

CALDWELL- WEST CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
104 GRAY STREET, WEST CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY 07006
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973-228-8716 (F)

March 27, 2013

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

The Caldwell- West Caldwell Board of Education's Public Hearing on the 2013-2014 school district budget is scheduled for 7:30 pm on March 27, 2013, at the Harrison School, 104 Gray Street, West Caldwell, NJ. The complete budget will be on file and open to examination at the Harrison Building between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

The CWC School Budget has been designed by the staff, administration, and members of the Board of Education to meet the full complement of educational programs required by the New Jersey Department of Education's Core Curriculum Content Standards for kindergarten through 12th grade students in the District. The students participating in these programs may be your own, your neighbors, or even your own grandchildren. These school years are vital to the success of the student as she/he matures into a lifelong learner

The Caldwell- West Caldwell School District provides exceptional instructional programs that are reviewed annually. At the elementary level, average class size is 20 students per classroom. The elementary school band program is instrumental in fostering an appreciation of the fine arts in our District at a young age. We will continue to provide small group instruction for the enrichment program, basic skills program and the special education programs. Students in Middle School and High School can select from a host of after-school clubs and athletic teams.

The community has historically supported the School District and we will continue to provide a quality educational program, incorporating all the Core Content Standards including the use of the latest technology in the majority of the lessons for 2013-2014 school year. Our students have access to instruction by teachers who are 100% highly qualified and 100% high performing as defined by the NJDOE.

The proposed 2013-2014 school budget contains a total General Fund in the amount of \$40,111,868 which is made up of eleven major categories as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Instruction	12,202,244	30.42%
Special Education	8,148,244	20.31%
Employee Benefits	6,984,100	17.41%
Operations/Maintenance	4,197,154	10.46%
Administration/Technology	3,872,431	9.65%
Transportation	1,302,030	3.25%
Co-curricular/Athletics	1,082,653	2.70%
Library-Media	694,508	1.73%
Guidance	677,392	1.69%
Nursing/Attendance	544,737	1.36%
Capital Projects	406,275	1.02%

The residents of Caldwell and West Caldwell are being asked to support a local tax levy of \$37,446,765 and \$ 846,504 for Debt Service. This is an increase of \$ 734,325 (2%) and \$ 7,862 (.94%) respectively over the prior year. This will impact the school tax rate as follows:

	<u>Caldwell</u>	<u>West Caldwell</u>
2012 tax rate (per \$100/assessed value)	1.154	1.160
2013 tax rate (per \$100/assessed value)	1.140	1.177
Increase/ Decrease (per \$100/assessed value)	0.014	0.017

Increase/ Decrease on an average home valued at \$400,000	\$ 56.00	\$ 68.00
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The total increase in the 2013-2014 school budget is fiscally sound while maintaining all of the major educational programs, and provides for moderate enhancements. While previous budgets maintained the status quo and even a small decrease in the tax levy, this is not sustainable with steady increases in fixed costs.