

Little Compton School Department Budget Message

We are pleased to report on the status of the schools to the Citizens of Little Compton. The proposed PreK through Grade 12 school budget for Fiscal Year 2023 shows an increase in total expenditures of \$253,883 over the last year's budget. The town appropriation requested to support the Fiscal Year 2023 budget is \$7,638,456 — which represents a 3.44% increase over the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriation.

Since March of 2020, when the world shut down due to the pandemic, the Little Compton School Department and Wilbur McMahon School succeeded from the get-go in offering cutting edge distance learning and then full in-person learning for all PreK through grade 8 Little Compton students. The town's strong support of the school department afforded administration and staff ready access to ample resources that served the school quite well (i.e. optimal class-sizes for distancing, green spaces, HVAC and filtering/purification systems, appropriate custodial staffing — with overlapping shifts for continuous deep cleaning, and an unprecedented investment in state-of-the-art instructional technology).

Offering the town's children a world-class education is our shared commitment, and the proof is in the pudding when it comes to indicators of academic excellence. For example, recently, five Wilbur McMahon 8th graders were recognized for their brilliant work at the 2022 Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair. Two of them finished in the Top 10 of nearly 100 students from private and public middle schools throughout the state! One of our young scientists won both the Narragansett Bay Commission Award and the Coastal Resources Management Council Award. Kudos to all Wilbur students who participated at the school and state levels -- and to their teachers who are instrumental in managing, organizing and overseeing this annual event. Well done!

Also, one of Wilbur McMahon's 7th graders — a gifted fiction writer — was recently feted at a special awards ceremony held at the Newport Art Museum alongside other *Write Rhode Island* competition winners and will be published in a special anthology. Our students, with the support of the adults around them, are surely making a name for themselves in the arts and sciences!

More evidence of Wilbur McMahon School's excel-

lence includes the Rhode Island Department of Education's visit to our campus last month to capture footage for their *RICAS SUPERSTARS* video. Though it is true that state tests (Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System) are but one data point, these objective measures tell us how our students are performing relative to the rest of the state. Little Compton is #5 in ELA achievement in the state (#1 in growth) and #6 in Math achievement (#3 in growth). Our Grade-3 students (current 4th grade) are #1 in the state in math achievement (out of 170 elementary schools)!

In addition, currently, Wilbur McMahon is poised to be the only public middle school in the state to achieve International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme status — a most prestigious designation.

Surely, the pandemic continues to impact all sectors of society, but, true to form, all members of the Little Compton School Department and the greater community continue to work together to offer our students an enriching and vibrant education within safe and healthy spaces. Thank you for your continued support of our most precious shared resource — the children of the Town of Little Compton.

Scholastic Highlights

(Some of the below initiatives are on pause during the pandemic.)

- Rhode Island Science + Engineering Fair (Grade 8)
- First-Tech Challenge (STEM competition)
- Competitive sports: Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, Track, and Lacrosse
- Award-Winning Band + Chorus Programs
- Summer Enrichment Camp opportunities
- Major musical production staged each year
- Upgraded one-to-one Chromebooks/iPads
- International Baccalaureate candidacy
- Pre-School Program (ages 3, 4 and 5)
- After-school Library/Media Center access
- National Geographic Geo Bee (statewide)
- Scripps Spelling Bee (statewide)
- iReady (interim assessments in literacy/math)

Wilbur McMahon School Staff

- Full-time: 43
- Part-time: 5

Little Compton Student Population

- ◆ Students at Wilbur McMahon School: 207 (PreK-8: 203/ Early Intervention Services: 4)
 - ◆ Students at Portsmouth High School: 87
 - ◆ Students in CTE/MET Placements: 4
 - ◆ Students in specialized/OD Placements: 4
- Total Student Population: 302**

