

EAGLE SPOTLIGHT

GALWAY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT & BUDGET NEWS 2022-23



GALWAY
Central School District

Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 5, 2022
6:30 p.m., High School Library

Voting Day

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- Proposed School Budget
- 1 School Board Position

Eligibility to Vote

- Citizen of the United States,
- 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote,
- Resident within the district for a period of 30 days prior to the vote
- Registered to vote

Register to Vote

If you are registered to vote in the general election, then you are registered to vote in the school election. If you are unsure if you are registered to vote, please call the Board of Elections Office for the county in which you reside.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to registered voters of the Galway Central School District who will not be able to vote on Election Day. The ballot application, with instructions, is available at www.galwaycsd.org or by contacting the District Clerk, Linda Dumblewski, at 518-882-1033 Ext. 3224.

Vote Tuesday, May 17, 2022

The Galway Central School District Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible budget that is centered on creating well-rounded students by maintaining and expanding core programs that yield individual student success each academic year. To achieve this goal, the Board focused on the following priorities when developing the budget:

1. Fiscal stability and sustainability
2. Staff and student needs and wants
3. Health and safety of students and faculty
4. Safe, open, and attractive facilities

Galway CSD is proposing a budget of \$24,215,827 for the 2022-23 school year. This is an overall budget-to-budget increase of \$763,580. The tax levy increase will be \$270,078 or 2.4%, which is below the district's maximum allowable tax levy cap of 3.4%.

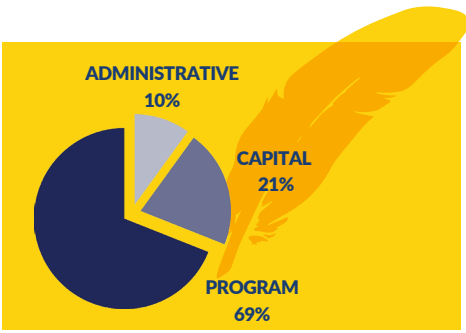
District finances are in excellent shape. As a result, the district is able to preserve and expand student programs and permanent staff. The proposed 2022-23 budget supports all current programming and includes:

- Three full-day prekindergarten classes
- Continuation of smaller class sizes at Joseph Henry Elementary School K-2
- Two 72-passenger replacement buses

Included in the regular budget is a \$100,000 "capital outlay" project that does not require special approval from voters. NYS Education Law allows school districts to conduct one capital outlay project annually, which will be reimbursed in full in the form of NYS Building Aid the following fiscal year. The 2022-23 capital outlay project will replace the wooden walkway on Evan's Way, the path from the Elementary School to the playground, with Trex Decking or something more durable. It will also install a handicap accessible sidewalk from the Junior/Senior High School to Eagle Landing if it fits within the budget.

Residents will also elect one member to the Board of Education.

We encourage you to vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 in the Galway Junior/Senior High School gym between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. As a reminder, all absentee ballots must be returned to the district by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.



Budget Q&A

Why is the library debt included on the School District Budget Notice?

The Galway Public Library requested that the levy for the library debt payments be included on the school property tax bills, and Galway Central School District agreed per Education Law Article 5 Section 260 Subdivision 10. As a result, residents will notice on the School District Budget Notice and Property Tax Report Card a tax levy to support library debt in "Row B." The library debt is included in the school district budget total. The funds collected for the library debt directly offset the debt payment the district makes on behalf of the library. The added \$84,000 to cover the library debt brings the total levy to \$11,484.

Why aren't we using the Bus Reserves for the Bus Purchase?

The district was extremely frugal during the 2021-22 school year. There were many unknowns regarding the pandemic, and State Aid has been increased, so we are able to fund the buses in the budget.



Good luck to the JHE Odyssey of the Mind Team who will be heading to the World Finals in Iowa May 25-28, 2022. This will be the first time a team from Galway will be competing in the World Finals since 1995!

Expenditure Summary

Estimated Expenditures by Function

ADMINISTRATIVE	2021-22	2022-23	Change
Board of Education	\$21,370	\$21,370	\$0
Central Administration	\$206,900	\$207,700	\$800
Business/Finance/Audit	\$362,439	\$352,200	(\$10,239)
Legal Services	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Personnel Services	\$2,850	\$7,000	\$4,150
Public Information	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Printing/Mailing/Data	\$226,500	\$246,500	\$20,000
Unallocated Insurance	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
School Association Dues	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0
BOCES Admin.	\$138,677	\$151,000	\$12,323
Supervision Regular School	\$420,150	\$389,500	(\$30,650)
Curriculum Development	\$107,050	\$118,500	\$11,450
Planning and Evaluation	\$6,702	\$57,483	\$50,781
Staff Development	\$113,000	\$115,000	\$2,000
Employee Benefits	\$496,825	\$531,603	\$34,778
SUBTOTAL	\$2,339,463	\$2,434,856	\$95,393

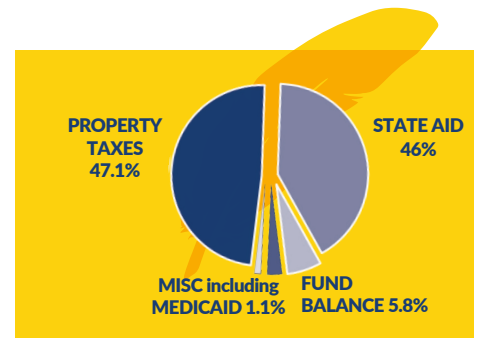
PROGRAM	2021-22	2022-23	Change
Regular Instruction	\$5,911,857	\$6,048,070	\$136,213
Special Education	\$2,103,638	\$2,268,700	\$165,062
Occupational Education	\$504,387	\$520,387	\$16,000
Special School Programs	\$44,500	\$57,500	\$13,000
Library/Media/Technology	\$974,480	\$981,380	\$6,900
Pupil Services Group	\$547,882	\$544,000	(\$3,882)
Co-Curricular	\$69,200	\$27,700	(\$41,500)
Interscholastic Athletics	\$272,100	\$259,100	(\$13,000)
Transportation	\$1,085,450	\$1,106,000	\$20,550
Garage	\$214,050	\$218,900	\$4,850
Contract Transportation	\$1,930	\$1,930	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$4,301,175	\$4,615,432	\$314,257
Other Fund Transfers	\$80,000	\$110,000	\$30,000
SUBTOTAL	\$16,110,649	\$16,759,099	\$648,450

CAPITAL	2021-22	2022-23	Change
Operations and Utilities	\$1,090,950	\$1,181,000	\$90,050
Maintenance	\$520,260	\$574,500	\$54,240
Refund of Taxes	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
District Bus Purchase	\$272,200	\$295,000	\$22,800
Employee Benefits	\$337,912	\$361,566	\$23,654
Debt Service	\$2,679,813	\$2,508,806	(\$171,007)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
SUBTOTAL	\$5,002,135	\$5,021,872	\$19,737
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$23,452,247	\$24,215,827	\$763,580

Revenue Summary

Estimated Revenues

	2021-22	2022-23	Change
Real Property Tax	\$11,129,922	\$11,400,000	\$270,078
State Aid	\$10,594,053	\$11,140,827	\$546,774
Miscellaneous	\$276,597	\$275,000	(\$1,597)
Fund Balance Allocation	\$1,323,386	\$1,400,000	\$76,614
TOTAL REVENUES	\$23,452,247	\$24,215,827	\$763,580



Proposition

#1: Proposed School Budget

Shall the proposed budget of expenditures for the Galway Central School District for the 2022-23 school year in the amount of \$24,215,827 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be approved and the amount thereof be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting monies available from State Aid and other sources as provided by law?

Meet the Candidate

There is one vacancy on the Galway CSD Board of Education. The vacancy is for a four-year term of office that is effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026. The seat is currently held by Joan Slagle. Candidate:

David Page

Mr. Page is a graduate of Galway High School. He lives in Amsterdam with his wife, Erin, and their two children, who both attend JHE.



Mrs. Steven's agriculture classes hatched (and named) chicks for an animal science lesson.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget 2022-23 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$23,452,247	\$24,215,827	\$23,653,543
Increase for the 2022-23 School Year		\$763,580	\$201,296
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		3%	0.9%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		4.7%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,129,922	\$11,400,000	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$91,337	\$84,000	
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)	\$11,221,259	\$11,484,000	\$11,221,259
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$578,535	\$635,350	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,557,702	\$10,837,144	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$10,551,387	\$10,764,650	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$6,315	\$72,494	
Administrative component	\$2,339,463	\$2,434,856	\$2,422,000
Program component	\$16,110,649	\$16,759,099	\$16,685,671
Capital component	\$5,002,135	\$5,021,872	\$4,545,872

* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, certain equipment in the capital and program components and certain contractual and supplies in the administrative component would be reduced.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

The Estimated Basic STAR exemption savings is based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$516

Meet Anna, Grade 12

Anna Dabrowski was named a Commended Student in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. Anna is one of 34,000 students across the country who are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).



Anna is the Student Senate president, a member of the National Honor Society, and a two-sport athlete in volleyball and track. She plays tenor saxophone and is a member of the school's Jazz Band. She plans to major in systems engineering.

PreK Program Expanded

Galway's preschool program for 4-year olds that began in the 2019-2020 school year with one morning session and one afternoon session has experienced tremendous growth. The program expanded to three classrooms this year, thanks to a federal grant for Universal PreK. The program also shifted from half-day to full-day to allow our youngest learners more time to experience specials including art, music, and physical education.



Planning for the 2022-23 School Year

Our district administrative team has been working on our 2022-2023 school schedules and programs. We are happy to announce that school schedules, including bus runs, will return to pre-COVID times.

New Food Options

In addition to the bus schedule, elementary students will return to eating lunch in the cafeteria and enjoying recess with their grade level. Junior/Senior High School students will eat in the cafeteria at tables. This will save paper goods and supplies that were needed when students ate in the classrooms during the pandemic.

We are pleased to announce that the cafeteria will begin offering food after school for students who participate in after school activities. Pizza, snacks, and beverages will be healthy fuel for active youth and generate additional revenue for the cafeteria, which has to sustain itself as a not-for-profit business.

Grade 6 Officially Moving to Junior High Schedule

Students who are currently in fifth grade will "graduate" from Joseph Henry Elementary School at the end of this school year. They will culminate their elementary school careers with the traditional Hovercraft activities, overnight at Camp Chingachgook, and a special moving up ceremony.

The district has been gradually transitioning the sixth grade to the Junior High schedule since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

"We found that connecting the sixth graders to the seventh graders is more educationally appropriate," said Galway Junior/Senior High School Principal Michael Miller. "It gives them more opportunities, particularly with extracurricular activities."

Next year, sixth graders will follow the 8-period schedule, switch classes on the seventh and eighth grade bell schedule, and participate in activities with grades seven and eight.

Returning to Pre-Pandemic AIS Model

To address the gaps in skills we are seeing across grade levels due to the challenges we have experienced during the two years of the pandemic, JHE will return to the pre-pandemic model of Academic Intervention Services (AIS). There will be three math AIS teachers and three reading AIS teachers with their own spaces in which to work with either small groups of students or one-on-one.

We are also implementing new AIS math and reading resources. Do the Math® will target skills deficits in math with small group, hands-on instruction for students in grades K-8. Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum will be used with PreK-2 and AIS students in grades 3-5 to provide unified, systematic instruction that follows the science of reading.

High School Graduation

High school graduation will be held outside for one more year before we bring it back into the auditorium.

"We had such a great event last year," said Mr Miller. "There was a nice breeze under the event tent, and it was a beautiful way to celebrate."





Live entertainment is back! Galway High Drama was thrilled to perform *The Wizard of Oz* in the recently renovated auditorium in front of live audiences.



Meet Max, Grade 8

Max Sicard really likes baseball and plays on the modified baseball team at school. He has been playing since he was five years old, and his favorite positions are second base and catcher. Max's favorite subjects in school are math and English. He likes paint ball, video games, four-wheeling, and snowmobiling. His favorite book is *Mexican WhiteBoy* by Matt de la Peña. Max has an older brother, a younger sister, a little brother, and a cat.

Additional Federal Dollars Address Learning Loss and Social-Emotional Wellness

School districts in New York State will receive additional funding in the 2021-22 enacted state budget from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 to address learning loss and other items due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New York State was allocated nearly \$9 billion under the ARP Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. An additional Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act provided New York State with just over \$4 billion ESSER 2 Funds, with a minimum of \$3.6 billion (90 percent) allocated to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). At least 20% of the funds are to be used to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as extended day or extended school year programs.

Galway CSD will receive a total of \$1,242,438 in ARP/ESSER federal funds. The district expects to utilize the funds over this year and the following two school years.

Galway Central School District reached out to stakeholders and asked them to identify the top three areas they would like the ESSER Funds to address. The top categories were:

- School year enrichment programs (58.5%)
- Physical education/athletic programs (42.9%)
- Mental health services and supports (38.4%)
- After school programs (30.8%)

"We know if students are not mentally well, they are not going to learn," said Business Administrator Mrs. Courtney Sayward. "We knew we needed more help in the areas of school counseling and psychology."

As a result of this input, the district developed the following plan for utilizing the funds:

- Summer Enrichment - being offered for free for the next three years
 - Sports Camps
 - Theater Camp
 - STEM Camps
 - Art Camps
- After School Programs
- Playground for grades 3-5 that can be used for recess, team building, collaborative activities, mental health
- Science room upgrades
- Additional Teachers (please see page 6)
- Elementary School Counselor (please see page 6)
- Elementary School Psychologist (please see page 6)
- Part-time social worker
- Additional staff members in the Facilities Department

"We knew we needed more academic programs to go along with iReady reading and math. The students were struggling when they were hybrid last year, and when they were able to come back to school in-person full-time, they were struggling," said Mrs. Sayward.

The additional teachers are helping to reduce class sizes and provide additional attention and support to students. They are also supporting the RULER program in the classrooms to make sure all students are receiving the social-emotional pieces. The district will measure these efforts over the next three years to determine efficacy.

Meet Patrick, Grade 5

Patrick Stallmer just started bobsledding! He practices once a week in Lake Placid, and he is the driver. He has been in Cub Scouts for 6-7 years. He likes to cook with his father and meet new friends. Patrick has a younger sister and a cat. His favorite subject in school is gym, and his favorite sport is team handball. He also likes comic books, video games, wrestling, and soccer.



Summer Camps

Galway Central School District is excited to offer Summer School and Summer Camp Programs for students in the district for the summer of 2022.

Children who are entering kindergarten through grade 8 are eligible to participate in the Summer Camps, which will be held in the afternoons following Summer School. Theater, and Art camps are open to rising K-8 students; STEM camps are open to rising grades 1-8 students; and Sports Camps are open to rising grades 2-8 students.

These programs are funded with the additional federal dollars the district received related to the pandemic. As a result, they are being offered free of charge for the first three years.

Additional Staff With Federal Funds

Using federal ARP/CRRSA and UPK funds (from p. 4-5), the district hired staff in key areas to reduce class sizes and ensure all students are receiving social-emotional support. The district will measure these efforts over the next three years to determine efficacy. (Not pictured: Social Worker Leah Acevedo)



Vanessa Couse
PreK



Hannah Feldman
PreK



Shannen Moore
Kindergarten



Sara Marshall
Special Education



Jack Hogan
Elementary
School Counselor



Elise Zigrosser
Elementary
School Psychologist

Update on Capital Project & Facilities

Since residents approved the small capital project last May, district architects drafted the design and construction documents and received SED approval on the project. We put the project out to bid over the winter, and all proposals came in higher than planned.

“The cost of labor and materials is significantly higher than it was a year ago,” said Business Administrator Courtney Sayward. “As a result, some of the items in the project will have to wait. We’re focusing on the bus garage and the pavilion.”

The bus garage lifts, fuel tanks, underground storage tanks, oil/water separator, and pavement will be replaced this summer. The pavilion that collapsed during a storm in June 2020 will be rebuilt too (see picture below).

Items that were removed from the Capital Project due to pricing include the underground tanks at the Junior/Senior High School, new flooring in parts of the Junior/Senior High School, and restrooms near the district offices.

The restrooms near the auditorium are slated to be renovated by June 30 as part of the 2021-22 capital outlay project.

Two New Pathways to Graduation

Since 2017, Galway CSD has created a coordinated, articulated curriculum for all students K-12. In the past two years, the district launched two new pathways that have been approved by NYSED: Business and Career and Technical Education Agriculture.

We are proud to say that nearly all electives for these pathways are college credit bearing courses, and students who graduate in these pathways will receive technical endorsements on their diplomas. The Business Pathway has an articulation agreement with Fulton-Montgomery Community College, and the Career and Technical Education Ag Pathway has an articulation agreement with SUNY Cobleskill.



Playground Planned for Grades 3-5

District architects are working on a design for a playground for students in grades 3-5. Play is vital for developing fundamental life skills and friendships.

The new playground will be located behind the 3-4 wing. It will be built in the Summer of 2023 using federal CRRSA Funds.

The playground will stimulate children's physical, cognitive, creative, and social-emotional development.



Meet Brooklynne, Grade 3

Brooklynne Taylor always tries her best in everything that she does. She is always willing to help others and shows kindness to everyone around her. She is happy to include everyone in what she is doing and is polite and respectful to all. She loves

learning new things and applies herself in all subject areas. Outside of school, Brooklynne is an orange belt in karate and has been doing it for four years. She plays soccer and likes to draw, color, bake, and ice skate. She has a younger sister and two dogs named Blaze and Duke. Her favorite subject in school is art.

Emotions Matter

Have you heard your children talking about a Mood Meter, or how they feel? Have you have heard them using new words to label their emotions and wonder where they learned those phrases?

Galway Central School District is implementing a new program called RULER that was developed at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. This evidence-based approach to social and emotional learning gives teachers tools to help students build skills of emotional intelligence.

Research shows that skills of emotional intelligence help people of all ages use emotions wisely, opening opportunities for us to succeed in school, at work, and in life.

The entire Galway school community PreK-12 is using the RULER approach. Students, staff, and visitors to the school will see **Mood Meters** throughout the building to remind individuals to check in with themselves and gauge their energy level and continuum of happiness.

Teachers may ask children to place themselves in a color on the Mood Meter ~

Red is frustrated or upset

Yellow is excited or enthusiastic

Blue is sad or sleepy or down

Green is calm and ready to learn or solve problems

Being in a certain color can have an impact on how individuals learn, receive information, and interpret interactions between and among people. When we understand our emotions and have strategies to regulate our emotions, we have the ability to change the color that we're in and improve the rest of the day. This helps to create and maintain physical and emotional health and a positive school environment.

At Joseph Henry Elementary School, the Mood Meter is integrated into existing academic curricula. At the Junior/Senior High School, Mood Meter activities focus on developmentally appropriate topics for early and late adolescence, mainly around academics and learning.

RULER Works for Families Too

By creating a shared language of recognizing, understanding, labeling, expressing, and regulating emotions, schools and families can validate and broaden social and emotional skills at home in a way that honors cultural diversity and prepares children for success in life.

You may receive some family-oriented Mood Meter activities to try at home. We will also provide ongoing communication about how the RULER program is going in school and what that looks like for each grade level.

If you would like to learn more about RULER or the Mood Meter, please contact your child's teacher and/or Mrs. Jennifer Hall at 518-882-1033.





Galway Central School District
5317 Sacandaga Road
Galway, New York 12074-0223

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Jay Anderson, Vice President
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Property Tax Report Card

	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	Percent Change
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$23,452,247	\$24,215,827	3%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,129,922	\$11,400,000	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$91,337	\$84,000	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$11,221,259	\$11,484,000	2%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$578,535	\$635,350	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,557,702	\$10,837,144	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$10,551,387	\$10,764,650	
I. Difference (G - H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)	\$6,315	\$72,494	
Public School Enrollment	816	832	2%
Consumer Price Index			4.7%
	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Estimated	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$4,830,622	\$5,035,622	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,323,386	\$1,400,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$3,520,003	\$4,208,303	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	15.01%	17.38%	

*Please note that this Property Tax Report Card presentation is in accordance with NYS Education Law sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3).

Rocket Day!



**June 4, 2022
Dockstader Park @ Noon**

Please join us for the 10th Annual Galway Community Rocket Day!

"You build it, and we'll launch it!"

For information on how to build your own bottle rocket, visit us online ~ naturalphilosophers.org/rocketday

Register for School

If you have a child who will be four years old on or before December 1, 2022, he/she is eligible to attend our Pre-Kindergarten class at JHE for the 2022-23 school year. Our 2022-23 Pre-Kindergarten class is a full-day program with transportation provided. There is no cost to attend this program.

Similarly, if you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2022, he/she is eligible to attend Kindergarten.

To begin the registration process, all paperwork must be completed and uploaded online prior to June 1, 2022. We will have an open house prior to school beginning in the Fall. Please contact Barb Semo at 518-882-1033 ext. 4240 or Bsemo@galwaycsd.org