



Remsen to Host School Safety Night  
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Budget Edition  
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# THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2018 | Think big ... make a big difference | [www.Remsencsd.org](http://www.Remsencsd.org)

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## CALENDAR

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit [www.Remsencsd.org](http://www.Remsencsd.org).

## MINDGRAM PROVIDES SENIORS WITH LESSONS IN REAL WORLD CAREER SKILLS FOR EIGHTH YEAR

For the eighth consecutive year, seniors at Remsen Jr./Sr. High School participated in the Mindgram Challenge as part of their senior seminar curriculum. The month-long project, which counts toward their grade, helps students to become more prepared for real-life interviews and the competitive job market.

The project simulates roughly a month in the business world, during which students are expected to run a start-up subsidiary branch of "Mindgram Incorporated," a virtual company that produces microchips used to make a main chip. The main chip can be implanted into a person's brain sending that person on a virtual vacation.

Each year, the project begins with students working to create and write a professional cover letter and resume in senior seminar.

On January 29, Steve and Lynn Boucher, owners of the Soda Fountain Restaurant, spoke to students about making a good first impression during an interview, including appropriate dress, professionalism and interpersonal communication skills.

The following day, students participated in mock interviews with teachers, Board of Education members and community volunteers. During the mock interviews, students practiced applying

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 To view a photo gallery, log onto [www.Remsencsd.org](http://www.Remsencsd.org).

## Middle School Students Excel at Regional Science Fair

Recent events have seen Remsen Central School District students creating quite a name for themselves in the field of science. While the winter storm on March 2 caused the Remsen Middle School Science Fair to be rescheduled, students showed they would not be deterred by the delay.

Although some guest judges and community members were unable to attend the rescheduled Science Fair on March 5, the guest judges that did attend were thoroughly impressed with the students' efforts.

Students presented their unique research in a variety of diverse fields, and when judging commenced, five projects -- separated by less than two points on judges' score cards -- were selected to represent Remsen at the 40th

*Continued on page 2*



### 2018-19 Proposed Budget Hearing

May 8, 2018 | 6 p.m. | Elementary Cafeteria

### 2018-19 Proposed Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

May 15, 2018, from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Elementary School

### BOE Election

One seat for a five (5) year term:

**Mr. Brian Parent**

To the Community:

Through the hard work and dedication of our Board of Education, faculty and staff at Remsen Central Schools, we have been able to make great progress and realize tremendous success in many areas of our district. As you read through this newsletter you will see some of the great things we are doing at Remsen. Our mission to “build the future, one child at a time,” is certainly coming to fruition throughout this past year. We have continued to progress in building a robust Career and Technical Education program with the addition of Agriculture at the Jr./Sr. High School. We have also had multiple teachers win competitive grants to help fund special programs in the STEAM areas. With agriculture, our instructor Mrs. Ives will use her grant to purchase additional curriculum materials and supplies. The STEAM grant was written by our STEAM Club and spearheaded by our science teachers Mr. O’Bryan and Mr. Glass. Together, they won a grant for a fully funded high tunnel. This added effort was made by the teachers of our district to ensure that every available opportunity is provided to our students. The elementary has been working hard to provide regular Parent Information Nights that include classes focused on trending topics in education, technology and social and emotional health.

Remsen has made sure to create a budget that is both responsive to the needs of the district and fiscally conservative for the taxpayers. The proposed overall budget is \$12,232,212. Yielding a projected tax increase of 1.81%, the allowable limit for Remsen this year. The STAR and Enhanced STAR exemptions will continue along with a property tax rebate program.

The 2018-2019 proposed budget includes and supports all current and existing programs and services. It also includes the addition of an Elementary Principal. This position will provide much needed instructional support and educational leadership at the elementary school. For years this has been a position split by the superintendent and a teacher on special assignment. Additionally, the position will benefit the families of elementary children by being a constant presence with an undivided focus on the teachers and students at the elementary.

In addition to voting on the 2018-2019 General Fund Budget, you will also be voting on the following propositions:

- (2) 66 Passenger School Busses
- (1) Board of Education Seat

With the support and help of our community we can move forward to great success and continued improvement as we operate within our commitment to a strong educational mission and enduring goals.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions.

Very truly yours,

*Rebecca Dunckel-King*

*Superintendent of Schools*  
Remsen Central School District

## REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

*Continued From Cover*

Annual Regional Science Fair at Utica College on March 24.

Remsen students competed against other students from schools throughout Central New York and answered questions from the Utica College Science Fair judges during the morning sessions of the competition. As judging concluded and awards were announced, students learned that their hard work would not go unrewarded.

Remsen students received several awards, including multiple place finishers and special awards designated for specific areas of science research.

Paige Loveric placed first with her project Lenses and Solar Panels, and the team of Julia Denning and Noah Skermont placed second in the Junior Engineering Division with their research on Capturing Wind Energy, each earning medals and monetary

awards. Michael Sacco and Benjamin Staskoski received the Aaronson Award in Biochemistry for their project Fungus vs. Medication, and Jessica Rimmer was the inaugural winner of the Copernicus Award for her research on Center of Gravity.

Paige, Julia and Noah were also selected for additional awards given by the United States Air Force based on their work’s relevancy to the Air Force’s research efforts. All of the Remsen students earned high praise from the Central New York scientific community for their poise and professionalism.

Based on this positive experience, many of the students expressed their eagerness to compete again next year, which could be the first ever participation by Remsen students at the Senior Level (grades 9-12) where students can win tuition to Utica College and prizes valued at over \$30,000.



## Energy Performance Contract (EPC): \$1,129,074

*no financial impact to the community*

- Anticipated completion: May, 2018

We are making tremendous progress with our Energy Performance Contract project. The purpose of this project was to make our school more energy efficient through changes in lighting, heating and updates in other areas. Most of the lights in the district have been replaced with high-efficiency LED lighting with dimmer controls. There have been other updates and building envelope improvements which control loss of heat from our buildings.



## Smart Schools: \$601,180

*no financial impact to the community*

- Anticipated approval late summer/early fall, 2018
- Fall 2018 – Installation and completion of technology upgrades.

We anticipate being approved for our Smart Schools project in late summer/early fall of 2018. Through this project we will be increasing school safety and security throughout the district. Once this project is complete, our district will have multiple technological upgrades including cameras both inside and outside of our buildings and we will utilize a system of card readers to control access to the buildings.

## Capital Outlay Project #3: \$100,000

*no additional financial impact to the community*

- Anticipated start – April/May, 2018

As part of last year's budget, our capital outlay improvements include replacement of aging sinks and faucets in the science classrooms. The project will also include the replacement of many doors throughout the Jr./Sr. High School.



## Capital Project: \$8,700,000

*no additional financial impact to the community*

- Anticipated approval from the State Education Department moved back to May, 2018

This is our largest and most anticipated project of all. The state continues to push back the timeline for approvals of capital projects for all schools. When we do gain approval, we will publish a new timeline for the community. Due to this delay, the timeline for major work on our campus has been stretched. We will continue to provide updates once we are approved by the State.



## WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the Remsen Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the May 15 election, be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and registered to vote with the school district.

## CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Residents who will not be in the area on May 15, or who are unable to vote in person, may apply for an absentee ballot at the Remsen Central School District Office. If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 14.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the district clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15.

## Tax Bill Impact

The proposed increase in the levy is within the NYS “tax cap”. As a result, the STAR and Enhanced STAR eligible properties will again receive a rebate check. This is our fifth year of no increase in cost to those taxpayers.

Changes to property assessments, escrow payments, and town equalization rates can change the actual taxes due. These potential changes are not controlled by the school tax levy. Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on final assessment figures as provided by towns and equalization rates for each town as provided by the State Office of Real Property Tax Service.

## Safe Schools Act

The Remsen Central School District has been taking advantage of the NYSAFE Act which enhances aid for the purchase of security cameras on school grounds. This upcoming school year will mark the third year of purchasing an additional 18 security cameras to be installed inside our school buildings. These cameras bring an additional state aid revenue stream of 83.5 cents per dollar spent while enhancing safety and security in our schools.

## Propositions on the Ballot

### Bus Purchase Proposition

Seeks voter approval to purchase two (2) 66-passenger school buses at a cost not to exceed \$229,241 less trade in value.

The proposed purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to keep the District’s fleet in safe, working order by phasing out buses that are no longer cost effective to maintain.



If the proposition is approved, the actual cost to the District will be significantly less

than the amount sought. Approximately 75.3 percent of the cost would be reimbursable through state aid.

## Did you Know?

Because the Remsen Central School District remains in compliance with being within the tax cap, New York state automatically sends you a rebate check?

You are eligible if:

- You receive either the Basic or Enhanced STAR exemption or credit
- Have an income of 275,000 or less, and
- Have paid school property taxes in 2018

Beginning in 2017, if you are an eligible homeowner, the amount of credit is a percentage of your STAR savings (homeowners with lower incomes receive a higher rebate check).

Income	Percentage of your Basic STAR savings
\$75,000 or less	60%
Between \$75,000 and \$150,000	42.5%
Between \$150,000 and \$200,000	25%
Between \$200,000 and \$275,000	7.5%

For those receiving the Enhanced Star, your credit will be 26% of your Enhanced STAR savings. Your income doesn’t impact the amount of your credit.

Please note the credit you receive can’t be greater than the school district taxes for your property.

## Mock Trial Team Completes Second Year of Competition

Each year, the New York State Bar Association presents a case for students to bring to life. Students then work to prepare their cases by learning designated roles and preparing questions specific to the case that will then be heard before a judge. Schools alternate between the prosecution and the defense and compete on the basis of their opening statements, witness direct examination and cross examination, witness preparation, professionalism and closing statements. Each component of the trial is timed, so students must be able to quickly adapt their line of questioning based on the witnesses’ answers and the opposing counsel’s direct examination questions. The entire mock trial process helps students to develop skills including public speaking, communication, problem solving, teamwork, and critical analysis while working within strict legal guidelines.

“The hardest part is thinking on the spot when the other team asks a question and you’re not sure how to answer,” said junior Elise Thompson.

Each mock trial team is composed of six witnesses and three attorneys. Witnesses for Remsen’s team were Chelsea Barnhart, Abby Barton, Ty Bowers, Julia Woolheater and Elise Thompson. Attorneys for the team were Hannah Allen, Christa Fransman and Morgan Jones. Remsen social studies teacher Ms. Brockway and business teacher Mrs. Smith served as advisors for the team.



The Remsen Mock Trial Team would also like to extend a special thank you to Melanie Goldberg, Esq., who provided the team with legal advice and answers to a multitude of questions.

Congratulations to the Remsen Mock Trial Team on a job well done!



## Components of the Proposed 2018-2019 Remsen Central School District Budget

### Administrative

The administrative component consists of overall management activities including board of education, superintendent's office, business office operations, such as payroll; data processing, purchasing, BOCES, administration, printing, mailing, legal and auditing services.

Function/Account	Approved 2017-2018	Proposed 2018-2019	Change
Board of Education	\$15,920	\$17,265	\$1,345
Central Administration	\$152,000	\$136,000	(\$16,000)
Finance	\$238,806	\$254,764	\$15,958
Legal	\$7,451	\$7,451	-
Personnel	\$2,000	\$2,000	-
Records Management	\$4,700	\$5,000	\$300
Central Data Processing	\$130,300	\$128,500	(\$1,800)
Other Special Items	\$104,961	\$108,000	\$3,039
Curriculum Development & Support	\$23,500	\$23,500	-
Supervision Regular School	\$344,325	\$439,251	\$94,926
Supervision Special School		\$6,000	\$6,000
Research, Evaluation, Planning	\$24,350	\$28,200	\$3,850
Employee Benefits	\$257,327	\$289,139	\$31,812
<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>\$1,305,640</b>	<b>\$1,445,070</b>	<b>\$139,430</b>

### Program

The program component consists of funding the instructional and educational support services of the District's 430+ students. Transportation of students, athletics and co-curricular activities are included here.

Function/Account	Approved 2017-2018	Proposed 2018-2019	Change
Legal	\$33,246	\$33,246	-
Instructional	\$5,673,274	\$5,711,308	\$38,034
Other District Transportation	\$610,350	\$635,545	\$25,195
Garage Building	\$23,500	\$23,500	-
Employee Benefits	\$2,685,744	\$2,653,136	(\$32,608)
Interfund Transfer	-	-	-
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>\$9,026,114</b>	<b>\$9,056,735</b>	<b>\$30,621</b>

### Capital

The capital component consist of maintenance of buildings, upkeep of grounds, and electricity, heat, oil, water, sewer and telephone services. Funds are also included here for the lease and purchase of buses, payment of debt for the capital project (principal & interest), refund of taxes and insurance.

Function/Account	Approved 2017-2018	Proposed 2018-2019	Change
Operation of Plant	\$680,200	\$702,700	\$22,500
Maintenance of Plant	\$114,800	\$119,800	\$5,000
Judgements & Claims & Insurance	\$45,000	\$46,000	\$1,000
Refund of Taxes	\$1,200	\$1,200	-
Employee Benefits	\$169,574	\$176,958	\$7,384
Debt Service	\$469,584	\$583,749	\$114,165
Transfer to capital fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$1,580,358</b>	<b>\$1,730,407</b>	<b>\$150,049</b>

<b>Total Budget Appropriation</b>	<b>\$11,912,112</b>	<b>\$12,232,212</b>	<b>\$320,100</b>
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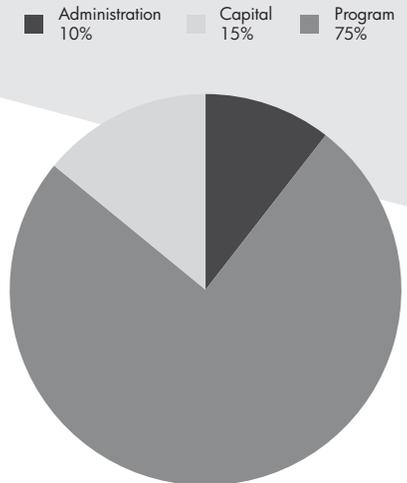
## COMPARATIVE SUMMARIES

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Adopted</b>		<b>Proposed</b>		<b>Change</b>	
	<i>2017-2018</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>\$\$</i>	<i>%</i>
Est. State Aid	\$ 6,450,045	\$ 6,733,042			282,997	4.39%
Federal Aid	\$ -	\$ -			-	0.00%
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$ 5,082,067</b>	<b>\$ 5,174,170</b>			<b>92,103</b>	<b>1.81%</b>
App Fund Balance	\$ 305,000	\$ 250,000			(55,000)	
Other Revenue	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000			-	0.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 11,912,112</b>	<b>\$ 12,232,212</b>			<b>320,100</b>	<b>2.69%</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>Adopted</b>		<b>Proposed</b>		<b>Change</b>	
	<i>2017-2018</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>\$\$</i>	<i>%</i>
Administration	\$ 1,305,640	\$ 1,445,070			139,430	10.68%
Program	\$ 9,026,114	\$ 9,056,735			30,621	0.34%
Capital	\$ 1,580,358	\$ 1,730,407			150,049	9.49%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 11,912,112</b>	<b>\$ 12,232,212</b>			<b>320,100</b>	<b>2.69%</b>

## Expenditures



## Remsen to Offer Expanded Pre-Kindergarten Program

Through careful and strategic planning, the district is very proud to be able to offer an expanded Pre-Kindergarten program for the 2018-2019 school year. Instead of offering the program to 18 students, we will now be opening up four additional spots. In order to have 22 students in the program, the state requires that the district add an additional teacher aide to the classroom. We are lucky enough to be able to provide that position from our pool of existing employees. Our Pre-Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Spatto and her teacher aide, Mrs. Paige, are excited and eager to offer early instruction to four more students. With no budgetary impact, this is certainly a win-win situation.

## Remsen Receives Grant for High Tunnel from NY Agriculture in the Classroom

In addition to students' successful participation in the Regional Science Fair, Remsen science students will also benefit from a grant recently awarded by New York Agriculture in the Classroom.

The Remsen Jr./Sr. High School Science Department has been named as a recipient of a grant through the New York Agriculture in the Classroom High Tunnels in Schools Program.

The program is a partnership between Cornell University's Department of Horticulture and New York Agriculture in the Classroom, which aims to explore how high tunnels in school gardens can maximize garden-based learning and agricultural literacy activities. Each school receives site consultation, a high tunnel structure, funding to purchase materials and program support from the project partners.

In New York State, the academic calendar for schools does not align with the natural growing season, and as a result, educators find it difficult to maximize the potential for garden-based learning and agricultural literacy. Growing in a high tunnel provides an easy and cost-effective way to establish greater control over the growing environment and extend the growing season.

A high tunnel, also known as a hoop house, is an unheated greenhouse structure covered by a single layer of clear polyethylene plastic which will allow students to begin planting earlier in the spring and extend New York's growing season later into fall than a traditional outdoor garden.

With the addition of the high tunnel, students will have the opportunity to experiment with growing different plants, including edible species that can be shared with the school and community. The added growing time means that students can grow plants like leafy greens from sow to harvest in the spring, and enjoy harvesting plants like tomatoes and peppers in the fall even after these crops would have been killed by frost outside.

Delivery and construction of the 20' wide by 48' long by 12' tall high tunnel at Remsen is expected to occur this spring. As part of the exciting opportunities provided by the high tunnel, the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES has provided Remsen students with a hydroponic growing system to begin studying various aspects of alternate plant growth. Students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) program had suggested using hydroponics and aquaponics as a way to set up sustainable growth eco-environments that can enhance the Remsen community and prepare students for career opportunities in growing industries.

## Safety Night

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 | 6-8 p.m.

Free child care will be provided during the program. Anyone who needs childcare can sign up through the District Office at 315.205.4300.

### Topics will include:

- How schools respond to safety issues (ex: best practices regarding procedure, drills etc.)
- Ways parents can help schools during these times
- How parents can discuss these issues with their children
- The media's role and responsibility during crises



## Mindgram Prepares Students for Real World

*Continued from Cover*

and interviewing for a manager position at the imaginary “Mindgram Incorporated” company. Each student who was hired as a manager then got to pick two classmates to work for their computer chip company and each group began developing their business plan. Every team was given a different colored computer chip and \$10,000 with the goals of selling as many chips as possible, possessing all of the different colored chips that were being produced and making a profit.

On February 2, students continued to hone their business skills during a mock networking mixer, where they were able to speak with potential investors while juggling refreshments and business cards. Groups that successfully pitched their company were rewarded with pretend monetary investments that could be used throughout the remainder of the project.

After the mixer, teams further practiced their business and decision making skills as they continued to develop their business plans. Mindgram teams were responsible for running all aspects of their business including their subsidiary’s financial, production and management divisions. The teams were also encouraged to flex their creative muscles and create an intriguing and exciting vacation concept that would test the bounds of virtual reality and offer a unique experience to their consumers.

The seniors wrapped-up their Mindgram projects on February 15 by presenting their final business plan summaries to a panel of more than 20 judges.

Each student team prepared an approximately seven-minute presentation explaining the services offered by their imaginary business, how they set up their company and the decision-making process they used to work through the problems that arose. Each group also fielded questions from the judging panel and were asked to explain the thought process behind their business decisions. The panel then rated the groups based on their presentations and performance throughout the project. These ratings, combined with team scores from earlier components of the project, determined the winners of Mindgram.

Team “White 1,” comprised of Samantha Boucher, Molly Barton and Olivia Hajdasz, was named the winner of Mindgram 2018. Also finishing in the top three teams were “Purple 1” comprised of Megan O’Brien, Brittany Conkling and Autumn Pett, and “Silver 1” comprised of Rachel Carrock, Tayah Hummel and Amanda Bolos.

“The panel members had a tough job deciding which team would take home the first place title this year because truly every team was a winner,” said senior seminar teacher Mrs. Cooper. “Each and every senior should be extremely proud of their success with the Mindgram Project this year.”

## You’re Invited: 106<sup>th</sup> Remsen Alumni Banquet/Reunion

The Remsen Alumni Association (RAA) will host the 106th Annual Alumni Banquet on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 5 p.m. in the Remsen High School Gymnasium. The Banquet will celebrate and honor the graduating class and welcome them as the newest members into the prestigious ranks of RCS alumni.

All Remsen alumni, faculty and parents of graduating seniors are cordially invited to attend an evening to reminisce, share stories and see old friends, while enjoying a buffet-style dinner and special presentations, followed by a brief business meeting and singing of the school song. The Remsen band will perform during the social hour preceding the Senior Grand March and scholarship award presentations.

Please plan to attend and pre-register by returning your invitation to Linda Cady at 10471 Coombs Rd, Holland Patent NY, 13354. Reservations must be received by Monday, May 21.

If you are a Remsen alumnus or a parent of a graduating senior, and have not received a banquet invitation by May 15, please contact Mark Williams by phone at 315.576.1974 or by email at markb2055@gmail.com.

The RAA supports our school and promotes higher education through awards and scholarships. The organization relies on the support and commitment of previous graduates and faculty to make these benefits possible and ongoing.

Thank you for your interest and continued support.

Mark Williams  
RAA President

Go Rams!



*Students participate in mock interviews during Mindgram.*





# REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 406, 9733 Main St.  
Remsen, New York 13438

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

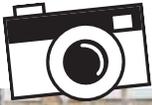
Brian Parent, President  
James Reilly, Vice President  
Mary Lou Allen  
Sonya Murray  
Mark Williams

Rebecca Dunckel-King,  
Superintendent

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## PHOTO GALLERY



## Bullet-Aid From Senator Griffo To Fund New Flag Pole

Earlier this year, the Remsen Central School District was awarded \$27,000 in additional targeted funding from New York State Senator Joseph Griffo. This funding, commonly referred to a “bullet aid,” is in addition to the state aid amounts approved as part of the current year’s budget and is awarded through a program of targeted aid via education funding. The money will be used for the replacement of the flag pole in the front of the Jr./Sr. High School. The project is expected to include a new flag pole with stamped concrete, fresh flowers and shrubs and is anticipated to be completed in time for graduation. The Remsen agriculture and art classes will work together to complete the plantings around the flag pole as part of a class project. The classes will also be designing new flower landscaping for the school marquis on Main Street. With this project we will continue to show the immense pride that our district has for its schools and country!



**Mission:** “Remsen is a dynamic school community of stakeholders providing diverse, demanding and innovative educational opportunities. Our culture fosters a conscientious desire to learn and achieve to individual potential. Students learn that responsible citizenship comes from critical, determined and sustained effort.”