

TSD News

Fall/Winter Edition 2023

Article 1 / Page 1: News From the Superintendent

As we approach the midpoint of the academic year, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to our incredible families and community for the support you have provided the Troy School District. Your commitment to education is the driving force behind our collective success, and I am truly thankful for the collaborative spirit that defines our community. A key focus for us this year has been the continuous professional development and coaching of our dedicated staff. We firmly believe in capacity building, understanding that investing in our educators is an investment in the future success of our students. We have entered into a strategic partnership with New Solutions K12 to enhance our strategic planning for the future. This collaboration aims to optimize our financial resources, ensuring that we provide the most effective and efficient educational experience for our students strengthening our commitment to academic excellence. One of our notable achievements this year is the recognition of Schroeder as a Blue Ribbon School. I am proud to announce that all of our schools in the district have now earned the coveted Blue Ribbon designation in the State of Michigan. This achievement reflects the exceptional learning environment that we have created collectively. We've been honored to welcome several districts to our schools, acknowledging us as a model of outstanding learning within the state. This recognition speaks volumes about the collaborative efforts of our educators, students, and parents in creating a thriving academic community. I am thrilled to share that the National Merit program has witnessed its highest numbers in our district's history. This remarkable achievement reflects the academic prowess and dedication of our students. It is a testament to the high standards we all uphold. The Troy School District is not just a place of learning; it is a community that values education, fosters inclusivity, and strives for excellence. I look forward to the continued support of our families and community as we work together to provide an unparalleled educational experience for our students.

Article 2 / Page 1: Bond 2022 Status Report

The Troy School District has been extremely busy orchestrating Series 1 of the bond, totaling an investment of \$190 million. These projects encompass a range of improvements, from athletic upgrades to playground enhancements, reflecting our commitment to providing worldclass facilities for our students. Athletic Upgrades at Troy and Athens High Schools: If you have visited Troy High, you may have seen some of the improvements already underway. Troy stadium has a new cutting-edge synthetic turf field, and the gymnasium boasts a new floor and bleachers. Synthetic and natural turf fields, new and updated outdoor restroom facilities, and a new concession stand are also part of the upcoming plans. Athens will also receive a new synthetic turf field and new tennis courts this summer. Innovative Furniture: Recognizing the importance

of adaptable and modern learning spaces, we have introduced furniture pilots at all elementary schools. Once feedback and recommendations have been collected, Baker Middle School, IA East, and Costello, Hamilton, Schroeder, Leonard, Wass, and Wattles Elementary Schools will obtain new furniture this summer. The remaining elementary schools will adopt new furniture in the summer of 2025. Elementary Playgrounds Redesign: Ensuring that our youngest learners have safe and stimulating play areas is a priority for TSD. We are in the process of redesigning elementary playgrounds, beginning with Barnard, Bemis, Hill, Morse, Troy Union, and Martell Elementary Schools in the summer of 2024. The remainder of the elementary school playgrounds will be completed in the summer of 2025. Smith Middle School Construction: The centerpiece of Series 1, Smith Middle School, is scheduled for groundbreaking in the spring of 2024. This endeavor is part of our commitment to providing a conducive and modern learning environment for our middle school students. Athens High School Design Phase: Looking ahead, the design phase for Athens High School is slated to begin in January 2024. While the building won't commence until 2027, this project reflects our forward-thinking approach to education, ensuring that our facilities align with the evolving needs of our students. As we embark on this exciting chapter, we thank you for your continued support and partnership in creating an educational environment that empowers our students for success.

Article 3 / Page 2: School Board Corner with Karl Schmidt

The Board of Education trustees had the opportunity to engage with students K-12, districtwide to witness some of our newest curricula and most innovative teaching techniques in action. We continue to be impressed with our learning community—our administration's vision, Teaching and Learning staff's commitment to deepening the learning of our students, principals' ability to build strong learning communities, and our teachers' enthusiasm for constant refinement of their craft. These elements contribute to the remarkable intelligence, insight, and joy we witness in our students. Our entire organization is working diligently to provide children with a world-class education, and that makes our role as a governing body extremely rewarding. Previously, the Board shared its actions around the process of defining a district-specific "Portrait of a Graduate," an endeavor to translate the strategic plan into observable traits in students. The board embarked on interviews with students, parents, and community members to understand the type of education they valued most. The input culminated in a report, providing common language and an organized framework for Board trustees that can be used when evaluating curriculum, observing teaching techniques, and assessing student work. The Board identified 12 traits expected in Troy students if the strategic plan is executed effectively. Since discussing our report, our Teaching and Learning team has carefully integrated these 12 traits into our districtwide deep learning standards commonly referred to as the "6 Cs of 21st Century Learning": Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. Aligning these traits with the district's day-to-day actions in the classroom ensures coherence between overarching goals and daily practices. The Board's identified traits have been aptly renamed the "Portrait of a Learner" by the Teaching and Learning team, to emphasize the ongoing effort required at every grade level. It is not a state achieved solely at

graduation but an evolving process throughout a student's academic journey. Thank you again to all the students, parents, and community members who shared their input toward this effort —our kids are already benefiting from your efforts!

Article 4 / Page 2: DETROIT LIONS ROARY MASCOT SHARES LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Roary, the mascot from the Detroit Lions, visited Troy Union and Wass Elementaries this fall to showcase their “Lions Leaders for Life” interactive character education initiative— telling students not only what it takes to be a successful leader in life, but also how to maintain a healthier lifestyle. The assembly revolved around the Lions Leadership List, which is six character traits one needs to have to be successful: Forward down the field in your drive to becoming a Detroit Lions "Leader For Life." Troy Union Principal Mike Cottone and Wass Principal Matt Jansen shared the excitement alongside their students as they connected with the character initiatives at both TU and Wass (which are both National Schools of Character.) At Troy Union, everyone works to create a positive TU CULTURE: “I learned how being a leader, being responsible, and being educated is important,” said TU 2nd grader Brandon Sitto. “The assembly was good because sometimes funny things would happen.” At Wass, students live by their Wass Wolves Way traits: Respect, Empathy, Responsibility, Perseverance and Integrity, which lined up with the Lions’ Leader for Life message. Students enjoyed the fast-paced assembly and had a chance to interact with Detroit Lions coaches and, of course, Roary. The objective of the assembly was to share the "Leader For Life" message in a fun and educational forum. At the end of the assemblies, EVERYONE was a winner!

Article 5 / Page 2: Athens Soccer Champs

The Troy Athens Boys Varsity Soccer team scored on a mad scramble in overtime to capture the MHSAA Division 1 State Championship on November 4, defeating Brighton 2-1 in OT to claim the title. Senior Brody Fahnestock scored a goal with 1:56 left in regulation to tie the game and send it to overtime. In overtime, Athens picked up the pressure with Senior Manny Aigbedo scoring a goal as Athens went on to win their 7th Boys Soccer State Championship. The team finished the year on a 17-game winning streak with a 20-3-2 overall record.

Article 6 / Page 2: LARSON TEACHER NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Larson Science Teacher, Colleen Cain, was recognized as STEM Teacher of the Year by the National Air & Space Forces Association for her exemplary achievements in promoting STEM education to students and colleagues. Her nomination read in part: “Colleen is a passionate 7th-grade science teacher who goes above and beyond, inspiring students by fostering three Cs

as her guiding points: collaboration, connection, and community. She has worked for the past 18 years to provide authentic science opportunities for her students, preparing them as the next generation of the STEM workforce.” Cain received a certificate and a \$1,000 check.

Article 7 / Page 3: Troy School District National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Sixty Troy School District students from three of our High Schools (Athens, International Academy East and Troy High) were named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and TSD recognized them at a reception on November 16. This honor is bestowed on less than one percent of students nationwide based on their scores on the Preliminary SAT. Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools take the PSAT every year, and only 16,000 students across the country have been designated Semifinalists for 2024. From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 (nearly all) are expected to advance to the Finalist level where these academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title which will be announced in the Spring.

(Semifinalists listed in alphabetical order by last name:) Rahim Basal (THS) Vansh J. Baxi (AHS) Niveditha Chandrakanth (IAE) Michael Chen (THS) Srivaishnavi Cherukuvada (THS) Rahul R. Dandavolu (AHS) Vedant Das (THS) Rohan Gajula-Ghosh (AHS) Kevin A. Hartwell (AHS) Mark Hong (THS) Michael Hong (THS) Jeffrey Hung (THS) Karen Jin (IAE) Siddharth Karthikeyan (IAE) Mahee Kavdia (AHS) Lasya Kolli (IAE) Supratik Kuchibhatla (IAE) Claire Li (IAE) Steven Li (THS) Brian Liu (THS) Timothy J. Mathew (THS) Brandon G. Mendoza (AHS) Sidharth Menon (IAE) Shreyas Mirle (IAE) Vishnu Nair (THS) Anish Nandamuri (IAE) Sneha Nandwani (AHS) Huyen Nguyen (THS) Nishit Palepu (THS) Kush V. Parikh (THS) Sruthi Perreddy (IAE) Sania Poonia (IAE) Ismail Qamar (AHS) Ashish Rajam (THS) Ishanya Saini (THS) Somya Sakalle (IAE) Akash Sarada (AHS) Aanya Shah (THS) Akshaj Sharma (IAE) Karan Sharma (IAE) Sungat S. Shienh (THS) Ashmit Shrivastava (THS) Seongjin Shyn (THS) Kanush Singh (THS) Ananya Sri Raja Kalidindi (AHS) Nidheesh Srivatsavan (IAE) Raghav Subramaniam (AHS) Jack Svoboda (THS) Sanjay Tilak (IAE) Janhavi G. Tonge (THS) Gautham A. Veettil (THS) Eric Wong (AHS) Claire J. Wu (THS) Julia Wu (THS) Daniel L. Xiao (THS) Yule Xie (IAE) Nathan J Zerilli (AHS) Alan X. Zhang (THS) Matthew T. Zhao (THS) Edison T. Zhou (THS)

Article 8 / Page 4: IAE Students Formally Enter IB Diploma Program

IAE held a party for their Juniors and Seniors to celebrate their formal entrance into the IB Diploma Program (International Baccalaureate DP). Freshman and Sophomore students clapped them in as red-carpet paparazzi photos were taken, cider and doughnuts were enjoyed by all and a keynote welcome from IAE 2016 alum Angie Malkoun excited students as she shared how IAE prepared her for a job as a Global Licensing & Media Rights assistant in New York. IAE is the second largest allDP high school in the world and teachers and staff wanted their students to feel connected to the program and understand just how important being a DP student is. "We are very proud to see our students connect with something bigger than themselves, especially something with global importance like the IB Diploma," said IAE Principal Patrick Griffin. "Our mission is to increase student belonging and to stress the importance and value of an international education, something all of our students are working towards here at the IA." The sky truly is the limit!

Article 9 / Page 4: The Fur Angels Visit Leonard Elementary

Leonard Elementary has created a partnership with "The Fur Angels," a local non-profit organization that shares their specially trained therapy dogs with local communities. Thirdgrade teacher and Fur Angels member Mrs. Starn arranges weekly visits for the whole building. Each classroom has the opportunity to visit with one therapy dog. Students learn about the purpose of therapy animals and how to respect when they are "working." They have an opportunity to pet and engage with the dogs and understand how these special furry friends can support a person's social-emotional health.

Article 10 / Page 4: Career Day at TCCHS

Representatives from Universal Technical Institute visited TCCHS to talk to the students about careers in the automotive industry where they could work on cars like this 1994 Toyota Supra. Universal Tech is one of the only technical schools that offer FAA148 certification, which prepares students to command high salaries upon program completion. Members and mentors from Women of Tomorrow -including TSD Board Trustee Dr. Nancy Philippart-- met with students to discuss career paths and college programs for women. Guests from MSU, CMU and Northwood University shared application tips and resume writing.

Article 11 / Page 4: Hamilton Interactive Art Mural

Hamilton art students learned about artist Kelsey Montague, the pioneer of mural wings on the sides of buildings. Students discussed what it means to interact with art, what a mural is, and how this artist was able to put these ideas together. They were challenged to think about the

hashtag Kelsey uses -- #whatliftsyou. They talked about what motivates and excites them, what do they love and makes them feel wonderful. Students wrote their answers on sticky notes and put them on the board for everyone to read. They then used the notes to design "feathers" which were used to create Hamilton's own mural wings and helped them connect with one another in a personal and very visual way. #whatliftsyou

Article 12 / Page 5: Upcoming TSD Holiday Concerts

It's that wonderful time of year when our amazing ensembles share holiday music! All concerts begin at 7 pm, are open to the public and are free to attend! And if you can't make it in person, the concerts will be streamed at live.tsdtheatres.com for all to enjoy. ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL 4333 John R Rd, Troy 12/12: AHS Band Concert 12/14: AHS Orchestra Concert TROY HIGH SCHOOL 4777 Northfield Pkwy, Troy 12/6: THS/AHS Combined Choirs 12/7: THS Band Winter Concert 12/11: Boulton Winter Concert at Troy High 12/14: THS Orchestras Winter Concert

Article 13 / Page 5: Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalists

Eleven TSD high school seniors out of 1,514 students nationwide were selected as Semifinalists for the prestigious 2024 Coca-Cola Scholars Program. This was from a pool of over 103,000 (1.45% of all applicants) who submitted applications from across the country based on their academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities. International Academy East seniors Niveditha Chandrakanth, Krish Desai, Trisha Jois, Alisha Malik, Anish Nandamuri, Sruthi Pereddy, Heera Santhosh and Akshaj Sharma; Athens senior Raghav Subramaniam; and Troy High seniors Timothy Mathew and Kush Parikh will move to the next round of the selection process to become Coca-Cola Finalists and then Scholars. A joint effort of Coca-Cola bottlers across the country and The Coca-Cola Company, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. With the addition of the 2024 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more than 6,900 Coke Scholars nationwide with over \$84 million in scholarships over the course of 35+ years. "We believe that identifying these young leaders throughout the country and encouraging their passion for serving others not only empowers the students, but also lifts up those around them," said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Foundation. "The Coca-Cola system is dedicated to giving back to the communities they serve, and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is proud to be a part of that commitment." These Semifinalists are now in the running for 150 college scholarships worth \$20,000 each which will be announced in March 2024.

Article 14 / Page 5: Preschool Parent Night 2024

SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 10, 2024 TSD PRESCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT CALL (248) 823-3000 FOR DETAILS

Article 15 / Page 5: Boulan Robotics Team Visits Preschool

It's always a good day when the "Big Kids" visit, especially when they bring a robot that delivers snacks! Students from Boulan Park Middle School's First Tech Challenge (FTC) Team #14638--"Infinity & Beyond" visited with Troy Preschool students to show them their competition robot, watch it fly paper airplanes, distribute snacks and get the littles excited about Robotics and STEM. A wonderful example of our green pillar, which focuses on "Early Childhood to Career."

Article 16 / Page 6: ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL & LEONARD ELEMENTARY RECEIVE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER AWARDS

Last spring, Athens High School and Leonard Elementary were two of 36 schools across the country named as National Schools of Character--and they were formally recognized in Washington, DC this fall. "There is an ethic of care at these schools," adds Lori Soifer, who directs the Schools of Character program. "Working together with students, parents and community members, these schools are creating stronger communities focused on character." "We are pleased to announce and celebrate the schools and school districts that have earned this national recognition," said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, President of Character. org. "Each of these schools has put in place a comprehensive approach to help students understand, care about, and consistently practice the character strengths that will help them flourish in school, in relationships, in the workplace, and as citizens."

Schools recognized in 2023 Troy Athens HS: National School of Character Leonard ES: National School of Character Martell ES: Emerging School of Character Troy High HS: Emerging School of Character

Schools recognized in 2022 Costello ES: State School of Character Morse ES: Emerging School of Character Schroeder ES: Emerging School of Character Smith MS: Emerging School of Character
Schools recognized in 2021 Troy Athens HS: State School of Character Bemis ES: National School of Character Troy Union ES: National

School of Character Schools recognized in 2020 Wass ES: National School of Character Wattles ES: National School of Character Schools recognized in 2019 Larson MS: National School of Character.

Article 17 / Page 6: SME Education Foundation Partnering with TSD

One of the largest roadblocks facing the business community is filling manufacturing jobs with qualified talent. With help from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Troy High School is helping solve the problem with an innovative program. SME Foundation's PRIME (Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education) celebrated Manufacturing Day this past October with a ribbon cutting for three new manufacturing rooms at Troy High. These rooms join the existing state-of-the-art Auto Technology Lab that has been successfully operational since 2017. SME Executives and Michigan lawmakers U.S. Congresswoman Haley Stevens, Michigan House Speaker Joe Tate and State Rep. Sharon MacDonnell shared congratulations as students demonstrated the latest manufacturing technology including computeraided design, robotics, and 3D Printing. Manufacturing jobs are the lifeblood of Michigan's economy. Unfortunately, the United States is projected to have 2.5 million unfilled manufacturing jobs by 2030. SME PRIME® provides a non-traditional pathway to lucrative careers in the automotive industry by connecting students with manufacturers and suppliers for high-paying high-tech jobs. According to Troy High Automotive Technology Lab teacher Adam Warner: "Students can now earn ASE certification and Michigan Mechanic credentials upon graduation—and they do not have to leave their own high school to do it."

Article 18 / Page 7: FINE ARTS NEWS ATHENS & TROY HIGH THEATRE GROUPS

Athens Theatre Company took a trip to OZ this fall, to visit with everyone's favorite girl from Kansas and the friends she met along the way in the Wizard of Oz. This was the first time the play had been performed at Athens with a full cast. Athens Theatre Company is working on their Spring show (TBD) with rehearsals starting soon. Troy Theatre Ensemble looked back at the Civil War era with their Fall production of Little Women—and are already hard at work at their spring production of Footloose, March 1-3 and 8-10. Check <http://ttensemble.weebly.com> for future show and ticket information. 2024 FESTIVAL Of CHOIRS, PRESENTED BY TSD VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT Troy's 2024 Festival of Choirs spans four spectacular nights, January 22-25, 2024 at 7 p.m., at Athens High School (4333 John R., Troy). This free concert showcases the K-12 vocal program from elementary to high school, allowing students and parents--as well as the community--to see all ages perform and, for our younger students, get a peek at vocal music through the various ages and stages of K-12. Each night features three elementary schools, their feeder middle school, and high school choirs. For 4 Nights only: Jan. 22-25, 2024, 7 p.m at Athens High School • Monday, Jan 22: Wattles, Barnard, Morse, Baker Athens • Tuesday, Jan 23: Bemis, Hamilton, Schroeder, Boulton, Troy High • Wednesday, Jan. 24: Troy Union, Martell, Leonard, Smith, Troy High • Thursday, Jan. 25: Hill, Wass, Costello, Larson, Athens.

Article 19 / Page 7: SCHROEDER ELEMENTARY RECEIVES National Blue Ribbon of Excellence

Schroeder Elementary has been recognized as an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School for 2023 by the U. S. Secretary of Education. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. This recognition not only highlights Schroeder's commitment to nurturing a positive learning environment, but also showcases their dedication to empowering students with the skills, knowledge, and values they need to thrive in our ever-changing world. Schroeder joins Athens High School, Barnard Elementary, Bemis Elementary, Boulan Park Middle, International Academy East, Leonard Elementary, Larson Middle School, Martell Elementary, Troy High School, Troy Union Elementary, Wass Elementary and Wattles Elementary as past National Blue Ribbon recipients. Every school in the Troy School District has been awarded Michigan Blue Ribbon status from the state.

Article 20 / Page 8: TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS GIVING BACK

Troy Athens Key Club partnered with the Troy Kiwanis Club to gather items and assemble baskets for the Judson Center at Carrabba's Italian Grill of Troy.

THS Football players assembled 300 sandwiches and filled lunch bags for the homeless to benefit The Noah Project--empowering people to self-sufficiency by starting with something as simple as a sack lunch.

Wass students and staff participated in a Give to the Gold Walk; participants wore yellow or gold and raised \$1,035 in support of Childhood Cancer Awareness to be shared between Believe in Miracles and The Rainbow Connection Foundations.

Halloween for ME or WE? Instead of classroom parties for themselves 3rd graders from Hill Elementary took their costume parade on the road and visited with the residents at Oakmont Sterling Senior Community -- bringing joy.

Larson 8th grader Ella Bunao and 6th graders Sky Kim, Jianna Cruz, and Varna Jayaraman of Larson's 1st all-girls robotics team - Girl Botz FTC 22918 raked 45 bags of leaves for senior citizens for TPC (Troy People Concerned).

Boulan Park's W.E.B. program held a food drive for the One Troy Food Pantry, resulting in 1000+ cans and boxes of non-perishable food as well as over \$1,500 in cash!

Hamilton Students practiced empathy by partnering with the Fleece and Thank You project, making blankets and sending messages of hope for pediatric hospital patients.

Morse's Peer to Peer team from general education classrooms worked with their grade level peers with special abilities to cook, sell, and eat some delicious treats for their first collaborative cookie sale. Money raised will support inclusivity and a positive culture for ALL Morse students.

Leonard Kids with Character and Service Squad organized a Stuffed Animal/Blanket Drive for local animal shelters. Students chose the cause, contacted local agencies, created fliers, and organized the donations – getting everyone involved! Additionally, 5th grader Matthew Strickland asked the entire student body at Leonard to wear blue to recognize, raise awareness and support Type 1 diabetes education.

Barnard Elementary's recent blood drive brought in over 40 units of blood for the Red Cross, many of whom were first-time donors. Two former Barnard Bluejays (and current 6th-grade Baker Bobcats) Grace Smiatacz and Alex Nedelcu volunteered at the event. Barnard "Chores for Change" - raised nearly \$500 through "Chores for Change" for UnicefUSA.

Schroeder 5th graders made dog toys out of fleece during their Halloween party; the toys were donated to the Humane Society.

Bemis Student Council held a Candy Drive to collect Halloween candy to be shared with two organizations: Lighthouse Pontiac and non-chocolate items sent to U.S. troops serving overseas.

Article 21 / Page 9: NEW VENTURES BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE AND THE CAREER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Business Roundtable The Business Roundtable is a dynamic initiative aimed at bringing together businesses in Troy to forge enduring partnerships. Through quarterly meetings, participating businesses engage in insightful discussions, sharing perspectives on industry needs. These gatherings serve as a platform for rich dialogue, exploring strategies to enhance educational benefits for Troy School District (TSD) students. At the core of the Business Roundtable's mission is the cultivation of connections and relationships among its members. The overarching objective is to establish robust support networks that directly benefit the students within TSD. Emphasizing collaboration and critical thinking, the initiative seeks to foster an environment where businesses can collectively contribute to the academic excellence and community engagement in the city of Troy. In essence, the Business Roundtable serves as a catalyst for synergy among local businesses, promoting not only their individual success but also the broader advancement of education and community involvement in Troy.

Career Accelerator TSD proudly introduced the Career Accelerator Program (CAP) for high school juniors and seniors this year, a groundbreaking initiative crafted to seamlessly connect academic learning with real-world professional experiences. This program, tailored for excellence, aims to bridge the gap between education and the dynamic demands of the professional realm. Our primary objective is to provide students with mentorship and exposure to diverse career pathways within our vibrant community. The Career Accelerator Program encompasses CAP classes and a

preinternship, offering an elite educational experience that propels students toward success. TSD expresses sincere gratitude to our esteemed growing list of business partners, including Altair, Barton Malow, Children's Hospital, Denso, Digital Interiors, Rehmann, Signarama, National Branding, Trion Solutions, and the Troy Chamber of Commerce. Their unwavering commitment is instrumental in enriching the lives of our students through this transformative program. Knowledge Gained: 1. Communication skills essential to success regardless of industry. 2. Who gets promoted and why. 3. Role play scenarios with feedback. 4. How to navigate personal and professional technology. The Career Accelerator Program is not merely an educational endeavor; it is a gateway to empowerment, preparing the leaders of tomorrow for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. If you are interested in learning more about Business Roundtable or CAP, please reach out to Kendra Montante at kmontante@troy.k12.mi.us.

Article 22 / Page 10: Middle School 8th Grade Washington DC Trip

This past fall, 8th grade students from all four of our Middle Schools took their annual class trip to Washington DC <https://tinyurl.com/mv4m3fch> and visited some of the following landmarks:

- International Spy Museum • Air and Space Museum • National Museum of African American History and Culture • National Archives Museum • Smithsonian • Mt. Vernon • Capitol Tour • Lincoln – Korean – Vietnam Memorials • Arlington National Cemetery

A true rite of passage, a great time was had by all as they made learning come alive!

Article 23 / Page 10: SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 15, 2024 TSD MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Fleece Needed for MLK: Traditionally, our community—led by our Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (SSAB) - makes more than 300 fleece no-sew blankets at our MLK Day of Service. To continue the tradition, we are again requesting donations of fleece from the general public. All donations of fleece should be in increments of 2.5 yards (so 2.5 yards, 5 yards, 7.5 yards, 10 yards, etc.). Collection boxes are located at each school or the TSD Admin Building. Fleece can be purchased at any local craft or fabric store, including Hobby Lobby, Joann's, Michaels, or Walmart.

Article 24 / Page 10: DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLAY FOR CHARITY

Athens hosted Troy in a "Pink Out" game to raise awareness and \$300 for breast cancer. The teams might have been cross-town rivals, but Pink Out night was a big success and everyone was a winner!

The Troy High Personal Communications Class held their annual Dodgeball Tournament for Charity last week, supporting Oakland County Sherriff Michael Bouchard's PAL program (Police Athletic League) which builds positive relationships through recreation, mentoring and sports. Competition was fierce, with the senior team declaring victory---the event raised \$14,500 for the kids at PAL.

Article 25 / Page 11: OneTroy Sports

Athens High School:

- Ava Weeks wrapped up her Senior golf season shooting 84/84 at the MHSAA State Finals and finishing 20th out of 111 golfers.
- Athens Tennis Coach Andrew Shipp completed his 18th year as Athens Varsity Tennis Coach and was named Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches. Shipp's Red Hawks finished in 8th place at the State Finals last week.
- Athens 10th grader, Nate Linden, qualified for the State meet at Michigan International Speedway after finishing 6th at Regionals.

Troy United:

- Troy United Hockey split back-to-back road games this weekend, losing a thriller in OT, 4-3, to the Thumb Area High Schools United team on Friday night and rallying in the third period of Saturday's game at New Boston United to win, 6-4.

Troy High:

- Troy High Women's Volleyball beat Athens 3-1 in district first round play, but lost in district finals, which ended their season. Great job, Girls!
 - Troy High Girls Golf Team placed 4th in Regionals. Senior Sydney Otto qualified for States at Forest Acres West (MSU).
 - Men's Varsity Tennis won the Regionals, and finished State runners-up at the State Tournament, with four flights making it to the Finals.
 - THS Boys Cross Country won the Regional and qualified for the States at the Michigan International Speedway. Senior Vishvaa Ravishankar finished first by 16 seconds (Vishvaa currently has the 6th fastest time in the state).
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Article 26 / Page 11: ATHENS* ATHLETE FALL SIGNING DAY

Signing day is a special event for all Troy School District High School 12th grade athletes. Five Athens Senior Athletes formally committed to play their Fall sport at the college of their choice, signing their contracts as coaches, friends and family looked on: Back Row L to R: Adam Ethridge – Colgate University, Soccer; Brody Fahnestock – Oakland University, Baseball | Front Row L to

R: Claire Balintfy – Northwood University, Lacrosse; Sydney McBride – Tiffin University, Soccer; Ava Weeks - Northwood University, Golf.

*Troy High recognizes their Signing Day athletes in the Spring

Article 27 / Page 12: District Round-up

- Athens hosted 43 teams from 23 schools for the Hawk and Hornet Science Olympiad Invitational Competition, with teams competing in a wide array of science and engineering events; Science Olympiad will celebrate 40 years with a state tournament at MSU in May 2024.
- Students celebrated World Kindness Day all week long by sharing kind notes with their peers and IA East staff, decorating the courtyard with painted rocks, and sharing random acts of kindness as they observed the positive impact of giving on the lives of others.
- Seniors practiced their career readiness skills by interviewing members of our school administration and board, which was the culmination of a months-long career exploration project.
- Congratulations to Media Specialist Toni Isaac on receiving the Roger Ashley Freedom to Read award from the Michigan Association for School Librarians!
- Students learned about the role of a school counselor, how to connect with them, and the importance of confidentiality—Baker counselors shared strategies for achieving emotional balance and how to get help for themselves and others.
- BPMS celebrated Veterans Day by welcoming US Veterans to share their experiences with history classes. The impact of hearing from veterans was incredibly powerful and will stay with our students for years to come.
- Larson 8th grader Ella Bunao and 6th graders Sky Kim, Jianna Cruz, and Varna Jayaraman of Larson's 1st all-girls robotics team - Girl Botz FTC 22918 raked 45 bags of leaves for senior citizens for TPC (Troy People Concerned).
- 8th grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders meet monthly with 6th graders to share lessons on character and social-emotional learning. WEB leaders recently had some fun asking their mentees to put toothpaste back in a toothpaste tube, using it as an analogy for how it's difficult to take back hurtful words and actions.
- Elementary Principals of the Day from Bemis (Jude & Serena) & Schroeder (Arianna) visited TSD Preschool to read a story to future Bemis Bears & Schroeder Dragons. Preschool loves to partner with the TSD!
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- Blue Jays in the Spotlight Assemblies recognize students for displaying outstanding character by modeling the 3R's, Responsibility, Respect, and Building Positive Relationships. Students are nominated by their teachers, and family members are invited to these special events.
- Friendship Cafe happens monthly, where Bemis students in Level 4 categorical classes have created a business--and make hot drinks for our Bemis staff, enabling students to develop many skills along the way while teachers enjoy a sweet treat.
- Fifth-grade student leaders demonstrated character by leading an all-school assembly this fall, teaching students about perseverance, respect, responsibility, and integrity by performing a fun skit.
- Hawks have been working hard academically as well as enjoying character education in their Hawk Nests, multi-aged family units. Students have enjoyed many fall traditions, as well.
- Families engaged in interactive math activities, games, and riddles at Math Night, which featured delicious food and even offered games for families to take home.
- Fourth graders took their Social Studies learning public – organizing efforts to recognize and celebrate Veterans in our community.
- Fifth grade mentors meet with their younger Mustang counterparts every day for mentoring—and once a month, the 5th graders eat lunch together to learn how to practice their leadership skills in different settings.
- Morse Elementary is excited to unveil their new Mustang Logo! From spiritwear to shirts to caps, Mustangs will be able to purchase cool new merch after the 1st of the year, check their website often!
- Dragon Dens are made up of students in grades K – 5. Each month, teachers lead their Den through learning centered around character education. Last month, students learned about respect and created respect agreement posters!
- TU held a school-wide assembly featuring the book “I Promise,” by LeBron James to kick off Character Education. Students learned about the importance of making and keeping promises and connected those to our character traits.
- Wass partnered with Hill Elementary to host a joint Trunk or Treat, resulting in 50+ vehicles designed and decorated by families for their Wolves and Huskies.
- Wildcats are in full swing with the implementation of our new math curriculum, Bridges, and students reporting how much they love math, and three of our classrooms are piloting new furniture.
- TCT students met with PREP students at the BHS Booth Center for a special day of activities including yoga, cooking, charades, and making creative Fall-themed cards for Veterans.