



TROY School District

Volume 1, Issue 4

NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Richard Machesky

Class of 2019, you have made us proud!

Now that commencement is over and summer is moments away, it's time to celebrate this incredible class and all you have accomplished. You were freshmen when we began our Journey to World Class and you embraced our four pillars with enthusiasm.

When we asked you to connect your learning to the world, you jumped at the chance to show what you could do. When we talked about social emotional well-being, you showed your passion to support your classmates, to practice mindfulness and show that ALL means ALL. You approached every challenge with eagerness and an attitude of "how do we make this better?" You exemplify what a World Class School District is all about, and I am confident you are well prepared for whatever adventure lies before you.

Before we say goodbye to the class of 2019, I want to take a moment to thank a special group of graduates who have served on our Superintendent Student Advisory Board. These students have worked tirelessly each year to plan and execute our citywide MLK Day of Service, an event that draws a thousand participants. They volunteered in their schools and lent their voices to district issues. They mentored and tutored younger students and even at the busy end of the school year, gave up their days off to help out with the Wattles COSI day, Field Day and Safety Bowling Celebration. There was never a time when we asked and they shied away from volunteering. They are truly an extraordinary group of human beings.

SSAB grads, you made it your mission to leave the Troy School District a better place than you found it, and I can safely say you did all that and more.

Fatinah Albeez, IAE, Rohit Chakravarty, IAE, Jenna Doyle, AHS, Faith Keating, THS, Christos Levy, AHS, Surya Krishnan, IAE, Priyanka Nandyala, IAE, Priyanka Pulvender, THS, Maddie Purvis, AHS, Gabe Rabajoli, THS, Jessica Robinson, THS, Paula Skwarek, AHS, Freddie Zhao, THS

*Congratulations to all our Graduates—
The Best is Yet to Come!*

Dr. Richard Machesky
Superintendent
Troy School District



Congratulations 2019 TSD GRADUATES!!



The Troy School District conferred degrees upon 1,000+ graduating seniors at ceremonies for our four high schools: Athens High School, International Academy East, Troy College & Career High School, and Troy High School. See inside for stories and more senior photos.

EMPOWER STUDENTS

COSI MAKES SCIENCE REAL AT WATTLES

Students Wattles Elementary got the chance for some fabulous hands-on learning! This event was part of a COSI, or Center of Science and Industry project, and run by parent, high school and community volunteers. Young scientists moved between stations and engaged in various experiments, including chemical interactions, invisible ink, properties of water and more. It was an opportunity for them to test out what they had learned in class, and they loved it!



EMPOWER STUDENTS

A.P.T. TO SUCCEED!

Eighth grade students from across the Troy School District had the opportunity to share what they have accomplished in the classroom and beyond, thanks to dozens of volunteer interviewers who turned out for the annual A.P.T. to Succeed program. Every student assembled a digital portfolio of classwork, awards, extracurriculars and volunteer work, designed to show the growth they have made in middle school as well as prepare them for "real life" job and scholarship interviews. Members of the business community then interviewed the students, pouring over their resumes and samples of their work.

The name hints about the program's fundamentals. "A" stands for academic, "P" for personal time management and "T" for teamwork, but over time, the process has evolved to allow students to reflect on all aspects

of their successes and challenges. In the end, it's a chance for students to talk about their future plans, both academic and career, as well as a



chance for residents to see the amazing work that goes on in our schools. If you would like to volunteer next year, please email kbirmingham@troy.k12.mi.us.

SCHOOL BOARD CORNER



**Karl Schmidt, President
Board of Education**

GOING BEYOND CAREER DAY

Ever experience a “career day”? Professionals visit a school and provide short career overviews and sometimes leave students with a related souvenir. These can be fun days for our kids, but these kinds of “show me” events don’t often provide the kind of embedded “career and technical education” (CTE) that legislatures and private industry leaders want schools to incorporate into curriculum.

In our District’s quest for world-class academic outcomes, we also need to consistently provide our students with opportunities to see concepts applied to real-world situations—and to make kids aware of potential career opportunities, too. Our new Troy High auto technology lab and new Athens cyber-security computer classes are two examples of great CTE courses, but there are many other new possible courses that could provide students with accelerated

avenues toward high-paying technical careers as well. CTE-earmarked federal and state funds can pay for these classes if they meet specific criteria. To capture those funds, we asked Athens Assistant Principal Bill Turner to become our new Director of Technical Education, in addition to succeeding Debra Linford as principal of Troy College and Career High School. In his new position, Bill will be making sure we take advantage of all funding sources to create state-of-the-art CTE offerings for our kids.

But wait, there’s more! We are also encouraging our teachers at all grade levels to explore projects that apply academic concepts to real-world situations. Some recent examples I had the joy to see firsthand were the second grade “restaurant” projects at Hill and Wass. Students created a restaurant concept; sought investors (\$4 per student); researched recipes, developed a food budget, and produced a menu; learned about the need to “position” their restaurant in customers’ minds using advertising and

décor; wrote resumes and interviewed for jobs in the restaurant; executed a morning of food served to parents and dignitaries; and then assessed final profits when the doors closed. In the process, these kids learned about economics, marketing, graphic design, and the hospitality industry while they applied language arts and math concepts to a broad mix of situations. And the best part of the whole experience is that they were having so much fun, they didn’t even know they were learning. Look for more projects like this coming to a classroom near you!

HAMILTON
HAMILCOTT

Hamilton Elementary takes a different twist on book contests by having their own students write and illustrate original books, competing for the “Hamilcott Award” each spring. Hamilcott’s version of the Caldecott picture book award is a contest where students can create a book together and all work is done outside of school. In its 5th year, there were 113 student authors/illustrators and 76 books submitted, considered primarily on pictures and story elements. The books were judged by a panel of teachers and staff, and one winner and two honor runner-up books were chosen at each grade level.



Hamilcott encourages young authors to express themselves in writing and through illustrations as they create authentic, original pieces, which are then put on display in the school library.

TROYBERY PROGRAM
ENCOURAGES MIDDLE
SCHOOL READERS

The Troybery contest, like the Newbery Medal, encourages middle school students select the best book of the year using a March Madness-style bracket competition.

There were prizes for the brackets that correctly predicted the winners, then the winner and 3 runner ups were revealed at the May celebration that was attended by 100 students from all four Troy middle schools. After student presentations of prose and poetry where they shared why they wanted their favorites to win, students Skyped with several authors in real time. Then it was time to reveal the grand winner: **Grenade** by Alan Gratz, runner ups were **Not If I Save You First** by Ally Carter, **The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl** by Stacy McAnulty and **Live in Infamy** by Carol Tung.

2020 is the 20th anniversary of Troybery so look for exciting things for next year’s contest.

BATTLE OF
THE BOOKS

Meanwhile, high schoolers waged a “battle” of their own, as over 100 students who had read at least 3 of the nominated “Battle of the Books” titles showed up to cheer for their favorite books.

Author Angelo Surmelis (*The Dangerous Art of Blending In*) attended in person to discuss his novel with students, signed copies of his book and led the trivia contest pitting THS v. AHS v. IAE (Athens won!) The power of technology enabled authors Kelley Armstrong (*Aftermath*) and Amanda Foody (*Ace of Shades*) to Skype with students and answer questions in realtime.



Students vied for raffle prizes, giveaways, and a special VIP behind-the-scenes tour of Barnes & Noble, before the announcement of the 2019 winner: *The Dangerous Art of Blending In*.

LARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED 2019 NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

Larson Middle School has been named a 2019 National School of Character, one of only 88 schools across the country to receive this important distinction this year. The title recognized Larson as a school that has used character development to drive a positive impact on academics, student behavior and the school's cultural climate.

Principal Joe Duda commended the entire Larson Community for coming together in support of character education. "This recognition is a result of a shared commitment to character and involves everyone at Larson: our students, our parents, and our staff who have worked tirelessly over the past 6 years to deepen our understanding of character education."

Mr. Duda acknowledged Larson teachers Nancy Lining (retired), Charlie Tull, Jen Rogers and Laura Garver for their work as committee leaders who designed school-wide character-based lessons which were recognized as innovative by the judges.



TCCHS SENIORS GRADUATE WITH HONORS AND CREDITS

Over 50 percent of the students who participated in Commencement from Troy College & Career High School have either attended Oakland Community College and/or taken the College Prep class in the Dual Enrollment program, and a number of these students are scholarship recipients.

Megan Parker is honored for receiving the Oakland University Academic Achievement Scholarship as she continues her college career in the honors program at OU. She also received scholarships from the Troy Community Lions, Kiwanis Club of Troy, and Women of Tomorrow. Adam Salem has received the Oakland University Recognition Scholarship and a TCCHS Parent Scholarship.

Diamond Marchant was the first recipient of the Deb MacDonald Linford Legacy Scholarship, established by TCCHS staff in honor of the retiring principal of 24 years at TCCHS (formerly

Niles Community High School) and 35 years in education. Marchant also received a scholarship from the Kiwanis Club of Troy and the TCCHS parent group.

A variety of other scholarships were awarded to Dual Enrollment participants including Lauren Baker, Albert Barton, Morgan Cypher, Grace Jurvis, Evan King, Neely Kelley, Mark Kerketta, Shibangi Mahanta, Corey McGee, Maiya Miller, Alexandra Nofar, and Max Wilfong.



SMITH STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CIVIL WAR



Students from all Troy middle schools visited the Troy Historical Museum for their annual Civil War Days interactive presentation, partially funded by the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence. Traveling back in time, student groups danced the Virginia Reel, listened to reenactors of Sojourner Truth and Abraham Lincoln, learned to march and carry a musket, and more. (Smith students pictured).

Preschool Progress

A record number of students have already enrolled in our new TSD Preschool, but there is still time to secure a spot for your child! Doors will open in the fall of 2019. We offer half and full day programs as well as before- and after-care.



Our 72,000 square foot preschool will house 26 classrooms and have the capacity to serve over 400 students ages 3 - 5, as well as parent/tot programs for younger children.



The building will be open daily from 6:30 am - 6 pm and includes a 25,000 square foot natural playground.



Our TSD preschool was designed with huge indoor gross motor spaces that include natural light and flexible furniture options.



Enrollment information is available at www.troy.k12.mi.us, click on "Preschool"

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Students Giving Back



Costello students collected change while promoting change and raised \$1,318.25 for the Autism Alliance of Michigan, shining a spotlight on autism and how students with autism are people 'just like us.'

their school to "Chuck Their Change" during morning drop off by throwing spare change out their car and bus windows into the waiting tarps held by student council members. They collected \$2,503.18 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The 4th annual **Jennathon**, a 5K walk/run fundraiser in memory of Troy student Jenna Kast who passed away from brain cancer at the age of 11 in 2010, was held on June 8th. Having raised over \$40,000 since its inception in 2016, all proceeds go to the nonprofit "Believe in Miracles" to grant wishes for Michigan children with lifethreatening illnesses.



Boulan Outreach students have been working with preschoolers, reading with them and connecting learning to their world with hands-on activities designed to entertain and engage. After reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," the big kids helped the little kids fill cups with soil and plant seeds...of learning!



Hamilton Student Government challenged



Troy Men's Lacrosse Team Hosts Inclusion Day Clinic



The THS Men's Lacrosse Team hosted their 2nd annual clinic for students with special needs. "Inclusion Day" was coach Matt Kassa's vision, as he has a brother with

special needs. As the 35 guest players took the field, they were greeted by members of the team and handed a Troy Colts shirt and a brand-new lacrosse stick which they could keep, and were then paired with an athlete who helped them at each station learn how to field, pick up a ball, throw, catch and shoot.

Although some of the students took to lacrosse faster than others, they all had one thing in common—the smiles on their faces. The students enjoyed being surrounded by their peers and loved being cheered on and encouraged by team members during their drills and goal-shooting contest. Parent Shelly Stephenson, whose lacrosse player son has a special needs brother, remarked:

"It was rewarding to see the kids being accepted. Even better was hearing some of the lacrosse athletes say it was the best day of their lives." Their smiles told the whole story.



TFEE GOLF OUTING IS HERE

There is still time to make plans to attend the 17th annual Tony Spagnola Memorial Golf Classic (1450 E. South Blvd. in Troy) which will be held on June 21 at the Sanctuary Lake Golf Course beginning at 8 am. This yearly event is hosted by the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence, a non-profit organization that funds school programs across the District. Last year's event raised over \$30,000, which went directly back into classrooms in the form of teacher grants. Pre-registration available at www.troyfoundation.org. For questions or more information, contact Barb Fowler at 248.217.4232.



EMPOWER STUDENTS

TROY CREATIVE MINDS DI TEAMS COMPETE IN GLOBAL FINALS

Two TSD Middle School Destination Imagination Teams -- collectively known as Troy Creative Minds -- represented Troy at DI Global Finals in Kansas City, MO at the end of May.

Team #1 "Let Us Explode" is from Boulton Park Middle School. This team competed in the Middle Level Fine Arts Challenge, placing 1st at the Regional level and 1st at the State Level back in April. "Let Us Explode" also won a Renaissance Award, and placed 10th in Global Finals out of 83 teams.

Team #2 are the "Super Peaches," from Smith Middle School who also competed in Regionals (2nd place) and placed 1st at States. They participated in the Game ON Challenge, using Super Mario Brothers as their platform



with a role reversal for Princess Peach to be the hero that rescues Mario. "DI is a lot of hard work and a lot of commitment, but every second is worth it because we've learned teamwork and how to harness our creativity," said team member Grace Haugk. The Peaches did well at their instant challenge and placed 35th out of 59 in Global Finals.

THE TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING STAFF MEMBERS ON THEIR RETIREMENTS:



Bill Adams, Athens
Doreen Alpert, Niles
Sandra Bammel, Larson
Geoff Benes, Multiple
Deborah Bohm-Rosenman, Barnard
Pamela Byrd, Hamilton
Janet Davert, Baker
Joni Gabriel, Wattles
Maria Gehart, Barnard/Costello
Carole Grant, Services
Lisa Holzknecht, Costello
Kent Hurst, Services

Karol Jarvis, Niles
Deb Linford, TCCHS
Joan Levitt, Boulton
Lydia Matta, Niles
Andrea Moon, Wattles/Schroeder
Ewa Ostrowski, Smith
Carol Rexer, Larson
Glenn Rexer, Smith
Valerie Thudium, Costello
Nancy Wells, Athens

**Not all retirees are pictured*

SPORTS ROUNDUP SENIOR EDITION: SIGNING DAY

One of the most exciting days for high school senior athletes is Signing Day, when students commit to attend the college that affords them the best sports and academic experience. Please join the Troy School District in congratulating the following student athletes:

Troy High (L to R): Abigail Carpenter, William and Mary, gymnastics; Matthew Johansson, Southern Virginia University, football; Faith Keating, Grove City College, women's volleyball; Donald O'Keefe, Wayne State, Cross Country; Kymberlee Strozier-Ball, Albion College, women's lacrosse

Athens High Back Row, L to R: Jeremy Bouford, Baseball, Wayne State; Skyla Gebauer, Soccer, University of Wisconsin; Jenna Doyle, Track & Field, GVSU; Liam Kreibich, Lacrosse, Clark University; Cameon Wade, Acrobatics & Tumbling, Adrian College
Front Row, L to R: David Deman, Football, Olivet Nazarene University; Ben

Riffe, Baseball, Lansing Community College; Brooke Russell, Soccer, GVSU; Agata Szewczuk, Tennis, GVSU (Not pictured but has since signed to play Lacrosse at CMU -- Thomas Kennedy).



DISTRICT ROUND UP

Athens High: AHS Leadership students learned about the legal process and were instrumental in establishing House Bill 4076, known as “Justice for Allie” which addresses internet exploitation of vulnerable adults and will be heard by the Michigan House of Representatives in June.

IAE: Juniors in DP Biology spent time in the lab genetically modifying E. Coli bacteria to glow under UV light, to see what current treatments are working.

TCCHS: In recognition of Michigan DNA Day, two PhD students from U of M led a study of pharmacogenomics (tailoring medication based on a person’s genetics) for science students in May.

Troy High: Biology Club seniors Finsam Samson and Yujie Wang are national team finalists in the Genes in Space competition and will receive mentorship from MIT and Harvard PhD scientists this summer and present their research at a science conference.

Baker Middle: 8th graders conducted oral history interviews with local veterans as part of a Veteran’s History Project. Copies of their interviews were sent to the US Library of Congress to be preserved; 8th graders actually making history!

Boulan Middle: 7th grade students Kubiak and Nidhi Ikkurthy took 1st and 2nd place in the Michigan Stock Market Game, MS Division, earning \$114,521.07 and \$113,940.82 respectively.

Larson Middle: Over 75 LMS students shared their Passion Projects, Club Activities, Musical Talents, and more with the community during their first student-led “Celebration of Learning.”

Smith Middle: Clubs are king at Smith, where Knights have placed impressively in Science Olympiad, Robotics, Destination Imagination, Quiz Bowl, and Spelling and Geography bees this spring.

Barnard Elementary: “Summer Enrichment Night” encouraged students to collect materials and ideas for at-home activities to continue their learning over the summer.

Bemis Elementary: Bemis’ Math Pentathlon team took First Place/Gold for the Michigan-Ohio Math Pentathlon National Center out of over 75 schools.

Costello Elementary: 3rd grade concert featured jazz music and student solos. After a standing ovation, students engaged the audience in singing and dancing during their final song You Can Feel It All Over!

Hamilton Elementary: Nine buses carried 662 Hamilton students, staff, and parents to the Detroit Zoo for a day of fun and learning for their first ever all-school field trip.

Hill Elementary: Students celebrated diversity and embraced differences by sharing food, facts, music and dances from all over the world at their third grade International Festival.

Leonard Elementary: Smith 8th grade band, orchestra, and choir students performed for Leonard’s 3, 4 & 5th graders, getting them excited about middle school music programs.

Martell Elementary: Martell students Connor Hotts and Zachary Michael acted as ‘Principal for the Day.’ They greeted students in the morning, made announcements, helped with an assembly, and visited classrooms.

Morse Elementary: Morse Science Olympiad teams made a good showing at the county competition, and their PTO welcomed nearly 300 people for its fourth annual Community Potluck Dinner. A new digital sign invites all to Morse!

Schroeder Elementary: Core Values are important to the Schroeder Community, who nominated and chose their core values of kindness, perseverance, and respect for next year’s Character Education program.

Troy Union Elementary: TU students are deepening their learning while being introduced to concepts of maker empowerment and design in their media center through Makers Centered Learning.

Wass Elementary: The Wass second graders learned about economics by turning their classrooms into restaurants. Their Café Day ended up profiting them in more ways than just financially.

Wattles Elementary: Students extended their learning outside the classroom with field trips to Lansing, Bowers Farm, Wint Nature Center, Greenfield Village and the Troy Nature Center.

