

DISTRICT OUTLINES NEW 2-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN SHAPED BY STAKEHOLDER INPUT

“Blueprint for Excellence” aims to enhance student experience and ensure success

The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District is excited to share details about its next strategic plan. It will be presented to the Board of Education in early March, and is expected to be adopted by April. The implementation will begin at the start of the 2025-26 school year.

“Blueprint for Excellence” is the result of planning sessions that were held with the Board of Education, leadership team, staff, parents, students, and community members. Community input was also gathered during the fall to identify ways to become a more equitable and inclusive school community.

“This updated strategic plan will be the backbone for our work through 2027. It will serve as a roadmap in our efforts to connect with each child and family while enhancing our connections as a school and a community. We’re in this together and look forward to our continued effort



to be a model school of excellence,” said Superintendent Dr. Peter Smith.

The new strategic plan is rooted in its mission to provide a holistic educational experience that nurtures the academic, social, and emotional growth of every student. The district is committed to preparing students for success in a rapidly

changing world by focusing on individual needs and fostering a supportive, inclusive learning environment. The plan’s vision emphasizes responsibility for each student’s success, ensuring that their diverse needs are honored, and their potential is maximized.

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Sign up for J-D's ParentSquare Community Group



Scan the QR code to join today!



The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District uses ParentSquare as one of its primary communication platforms for families, staff, and the community. The ParentSquare Community Group allows guests, such as members of the community who do not have students active in the district, to receive important and timely district-level messages about budget votes, building projects, events, and more.

Individuals who self-enroll will be able to:

- Receive district communication via email, text, or app notification.
- Manage notification settings.
- Communicate in their preferred language.

BLUEPRINT FOR EXCELLENCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 →

To achieve this, three priority areas were identified:

1 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The district will implement a comprehensive program that builds essential life skills, such as collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, while expanding rigorous opportunities across all grades.

2 STUDENT & FAMILY EXPERIENCE

The district will foster a welcoming, affirming, and equitable school community through transparent, responsive, and proactive communication that centers student and family voices, provides comprehensive mental health and whole-child supports and builds trust and partnership across all levels, with measurable commitments to timely, meaningful engagement.

3 OPERATIONS

The district is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for students and staff through improved communication, and the development and maintenance of district facilities and infrastructure.

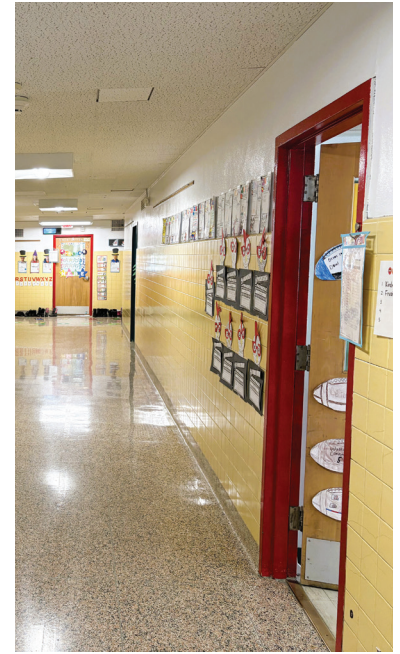
The strategic plan also outlines action plans for each priority area. This will help administrators, building leaders, and staff stay focused on achieving progress for each objective.

“The goal is to have an impactful plan that drives how we spend our time and energy. The combination of the action plans, tasks, and the quarterly reports will be critical in staying focused and holding each other accountable. There is a ton of great work outlined and we can't wait to get started,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity Nate Franz.

Once finalized, the new strategic plan will be made available on the district website. Anyone with questions about the plan is encouraged to contact Superintendent Peter Smith.

Moving forward with J-D's \$34.5 million capital project!

On Dec. 17, voters approved the district's next capital project. The project will be completed in two phases. The design of phase one is expected to be complete by this summer and will include site work at J-D High School and Tecumseh Elementary School. Design work for the second phase, which includes significant interior work at J-D High School and Jamesville Elementary School (see photo) is expected to be complete by the end of 2025. Once the design phase is complete for each phase, plans will be submitted to the New York State Education Department for approval. You can view full project scope details and the financial breakdown by visiting a dedicated capital project webpage on the district website.



SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: FINDING THE DISTRICT'S NEXT LEADER

The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District Board of Education has started the first round of interviews to find the district's next Superintendent of Schools. The board is anticipated to make an appointment in April or May.

Stakeholder input from students, families, staff, and the community has played an integral role in the interview process. The board conducted a survey asking participants to help develop a profile of desirable attributes wanted in the district's next leader. The board is using a summary of the responses while evaluating candidates.

“The hiring of the next Superintendent of Schools is one of the most important duties of the Board of Education. Hearing from our community through the survey about the qualities and attributes that are most important will be incredibly valuable as we select the best candidate for this

position,” said Board of Education President Joe Gross.

The board is working with OCM BOCES District Superintendent, Matthew L. Cook, Ed. D. to conduct the confidential search. A confidential search typically leads to a larger candidate pool and increases the likelihood that the most qualified candidates will apply for the position.

Superintendent Dr. Peter Smith announced his retirement plans in Oct. and will serve the district through the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. The new hire would officially begin leadership duties for the 2025-26 school year in July.

A dedicated Superintendent search webpage is available on the district website. It includes important news updates, links, and a question and answer section.

J-D'S CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION!

The district is proud to share highlights from all five school buildings. Each has found unique examples to show the district's four strategic plan focus areas in action: Culture of Wellness; Curriculum and Programs; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Family and Community Engagement.



■ **SNOW MUCH FUN** - Tecumseh Elementary School hosted a snow-themed assembly in Jan. featuring a fun competition among staff. Teams representing each grade rushed to turn a teacher into a snowman using toilet paper and other items. Moses DeWitt teacher Elizabeth DeLaRoca also visited to read her children's book, "Sal the Snowball," to students and answered questions.

■ **SPREADING KINDNESS** - Moses DeWitt Elementary School teamed up with Cafe Kubal to spread kindness throughout the community. Students decorated coffee sleeves and cups which were distributed and put on display at the 2218 East Colvin Street location. It was part of the school's participation in the 14th annual Great Kindness Challenge during the week of Jan. 27-3. The student and staff efforts were also featured by several local media outlets.



■ **MORE THAN BRACELETS** - Seniors Caidence McIntosh and Olivia Quackenbush sell bracelets during lunch. Students in the Jamesville-DeWitt High School Spanish Honor Society recently raised more than \$1,300 for The Pulsera Project, a fair-trade, nonprofit organization that helps Central American artisans. Society members sold hundreds of handmade bracelets and purses made by artists in Guatemala and Nicaragua.

■ **PUTTING THEIR SKILLS TO THE TEST** - Congrats to the J-DMS Read Only Memory (ROM) team for earning the Robot Performance Award at the FIRST LEGO League Challenge facilitated by OCM BOCES. They competed against 23 teams representing 10 area districts.

■ **BUILDING CONNECTIONS** - Jamesville Elementary School students have embraced a new tradition, nominating fellow students for acts of kindness. The Nominate Kindness Wall has become a popular display at the school. The goal is to encourage others, build connections, and increase a sense of belonging among students. It was created after Student Climate Data was reviewed by the Character Education Committee. Music teacher Beth Quackenbush and Art teacher Corrine McAuliff helped make it a reality.

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
IS PRINTED THROUGHOUT THE
SCHOOL YEAR BY THE
JAMESVILLE-DEWITT BOARD OF
EDUCATION IN COOPERATION
WITH THE CAPITAL REGION BOCES
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.

Dr. Peter Smith
Superintendent of Schools

4 Newsletter Winter 2025

UPK Program

J-D is happy to offer a full day UPK program. J-D UPK students are placed in classrooms in district or with our community based partnerships at The Rothschild Early Childhood Center or Little Lukes. Placement letters and orientation information are expected to be mailed out in March.

Kindergarten Registration

If your child will be five years of age or more on Dec. 1, 2025 they are eligible for Kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year. Please start the registration process online or call the district Registrar at 315-445-8300.

If your child is currently in a UPK classroom in the Jamesville-DeWitt district or the Rothschild Early Childhood Center you do not need to re-register for kindergarten.



CONNECT WITH J-D!

Follow the district on Facebook for good news and school highlights.



■ Jamesville-DeWitt High School's musical "Mary Poppins" was supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! 105 students in grades 9-12 and dedicated staff worked together to bring the production to life - Photo Credit Amelia Beamish.

2025-26 Budget Development

The Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District wants community members to feel informed before heading to the polls in May. You can find the 2025-26 budget development calendar, board budget presentations, and more on the Budget and Finance page of the district website.

The district will also share important budget news on the district website as well as via ParentSquare. Community members without a student enrolled in school can sign-up for J-D's ParentSquare Community Group by using the QR code on the front page of this newsletter. A dedicated budget newsletter will also be mailed to the community prior to the budget hearing and vote.

VOTE

BUDGET HEARING
Monday, May 12, 2025
7 p.m. In-person and
via Zoom. For link, visit
jamesvilledewitt.org

BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
7 a.m. to 9 p.m. J-D High
School Gymnasium
6845 Edinger Drive

Qualifications

1. United States Citizen.
2. At least 18 years of age.
3. A school district resident for at least 30 days prior to May 20, 2025.