

MOUNT ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

2009-2010 School Budget

Dear Community Member,

On Tuesday, **April 21, 2009**, the citizens of Mount Arlington will have the opportunity to vote on the school budget. It is essential that all residents be informed about the fine work being accomplished in our schools, therefore we present this newsletter to you. We are proud to state that our **total annual tax impact for the 2009-2010 school year is \$26.20 per average assessed household!** To date, this is the **lowest tax impact in Morris County**. I encourage you to read the information presented here and learn about our educational programs and about how our school budget is prepared.

Each year we are required by State law to meet with the public and present our plans for the upcoming school year. We have held public dialogues and conducted public hearings on a dozen occasions prior to the final approval of our plans. The state of **our Country's economy** was the Board of Education's first and foremost concern and point of discussion in proposing the 2009-2010 budget. Therefore, this budget reflects those sentiments. We will be presenting **No New Projects, No Capital Outlay** while continuing to address the changing needs of our schools and community.

Numerous challenges have been placed before us this year due to the **defeat of last year's budget** and our **Borough Council's extensive cuts** to our bottom line. The impact of this has resulted in the early evening closing of the Decker School, reduction of \$25,000 in annual maintenance projects, decreased custodial staff, no window replacements, no new instructional programs, reduced teacher training, reduction of student support services, and a reduction in general supplies. Please be reminded that due to last year's budget defeat and the subsequent cuts our base budget was increased by less than 1% .

Our **Standardized Test scores have continued to soar** due to our increased focus on Higher Order Thinking and Test Taking Preparation. Continuing to make this kind of **progress will require your support**. We are continuously proud of the manner in which we have worked to make certain that our schools are a **source of pride** for our community. Our eye on the future is focused on maintaining this distinction.

Please be reminded that although our schools may be viewed as a Kindergarten through Eighth grade school district included within our budget are the costs related to the Ninth grade through Twelfth grade education of our school community. Of additional note is that for the 2009-2010 school year, \$3,608,039 or **34.3% of our total proposed budget** is directly related to **high school tuition and transportation** for our students.

The 2009-2010 annual budget was constructed based on three important premises:

1. Maintain **High Standards** and the **High Quality of Instructional Programs**
2. Insure that every effort has been made to **Minimize the Tax Impact**
3. Provide for our students while **Remaining Mindful of Our Community's Needs**

Each of us is acutely aware of the high cost of living in the State of New Jersey and of the constraints of our Country's economy. We believe that you will be pleased with the manner in which we are working to **minimize the impact** of our budget on your household. Our 1998 debt service has been refinanced offering an **annual cost savings of \$14,000**. We have joined into cooperatives for the purchase of fuel, electricity and telephones and have worked to renegotiate all insurance policies. Over the years we have reduced both instructional and administrative staff and related costs. Although the challenges will continue as we explore avenues of containing and reducing costs wherever possible, our budget goal remains focused on providing **Quality Schools** with the **Lowest Impact on Taxes**.

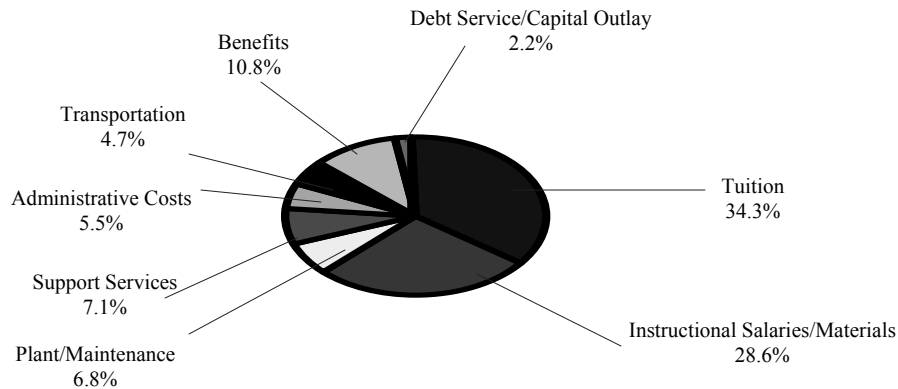
This year, almost more than ever before, **we need your support**. We are certain that you will be pleased with what we have accomplished with this budget. Please join with us in planning for our children and our community's future. As always, please feel free to telephone my office **to share your thoughts and ask questions** at 973-398-6400 or the Board of Education office at 973-770-7140. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jane Mullins Jameson
Superintendent of Schools

How are the funds spent?

Expenditures			
	2008-2009	2009-2010	\$ Change
Tuition	\$3,439,400	\$3,594,702	\$155,302
Instruction	\$2,519,294	\$2,730,981	\$211,687
Support Services	\$878,658	\$746,792	-\$131,866
Extra-Curricular & Athletics	\$63,900	\$80,515	\$16,615
Administration	\$580,339	\$575,652	-\$4,687
Plant Operation & Maintenance	\$707,180	\$724,460	\$17,280
Transportation	\$505,959	\$493,925	-\$12,034
Employee Benefits	\$1,071,350	\$1,141,670	\$70,320
Capital Outlay	\$232,350	\$11,925	-\$220,425
Grants	\$189,864	\$181,300	-\$8,564
Debt Service	\$232,369	\$233,931	\$1,562
TOTAL:	\$10,420,663	\$10,515,853	\$95,190



Tuition

Tuition to Roxbury High School, tuition for incarcerated students, and tuition for special needs students attending other public and private schools for the handicapped.

Employee Benefits

Medical, dental, tuition reimbursement, unemployment charges, and workers compensation.

Other Budget Categories

Instructional Salaries/Materials

Salaries of teachers, aides and substitutes, instructional materials, texts, curriculum development, extracurricular and athletic costs in Pre-K through 8th grade.

Administrative Costs

Salaries of superintendent, principal, business administrator and main office staff, Board of Education expenses, legal fees, office equipment and supplies, district telephone expenses and postage.

Transportation

Buses for regular instruction (K-12), field trips, athletics, special education students, and aid-in-lieu for resident students attending private schools.

Support Services

Salaries and supplies for health, speech, guidance, library, child study team, and support services for children with special needs.

Plant and Maintenance

Salaries of custodians, building and equipment repairs, custodial supplies, property insurance, maintenance contracts, and utilities.

Debt Service/Capital Outlay

Repayment of bonds for building projects, increase in general fund capital reserve account, equipment purchases, facilities acquisition and construction services.

Support Our Schools

The 2009-2010 School Budget presents the:

**Lowest Annual Tax Impact
In Morris County!**

\$26.20

(per average assessed household of \$294,000)

In Other Words:

Your ballot will read as follows:

RESOLVED, that there should be raised for the General Fund \$ 8,752,714 for the ensuing School Year (2009-2010).

How does the proposed school budget impact my property taxes?

Per \$100,000 of Assessed Value

Total Annual Impact = \$8.91

School

New Staff



Mount Arlington Schools welcome new faculty. Pictured are: (Standing— from left to right) Miss Janel Sabella, Mrs. Debbi Katcher, Miss Emily Perritt, Miss Kristina Thompson, Miss Lauren Anderson

Mount Arlington's Veterans



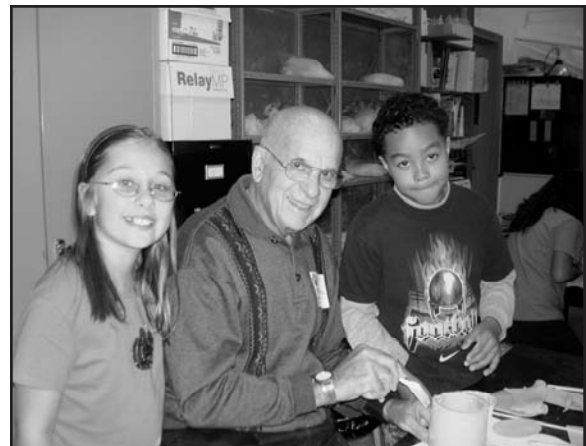
Mount Arlington's Veterans were honored this past Fall in our annual Veterans Day Celebration. Local residents from World War II through the Iraq War were honored by our students in Grades 3 through 8.

Soccer Champions!



The Lady Lakers Soccer Team concluded a successful season by winning the district's first ever Group I Morris County Soccer Championship.

Community Ceramics



Local community members took a pottery class offered by our 5th grade students. The students enjoyed the opportunity to share their love of Art.

- ◆ Cooperative Purchasing of Utilities and Busing
- ◆ Pursuit of Grant Funding
- ◆ Consolidation of Maintenance Providers and Agreements
- ◆ Reduced Administrative Costs-Consolidated Business Office Services
- ◆ Reduced Full-time Instruction Aides to Part-time
- ◆ Computerized Planning, Scheduling, Instructional Programming and Communication
- ◆ Innovative Programming for Special Education
- ◆ Realignment of Staff
- ◆ Renegotiated Health Benefits and Insurances at a Savings of \$32,000
- ◆ Refinanced Debt Resulting in a Total Cost Savings to Date of \$68,000

Cost saving measures are always in the forefront of our thinking. Over the past several years, through careful planning and fiscal responsibility we have been able to best manage costs through the following initiatives:

What is being done to contain rising costs?

- ◆ General Maintenance Only
- ◆ No Capital Outlay
- ◆ No Major Projects

What is being done to enhance the Buildings and Grounds of our Schools?

- ◆ Updated Science Instructional Materials

What is being done to enhance the *Educational Programs* in our classrooms?

The 2009-2010 school budget highlights are as follows:

Frequently Asked Questions

Mount Arlington School District
Board of Education
235 Howard Blvd
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856

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RESIDENT

MT. ARLINGTON, NJ 07856

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Mrs. Anne Hughes
Mr. Thomas Morgan
Mr. Eugene Paradiso
Mr. Eric Stone



**Your Schools,
Your Children,
Your Vote!**

*April 21, 2009
2:00-9:00 p.m.
Mount Arlington School
Media Center*

Highlights

New Technology



Students in grades 3 through 8 are improving their understanding of the Spanish language through the use of new software that covers all of the essential areas of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, grammar, vocabulary and culture.

Health and Safety



Each year during Fire Prevention Week, the Mount Arlington Fire Department demonstrates safety procedures to students at the Edith M. Decker School.

Trout in the Classroom



Through the help of the Mount Arlington P.T.A. our 7th and 8th grade students are raising trout in Science class. This program engages students and helps connect them with real life water quality, fish and wildlife issues and inspires them to seek solutions.

Music Technology



Miss Heather Baxter helps a student write and record a personal composition. Students are creating masterpieces using Music Ace and Garage Band software.