese Club will lead Chinese New Year activities with Fisher's 4th and 5th-grade students.
- Fisher's little eagles cheer on the AMHS girls' varsity team as they head into playoffs.



- Mrs. Schroeder introduces Design and Tech program to AMHS.
- Fisher's music teacher Mr. Kniffen leads the music class in a drumming lesson.
- Arlington Memorial AMARC students' final reveal of the community mural.
- 13 AMHS students were inducted into the National Honor Society.

Running the Numbers

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES
ONLY

District **Arlington**
SU: Southwest Vermont

		T005 Bennington County		Property dollar equivalent yield	<--See bottom note		Homestead tax rate per \$15,479 of spending per equalized pupil
		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024		
Expenditures							
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$7,178,260	\$7,143,029	\$7,413,793	\$8,142,943	1.	
2.	plus	-	-	-	-	2.	
3.	minus	NA	NA	NA	-	3.	
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$7,178,260	\$7,143,029	\$7,413,793	\$8,142,943	4.	
5.	plus	-	-	-	-	5.	
6.	plus	-	-	-	-	6.	
7.	Total Expenditures	\$7,178,260	\$7,143,029	\$7,413,793	\$8,142,943	7.	
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	\$1,578,939	8.	
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	9.	
Revenues							
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$786,319	\$786,319	\$737,588	\$915,982	10.	
11.	plus	-	-	-	-	11.	
12.	minus	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.	
13.	All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Marchester & West Windsor only)	\$786,319	\$786,319	\$737,588	\$915,982	13.	
Offsetting revenues							
14.	Education Spending	\$6,391,941	\$6,356,710	\$6,676,205	\$7,226,961	14.	
15.	Equalized Pupils	353.14	355.43	357.87	358.10	15.	
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil							
16.	minus	\$18,100.30	\$17,884.56	\$18,655.39	\$20,181.40	16.	
17.	Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&J) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-	17.	
18.	Less share of SPED costs in excess of \$80,000 for an individual (per equip)	\$11.31	\$7.92	\$19.84	-	18.	
19.	Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per equip)	-	-	-	-	19.	
20.	Less SPED costs if excess is solely attributable to new SPED spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per equip)	-	-	-	-	20.	
21.	minus	-	-	-	-	21.	
22.	Total tuitions if tutoring ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per equip)	-	-	-	-	22.	
23.	minus	-	-	-	-	23.	
24.	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per equip)	-	-	-	-	24.	
25.	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per equip)	-	-	-	-	25.	
26.	Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting	-	-	-	-	26.	
27.	plus	-	-	-	-	27.	
28.	Excess spending threshold	Threshold = \$18,756	Threshold = \$19,799	Threshold = \$19,987	Threshold = \$22,204	28.	
29.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$18,100	\$17,885	\$18,655	\$20,181.40	29.	
Prorating the local tax rate							
30.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$20,181.40 + (\$15,479 / \$1,000))	\$1,645.8	\$1,580.3	\$1,401.2	\$1,303.8	30.	
31.	Percent of Arlington equalized pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	31.	
32.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1,303)	\$1,645.8	\$1,580.3	\$1,401.2	\$1,303.8	32.	
33.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	109.71%	108.93%	99.72%	87.75%	33.	
34.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1,303.8 / 87.75%)	\$1,500.1	\$1,450.7	\$1,405.1	\$1,485.8	34.	
If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.							
35.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$20,181.40 + \$17,600) x 2.00%]	2.67%	2.60%	2.34%	2.29%	35.	
36.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.29%)	2.67%	2.60%	2.34%	2.29%	36.	
37.	#N/A	-	-	-	-	37.	
38.	#N/A	-	-	-	-	38.	
Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$15,479 for every \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$17,600 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1,386. These figures use the estimated \$84,000,000 surplus from the Education Fund. Updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.							
Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.							
The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.							

Arlington School District
Total Expenditures - by Category

Budget Category	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Approved	FY24 Proposed	Variance	% Var
01. Salaries	\$3,339,347	\$3,298,729	\$3,401,791	\$3,490,530	\$3,807,787	\$317,257	9.09%
02. Benefits	\$1,123,965	\$1,167,937	\$1,336,888	\$1,427,000	\$1,492,058	\$65,058	4.56%
03. Contracted Services	\$135,069	\$145,284	\$121,463	\$163,108	\$193,512	\$30,404	18.64%
04. Operations	\$372,755	\$378,383	\$481,543	\$399,613	\$484,488	\$84,875	21.24%
05. Food Service Subsidy	\$55,000	\$115,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0	-\$55,000	-100.00%
06. Tuition	\$122,925	\$183,541	\$211,179	\$65,769	\$146,477	\$80,708	122.71%
07. Supplies	\$215,831	\$178,010	\$240,198	\$221,030	\$239,180	\$18,150	8.21%
08. Equipment	\$24,792	\$75,044	\$9	\$38,650	\$17,000	-\$21,650	-56.02%
09. Dues/Fees	\$34,583	\$28,514	\$28,386	\$47,693	\$23,443	-\$24,250	-50.85%
10. Assessments	\$1,013,290	\$968,400	\$1,046,595	\$1,246,743	\$1,578,939	\$332,196	26.65%
11. Debt Service	\$304,288	\$261,060	\$167,049	\$158,658	\$160,059	\$1,401	0.88%
12. Contingency	\$0	\$12,781	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	-\$100,000	-100.00%
13. Misc./Prior Year	\$0	\$0	\$18,520	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
14. Transfers	\$0	\$5,881	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Grand Total	\$6,741,845	\$6,818,565	\$7,308,623	\$7,413,794	\$8,142,943	\$729,149	9.84%

ASD FY24 Budget -FINAL - 01/24/23

Where are they now?

Arlington Memorial students embark on diverse life paths after graduation. Many of our graduates attend college and universities throughout the country, some join the workforce, and others begin their journey in skilled trade careers. We are proud of the education and experiences at Arlington Memorial which prepare them for whichever path they choose!



Enrollment by Grade

Pre Kindergarten - 39
 Kindergarten - 26
 1st Grade - 28
 2nd Grade - 30
 3rd Grade - 35
 4th Grade - 30
 5th Grade - 30
 6th Grade - 22
 7th Grade - 24
 8th Grade - 30
 9th Grade - 36
 10th Grade - 29
 11th Grade - 33
 12th Grade - 13

Our Mission

Fisher Elementary School aspires to establish an environment where students and faculty can develop in a climate of caring and trust. We are committed to creating an instructional process whereby all students are able to achieve their academic potential. In addition, we at Fisher wish to nurture a sense of school pride that is felt and recognized by students, faculty, and the community.

The Arlington Memorial school community strives to create a safe, caring, and respectful environment of academic excellence where students are uniquely challenged to reach their potential.

Arlington School District

529 E Arlington Road
Arlington, VT 05250



Scan for complete budget.

 SVSU.ORG  (802) 447-7501

