

Good afternoon,

Recently, you may have received your latest tax bill from the Town of Brookhaven. Unfortunately, many of you are seeing a significant difference from the 2.84% tax increase that the Three Village Central School District submitted, and voters approved back in May. In some cases, the school tax increase appears to be more than 5%. I want to assure you that the school tax levy – the amount we are receiving in school taxes, is exactly 2.84% more than last year.

Mr. Jeff Carlson, Three Village Interim Deputy Superintendent, explains what he received as the reason from the Brookhaven Tax Assessor's office. He was told that:

In addition to the 2.84% increase in the tax levy, the school tax rate is increasing 0.32% due to the new senior citizen exemption.

Another 0.54% is due to a decrease in assessed values. This means that some properties in the district had their assessment lowered. Assessed values are what determine each property's share of the total tax levy. Therefore, a reduction in property assessment causes every other property's share of taxes to increase.

There is also a 1.47% increase in the tax rate due to what the Town Assessor's Office has said is a correction from last year's tax bills.

In addition, the New York State School Tax Reduction exemption, or STAR, has been decreased by the state. This is increasing the average school tax bill by 0.65%. (As a reminder, many homeowners now receive their STAR reimbursement directly from New York State instead of seeing it as a deduction on their tax bill.)

You may view Mr. Carlson's explanation of these changes to the Budget Advisory Committee here. <https://youtube.com/live/4wumGq7vMpA?feature=share>

Once again, the school district is not collecting any more in taxes than we submitted this school year, and that the residents of Three Village voted to approve - in full compliance with the tax cap.

We encourage all Town of Brookhaven residents to contact the town about the difference for further explanation.

Thank you,
Dr. Kevin Scanlon
Superintendent of Schools