

DEAR ARLINGTON COMMUNITY,

We hope that this *Arlington Communicator* finds you safe and healthy during these difficult times. We know that COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our community.

As a school district, our students, families, and employees are missing each other. While we are all doing our best with remote teaching and learning, we know that it is not the same as being together in our schools. We thank all of our students and their families for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters. We are grateful for our teachers, administrators, and staff who continue to find creative ways to connect with students and to address their needs.

Our hearts particularly go out to our Arlington High School seniors. While celebrations will look different this year, we are committed to honoring the achievements of our seniors and to celebrating your graduation in a manner that is safe for everyone.

Arlington is currently providing a bagged breakfast and lunch to any student who needs it. We are funding childcare for our first responders and essential healthcare workers. We distributed more than 1,000 Chromebooks to enable our students to participate in remote learning. Thank you to all of the technology staff, maintenance staff, bus drivers, safety monitors, and food service workers who have made these efforts possible. For more information about these services, please visit www.arlingtonschools.org/COVID19.

It is inspiring and heartwarming to see how our community has come together to support one another. Our schools and student clubs have sent meals and gifts and have raised funds to support our healthcare workers. Members of the high school staff have spearheaded a Go Fund Me page to raise money for gift cards to help Arlington families buy food. Parents and community members have joined together to "adopt" a senior, as well as 5th and 8th grade students to celebrate their graduation or their moving up to the next school level. These are just a few of the many examples of the ways we are helping each other and strengthening our community.

At this time, we do not know for certain how COVID-19 will impact schools this fall. It is our sincere hope that it will be safe for students to return to their classrooms. However, we are exploring a variety of contingency plans if school has to be modified in the fall. As always, the health and safety of our students and staff is our first priority. We know that by working together, we can continue to provide the best possible education for our students. Together, we remain Arlington Strong!

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the New York State budget, which in turn, has and will affect school district budgets across the state. We encourage you to review the enclosed materials carefully. A complete copy of the 2020/2021 Educational Plan and Budget is available online at www.arlingtonschools.org.

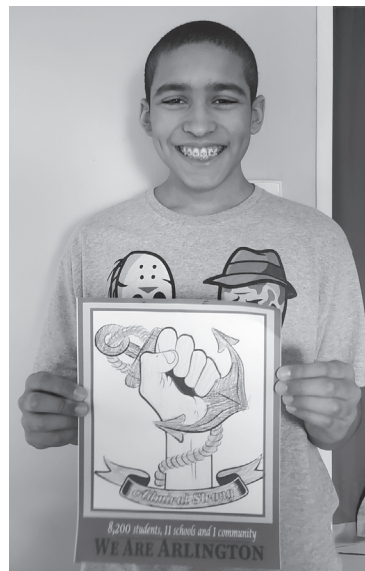
We wish you well,

Dr. Brendan Lyons

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Peter Bodnar

Board of Education President



We are Admiral Strong! We Are Arlington!

In April, Arlington students and staff colored Admiral Strong posters and sent us their photos for a virtual art fair. The graphic was created by AHS art teacher Lauren Ras to remind us that we have 8,200 students and 11 schools, but we are one community.



Follow Dr. Lyons and the Arlington Central School District on Twitter:
twitter.com/Dr_BLyons • twitter.com/ArlingtonCSD



Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ArlingtonCSD

2020 BUDGET VOTE BALLOTS DUE TUESDAY, JUNE 9 BY 5:00PM



ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNICATOR

BUDGET ISSUE 2020



2020/2021 EDUCATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET: PRESERVING HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS WHILE PROVIDING NEEDED FLEXIBILITY

The proposed 2020/2021 Educational Plan and Budget preserves the high quality programs that our community expects from an Arlington education. At the same time, the proposal provides the flexibility we need to adjust to current unknowns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT DOES THE 2020/2021 EDUCATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET INCLUDE?

The budget includes two additional elementary school teachers to help maintain reasonable elementary class sizes. In order to provide mandated special education services, the budget includes funding for five additional special education teachers. In response to decreasing enrollment at the secondary level, the budget eliminates the equivalent of four secondary teaching positions.

We do not know how the COVID-19 pandemic will impact schools in the fall. We anticipate increased academic, social, and emotional needs as a result of the pandemic and the loss of in-class instruction. We are prepared to make programmatic adjustments to address students' needs. In addition, if necessary, we will provide tools and staff training to accommodate social distancing measures or other hybrid forms of learning that may be in place this fall.

The proposed 2020/2021 Educational Plan and Budget is \$224,658,000, a 3.93% increase from the current school year. Our required payment for the BOCES capital project will increase from \$957,600 in 2019/2020 to over \$3.83 million in 2020/2021. This increase alone accounts for a 1.33% budget to budget increase. The tax levy increase is 2.47%.

HOW WILL THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT STATE AID?

There are currently a number of unknowns regarding the amount of state aid Arlington will receive next year. As of this printing, the New York State budget imposed a COVID-19 Elimination Adjustment on school districts. For Arlington, this equals a \$683,687 reduction to our anticipated state aid. In addition, the Governor has placed into law the ability to reduce state aid by an additional 20–50% through mid-year cuts during the 2020/2021 school year.

WANT MORE BUDGET DETAILS?

Visit the Arlington website: www.arlingtonschools.org

- Board of Education Candidate Profiles
- Complete Budget Details
- Superintendent's Budget Presentations
- Any NYS Updates

WHAT HAS BEEN THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF CLOSING OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS?

While Arlington school buildings have been closed since March 16, school has remained in session. While we have saved money in some areas, such as fuel for our buses, we have maintained or have had additional expenses in other areas.

Most district employees have continued to work either from home or onsite in the district. Without students physically attending school, some employees are unable to perform their normal job functions. However, in compliance with the Governor's executive order, all school district employees have received their regular salaries or wages for their normal weekly hours of work.

Traditionally, our Food Services Department is self-funded through sales. While we continue to pay our food service employees and provide free bagged breakfasts and lunches to any student who needs them, without students to buy lunches, there are no longer revenues to offset these expenses. For the first time on record, the district will need to subsidize food services. We estimate that by June 30, the general fund will transfer \$400,000 to food services. In addition, the District is paying for childcare for first responders and essential healthcare workers.

IF THERE ARE BUDGET SAVINGS, HOW WILL THE DISTRICT USE THE MONEY?

Any budget savings will be added to our fund balance to preserve programs in the event that Governor Cuomo makes any mid-year state aid cuts during the 2020/2021 school year. •



WE
BELIEVE
that
potential
can only
be attained
through
commitment,
resilience,
and high
expectations.

STAY POSITIVE, SHARE HOPE, SPREAD KINDNESS

While senior year isn't going exactly as planned, four Arlington High School seniors wanted to find a way to spread positivity and hope during this unprecedented time. These four long-time friends, Kayla Hartney, Robyn Lemieux, Anna Spendley and Emma Stack, created a Facebook page and worked with Arlington Ink to offer Class of 2020 lawn signs, apparel and more. In less than two weeks, the girls had raised almost \$2,000 to benefit the hardworking caregivers at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Why stop there? Due to popular demand, the girls reopened the store for one week and raised an additional \$1,650 for Dutchess Outreach to help feed families in the Hudson Valley.

When asked what the driving force is behind their efforts, the girls said that they have learned that "while life doesn't always go as planned, it is important to stay positive, share hope and spread kindness. Even when you are a senior during a global pandemic!"

Superintendent Dr. Lyons praised the students' achievements. "These seniors truly embody the Arlington mission by being self-directed and by willingly contributing to their community, and leading passionate, purposeful lives. I am so proud of their efforts to celebrate their classmates, while also helping others in our wider community." •



TURTLE TRACKERS WIN \$30,000 GRAND PRIZE

This spring, we reported that the AHS "Turtle Trackers," a research team in the high school's Science Research class, was one of eight teams from across the country to earn \$10,000 in scholarships and grants in the Lexus Eco Land/ Water Challenge. The team worked with Dutchess County's Blanding's Turtles in order to increase their numbers and their quality of life. By successfully expanding their project locally, nationally, and globally, the Turtle Trackers have won the \$30,000 grand prize! Advisors Maribel Pregnall and Tricia Muraco helped guide the team to success. •



Left to right: Keshav Ramji, James Ball, Matthew Huang, Rina Lewick, Kyra Watts, and Phoebe Anderson presented their project to the Board of Education on March 10.



Members of the Food Services and Transportation Departments prepare to load food into buses to bring to Arlington's food distribution sites. We are providing a bagged lunch and breakfast for any child who needs it. For more information, visit www.arlingtonschools.org/COVID19

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

We are operating under the assumption that if the budget does not pass, the district will need to immediately adopt a contingency budget. Under a contingency budget, we must adopt a 0% tax levy increase.

A contingency budget cuts \$3.52 million from the proposed budget. In addition to mandatory reductions in equipment, if forced to develop a 0% contingency budget, Arlington must consider reductions in the following areas:

- Reducing classroom teachers, thereby increasing class sizes in grades K–12
- Reducing extracurricular activities and interscholastic sports
- Reducing non-mandated programs, such as music and art

At the time of this printing, we do not have any guidance from Governor Cuomo as to what will happen if the budget does not pass. Under normal circumstances, school districts have the option of holding a second vote on the third Tuesday in June. However, the Governor has not established a date for a second vote. •

WE
BELIEVE
that a
community
thrives
when all
members
embrace
their
interdependence
with
compassion
and
empathy.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED: CREATIVITY, CARING, AND COMMITMENT ARE OPEN

We commend the extraordinary efforts and dedication of our faculty and staff who adapted to remote learning at lightning speed. We learned on Friday, March 13 that we needed to close our doors due to the Coronavirus outbreak the following Monday.

We understand that this situation has been challenging for students, parents, and employees, as well as for members of our community. Since March 13, we have seen tremendous creativity, caring and commitment to support our students' learning, as well as their social and emotional needs. Despite not being physically together, our sense of community remains steadfast.

Schools are holding virtual game nights and dances. Faculty and staff are making videos to encourage their students. Elementary schools are hosting special themed days, such as Make it Monday (where staff teach kids how to make things), Wacky Wednesday, and Thankful Thursday to thank people who are making a difference. Teaching assistants, school secretaries, bus drivers, teachers, support staff, and principals are making special deliveries to cheer their students. Plans are underway to ensure that student milestones, such as 5th and 8th grade moving up ceremonies are still recognized. Arlington High School is planning a variety of ways to celebrate our seniors and their graduation.

The Coronavirus has created hardship for many members of our community. We encourage any family who needs additional assistance to reach out to their teacher, school principal, or any other Arlington employee. While we are not physically together, we continue to care for the health and well-being of all of our students. The challenges we currently face are tempered by our support for one another. •



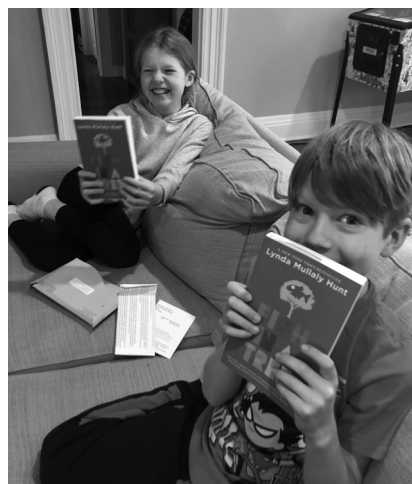
Jayse is performing a crab walk during an online occupational therapy classroom activity. His mom, Debby DiGregorio, reports that "Jayse has been truly enjoying his OT assignments!"



This past fall Titusville teacher Chris Shave and Dr. Gwen Hale, the director of the University of Mary Washington's Writing Center, established a pen pal program with his third grade students, AKA Super Sidekicks. Numerous exchanges of letters later, Dr. Hale decided to crochet scarves for each student, which arrived with the latest letters just after school buildings closed. That's when Mr. Shave's wife stepped in, making him a batman mask and driving him to each student's house to make special deliveries. One of the first virtual assignments the Super Sidekicks completed was writing a return letter for each of their Eagle Pen Pals, which they made sure hit their homes during finals week to lift their spirits.



More than 15 volunteers from Joseph D'Aquanni West Road School helped package and mail their "One School One Book" selection, *Fish in a Tree*. Teaching Assistants AnnMarie Motlow (left) and Patty Kuczynski helped bring them to the post office. Students were delighted to receive their books.



Union Vale Middle School social worker Kerrie Hart with a note of encouragement for her students.

School social worker Jennifer Marino encouraged students to create a chill out/ breathing bottle to help them calm down when they are feeling worried, scared, stressed, angry, or frustrated.

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2019/20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020/21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020/21 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$216,161,000	\$224,658,000	\$221,138,644
Increase/Decrease for the 2020/2021 School Year		\$8,497,000	\$4,977,644
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.93%	2.3%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$142,467,840	\$145,987,196	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$142,467,840	\$145,987,196	\$142,467,840
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$4,998,521	\$5,036,299	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$138,072,065	\$140,952,819	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$137,469,319	\$140,950,897	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$602,746	\$1,922	
Administrative Component	\$18,815,124	\$19,726,059	\$19,103,032
Program Component	\$165,790,209	\$171,180,328	\$168,328,999
Capital Component	\$31,555,667	\$33,751,613	\$33,706,613

** The following is a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020/21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated, pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. The projected contingency budget for the 2020/21 school year would be the proposed budget less \$3,519,356. These reductions would be made by eliminating all new equipment (except state-aided equipment), reducing staff, reducing programs, eliminating certain raises, eliminating certain materials and supplies for students, reducing extracurricular activities, and reducing capital expenditures.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

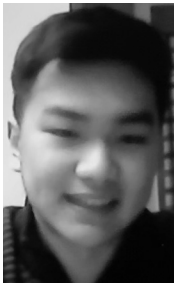
Description	Amount
Proposition #2 – Purchase of School Buses and Equipment	\$1,854,237

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020/21 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$915

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020/2021 by the qualified voters of the Arlington Central School District, Dutchess County, New York, will be by absentee ballot only. The absentee ballots will be opened on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 after 5:00pm, prevailing time in the Arlington Central School(s), at which time the polls will be closed.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AHS CLASS OF 2020 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN



Valedictorian Alex Xin



Salutatorian Samir Ahmed

On Thursday, April 23, Arlington High School announced the Class of 2020 valedictorian and salutatorian. Rather than calling the students down to the main office to make the announcement, high school administrators notified valedictorian Alex Xin (left) and salutatorian Samir Ahmed and their families using Google Meet.

Alex will be attending Columbia University and majoring in financial engineering and economics. Samir will be attending Williams College and majoring in biology with a concentration in public health. We congratulate Alex and Samir on their achievements. •

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Students must be 5 years old by December 1, 2020 to register for kindergarten for the 2020/2021 school year.

Our elementary/primary schools have been reaching out to our incoming kindergarten families to either complete the registration process that was started prior to closing school buildings, or to start the kindergarten registration process. Registration is by appointment only. We are only open on select days and times to conduct registration. The health and safety of our staff and registrants is of the utmost concern. Registrants must wear face masks.

If you have not been contacted by your home school, please contact them. If you are unsure of your home school or if you have questions, call Central Registration at 845-227-1821.

If you need a kindergarten registration packet mailed to your home, please let us know in your message and indicate your name, address, phone number and the name and home school (if you know it) for your incoming kindergarten student.

If your registration paperwork is completed, please leave a message including your name, phone number and the name and home school (if you know it) for your incoming kindergarten student.

The voicemail system will alert our Central Registrar that you have called. We will get back to you as quickly as possible. •

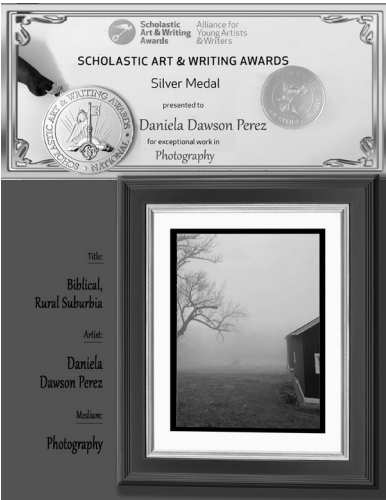


Noxon Principal Dr. Kelly Murray and school secretary Sue Thoma are randomly leaving treats for their students. Dr. Murray goes to a student's home and takes a picture of Speedy, the school's mascot, on their doorstep and leaves a goody bag. During the morning announcements, if a student sees a picture of their door, they know to run outside to get their treat.



#DutchessStrong
When Natalie Hraska (left) learned about a family friend's extraordinary efforts as a hospital nurse, she suggested making a lawn sign to thank her and to encourage others to "pay it forward" by thanking other first responders, healthcare workers, and essential workers. From there, a local movement was born. Natalie, her brother Stephen (right), and their parents began a Facebook page #DutchessStrong celebrating all of our essential workers and encouraging others to do the same.

Congratulations to AHS students Daniela Dawson Perez and Annette Nunez-Luciano who were awarded Silver Medals at the national level from the 2020 Scholastic Art Awards.



2020 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

On June 9, voters will also elect three members to the Arlington Board of Education. The terms of Peter Bodnar, Jennifer Eraca, Ed. D, and Pauline Herr will expire on June 30, 2020. There are five candidates running for three seats. Those elected to the Board will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020. For further details on each candidate, please visit www.arlingtonschools.org. The candidates are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot.



PETER BODNAR

I serve on the Arlington Board of Education for my children and yours. I am a graduate of the Arlington school system and know how excellent the schools have been. As a former substitute teacher, I know where the district is now and what is being asked of our dedicated teachers. As a Board Member, I have worked for the betterment of all our children and for the teachers, who are dedicated to providing the best education possible.



JENNIFER ERACA, ED.D.

I have had the privilege to serve on the ACSD BOE for over 7 years. I've witnessed Arlington evolve into a mission-driven, forward-thinking district to better serve its students while balancing fiduciary responsibilities to the community. I have a deep understanding of what it takes to maintain and grow Arlington and welcome the opportunity to continue to be a conduit of community views as it relates to the oversight of education policies, practices, and spending.



LINDA GAINES, ED.D.

I will uphold Arlington's Mission to "empower all students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community, and lead passionate, purposeful lives." I will work tirelessly for the teachers who educate our children. Collaboration between teachers, students, community, the Board, and transparent communication are benchmarks I will strive to accomplish. I will make informed decisions that lead to the continuation of Arlington being the best school district in the Hudson Valley.



DAVE GODDARD

While dedicating my career to Arlington, I successfully confronted challenges while honoring the District's culture. With implementation of solutions came personal and professional growth. A Board position would allow my continued support of Arlington's historic traditions and perpetuate respect for all, with a student-centered focus. I hope my experience and perspective will assist both our community and educational institution as we face the recent unprecedented circumstances of today's world.



AELAN MOSDEN

Dr. Lyons has created an environment for staff to violate the law with immunity. Kidnapping, civil rights, safety laws, employee rights, IDEA, FERPA, FAPE and Educational Law violations by the administrations must be dealt with. The existing Board of Education has acted against student, parent, and employee rights in allowing the administration to conduct business in this way. Only you can protect our community. The ACSD community must take back the BOE and the District.

2020/2021 BUS AND EQUIPMENT PROPOSITION

VOTERS WILL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

- 10 (72/66) Passenger Buses
- 2 Thirty (30) Passenger Vans
- 2 Eight (8) Passenger Suburbans
- 1 Dump Truck
- 4 Six (6) Passenger Mini Vans
- 5 Twenty (20) Passenger Vans
- 1 Wheelchair Van

This year's bus and equipment proposition is for \$1,854,237 bonded over five years. Bus costs totaling \$1,784,237 are eligible for state transportation aid at the rate of 65.3% so the local share is \$619,130.

SAFETY AND FLEET AGE

Despite the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, our Transportation Department must be prepared to be fully operational for the start of the 2020/21 school year. The Transportation Department's primary responsibility is to provide students with safe transportation to and from school. This requires us to maintain safe, reliable vehicles that meet all NYS Department of Transportation requirements. In order to maintain our fleet in a fiscally responsible manner, we adhere to a year-to-year schedule for replacing our older buses. This provides cost predictability for the District and for our taxpayers. We need to replace buses after 10–12 years that have excessive mileage or undercarriage rusting. This replacement cycle helps to avoid expensive repairs and the need for emergency leasing. Purchasing new vehicles through a bond maximizes state aid and our buying power.

WHAT IF THE BUS PROPOSITION DOES NOT PASS?

As noted, Arlington maintains a schedule for bus replacements. If we do not replace buses in one year, then we need to replace more buses in subsequent years. This interrupts budget sustainability and predictability. Operating older buses increases our repair costs and has the potential to increase the number of buses taken out of service by the DOT. We want to avoid making cuts to our educational programs due to additional costs incurred from added repairs or from the need to lease buses. •

OUR
MISSION
IS

to empower
all students
to be
self-directed,
lifelong
learners,
who
willingly
contribute
to their
community,
and lead
passionate,
purposeful
lives.



ARLINGTON CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

144 Todd Hill Road
LaGrangeville, NY 12540

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2020 BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

BALLOTS DUE JUNE 9 BY 5:00PM

In accordance with Executive Order No. 202.26, the Budget Vote and School Board Election will be held by Absentee Ballot only. In accordance with the Governor's order, ballots received after 5:00pm on June 9 cannot be counted. Registered voters within the Arlington Central School District will receive absentee ballots by mail.

All ballots must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

If you are not registered, you can register with the Dutchess County Board of Elections by mail or remotely through the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles website at <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>.

In accordance with the Executive Order, ballots are being mailed on or about Friday, May 22, 2020. If you register to vote after this date, please call the District Clerk, Margie Flynn at (845) 486-4460 extension 20212 or send an email to mflynn@acsdny.org to request a ballot. •

Dr. Brendan Lyons, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peter Bodnar · President
Charles McLeod · Vice President
Kelly Cahill Chenski
Jennifer Eraca, Ed.D.
Pauline Herr
Edward McCormick
Mary Anne Meaden
Marion Quinn
Mark Tornatore
Margie Flynn · Clerk of the Board

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

144 Todd Hill Road
LaGrangeville, NY 12540
845-486-4460

Visit Our District Website at
www.arlingtonschools.org



There are many Arlington High School students who are serving our community as essential workers in grocery stores, restaurants, and community service agencies. We thank all of our student essential workers and wish them continued health and well-being. Emma Stack works at the

Daily Planet. Jesse Simonetty volunteers delivering meals for the Dutchess County Office of the Aging. Marina Pinheiro, Kyle DuBois, Piper Bolner, Lauren D'Angelo, and Sophie Cargain work at Zoe's Ice Cream Barn.