



# TROY School District

Volume 3, Issue 1

## NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The budget battle in Lansing appears to be over, but when the numbers finally arrived, they came with headlines reading “increase in school funding.”

The real story is far less positive, but it’s one we need to tell.

**Dr. Richard Machesky** The hard truth is that state funding for many Michigan schools has not kept up with the rate of inflation for the past thirteen years. That’s thirteen years that Troy students have been shortchanged—because the cost of running our schools, heating buildings and putting gas in buses has increased every one of those years.

Put in stark numbers: if funding had kept pace with inflation, the TSD would operate on \$37.5 million more this year alone. Last year, that number was \$36 million. In 2017, just over \$33 million. In inflation corrected dollars, the TSD budget is 33% lower than it was in 2004. And yet, each year we are asked to do more with shrinking revenue.

Conversely, the return on investment for TSD taxpayers has been significant. Realtors and residents consistently report that people move here for our schools—and we have delivered results. Property values in Troy have risen 25% since the recovery in 2012, and more than 50% in the last twenty years.

How have we done this? With community support and calculated strategic decisions, we’ve made deep cuts and slashed non-instructional services to the bone. We sold property, structured a Sinking Fund and used Schools of Choice to fill gaps in enrollment during the recession.

We have been successful. Thanks to exemplary teachers and staff, our students are learning at a deeper level and demonstrating that understanding better than ever before. We are closing achievement gaps and ensuring that every child in Troy has the support he or she needs.

Unfortunately, “cutting our way to success” is not sustainable. It’s critical that our state begins again to invest in our children’s education. Proposal A is broken and we have waited more than two decades for legislators to fix it. The time has come for all of us to advocate for adequate funding for our schools, to press our lawmakers and to insist that our students not be shortchanged any longer.

*If we work together, I am confident—the best is yet to come!*

**Dr. Richard Machesky**  
Superintendent  
Troy School District



## HAPPY NEW SCHOOL YEAR!



**Troy Schools welcomed back over 13,000 students for the 2019-2020 year! Inside this issue we’ve got news about National Merit Scholars, our Preschool Open House, Homecoming and more!**

### EMPOWER STUDENTS

## THREE TROY SCHOOLS NAMED NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Boulan Park Middle School, Martell Elementary School and Wass Elementary School have earned the prestigious National Blue Ribbon designation for 2019.

The award, given by the U.S. Department of Education, is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps. This year, 362 schools nationwide were recognized, including thirteen here in Michigan.

“We are very proud of Boulan Park,



Martell and Wass,” said Dr. Rich Machesky, Superintendent.

“We know that our schools are doing an excellent job of providing a World Class education for all students, but being acknowledged with this honor shows that others on a national level recognize the exemplary work going on in our classrooms.”

BPMS, Martell and Wass join eight other TSD schools who were awarded Blue Ribbon status in the past. Staff from all three schools will travel to Washington in November for a formal ceremony.

### ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

## IA STUDENTS DO GOOD FOR OTHERS ON C-DAY

IAE recognizes September 11 of each year as their “C-Day,” or Community Day. This fulfills a requirement for an International Baccalaureate core value called CAS—Creativity, Activity, Service. “Our students reflected on 9/11 and the heroism of first responders, and what it means to be a hero in your own community,” said IAE Principal Ryan Brinks.

Walking the walk, junior and senior “heroes” spent time in the community doing hands-on volunteerism. They helped beautification efforts and engaged younger students at Lighthouse of Oakland County and Christ the King school in Detroit; rolled up their sleeves and tended to the urban gardens at Greydale Farms in Detroit; and lent a helping

hand at Gleaners Food Bank and Forgotten Harvest, sorting and processing donated food,



and assembling together packages for those in need. At Gleaners, IA students processed 3,500 pounds of food, impacting 2,880 families. Now that’s real outreach!



## TROY BOASTS 56 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMI-FINALISTS

Fifty-six Troy School District students were named National Merit Semifinalists, an honor bestowed to less than one percent of students nationwide based on their scores on the Preliminary SAT. About 1.5 million students take the PSAT every year.

“We are extremely proud of our National Merit Semifinalists,” said Troy School District Superintendent Rich Machesky. “Their achievements are a shining example of what can be accomplished with hard work, a strong public school system, dedicated teachers and staff, and supportive parents and community.”

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$31 million that will be offered next spring. The Troy School District will hold a reception for the 56 semifinalists on Tuesday, October 30.

**ATHENS:** **Front row** Laya Shathyan, Fareeha Baig **Back row** Jimming U He, Nithya Jaisankar, Shrutee Rakshit



**IA:** **Front row** Rohit Bollampally, Aakas Menon, Dixsheta Muralikrishnan, Apurva Vaddamani **Back row** Danyal Raza, Krishay Sridalla, Balraj Dhanoa, Mahimna Vyas, Sreya Gogineni



**TROY HIGH:** **Top row** Edison Chiu, Kevin Zhou, Ritvik Mohanarangan, Dhruv Muralidhar, Pratham Soni, Matthew Dong, Amogh Gowda **2nd row:** Gurish Sharma, Nidhi Jaison, Dhatri Medarametla, Emily Wu, Shanan Sun, Julia Genord, Anisha Aggarwal, Priya Dutta, Hareesh Ragav **3rd row:** Aimee Zheng, Shannon Li, Sophia Yee, Claire Li, Carol Zhang, Jennifer Won, Katherine Jean, Divya Aggarwal, Christina Li **4th row:** Arlene Chen, John Dannug, Richard Li, Natania Shi, Angela Dong, Katherine Lee, Lydia Tan, Catherine Hu, Kevin Wang **5th row:** Ailin Xiong, Lillian Adams, Shruthi Sunilkumar, Caitlin Henning, Adrianna Shaska, Yusra Mahmood, Caroline Zhang

## SCHOOL BOARD CORNER



**Karl Schmidt, President  
Board of Education**

A smart financial decision is about to pay off for the TSD with upgraded facilities at no increased cost to taxpayers. The Troy School Board voted to purchase the shuttered ITT Tech building on Big Beaver for \$4,000,000.

This 38,000 sq. ft facility was renovated in 2011 and is already designed for education. We are currently in our due diligence period to ensure the building doesn't have any issues. If all goes well, we plan to make almost \$2,000,000 in final alterations and then will transition all of our Community Education, Adult Education, and English Learner programs as well as Troy College & Career High School from Niles Center and offsite rented space by August 2020. At that point, Niles will be demolished.

Niles Center is well beyond its intended life and has been failing for the last 10 years. When the latest estimates for immediate

structural repairs there reached almost \$2 million without fixing many ongoing issues, we decided it was time for a new solution. We reviewed all of our other buildings and were not able to find enough space to house these programs, even if separated into different locations. Building a new structure of similar size on other TSD land would need at least five years to secure funding and finish construction, at an estimated cost of \$15-\$17 million. Purchasing and renovating ITT for \$6 million saves taxpayers \$9-\$11 million and expands our Community Ed programs at least 5 years earlier. We were able to secure financing on the building with a 2.4% interest rate over 15 years. The resulting \$480,000 per year mortgage obligation is both less than the revenue we receive from Community Ed every year and cheaper than leasing similar space—making this

purchase a self-sustaining investment. The annual mortgage will also be about the same cost or cheaper than keeping Niles Center limping along for the next five years.

In a time of tight fiscal resources, this is an exciting win for the District. For our TCCHS kids, this space will represent a major upgrade in classroom quality. For our adult learners, the location on Big Beaver will mean it's accessible via SMART bus lines.



Finally, the building provides much needed additional meeting space for extracurricular programs across the entire District. Stay tuned!



# NEW TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESCHOOL NOW OPEN

## INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

It was a beautiful day for an Open House at our **brand new** Troy School District Preschool! We welcomed hundreds of current and prospective families along with VIPs and special guests who came out to cut the ribbon and tour our state-of-the-art facility, which was built to scale for preschoolers and was completed on time and on budget.



TSD Preschool, located at 205 W. Square Lake Rd., consists of 26 classrooms, and will serve approximately 400+ students ages 3 – 5 as well as parent/tot programs for younger children and before & after care. The 72,000 square foot building incorporates natural light and creative use of space for flexible learning that is tailored to young children, along with a 25,000 square foot natural

playground.

**Space is available now.** Visit <https://tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us/preschool-enrollment> -- which has an enrollment checklist and forms for parents to print and bring to their enrollment session/appointment, along with a parent handbook, session calendars and an extensive FAQ

section. For more information, or if you'd like a tour, call 248-823-3000.

There will be a prospective parent night on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6 PM for interested families for the 2020-2021 school year.



## EMPOWER STUDENTS

### COAST GUARD HELICOPTER VISITS LEONARD

Leonard students learned about water safety, conservation and the importance of clean waterways, and 5th grade parent Coast Guard CDR Matt Dooris arranged for a CG Helicopter to land in Leonard's playground for a blue pillar opportunity empowering students to connect learning to their world that they won't soon forget.



## ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

### ARCHIE TEACHES AND LEARNS AT BEMIS AND HILL

There's a new kid at Bemis and Hill Elementaries, and he's of the 4-legged variety. Media Specialist Heidi Apol fosters puppies for Leader Dogs for the Blind, and 5- month-old black lab Archie is her latest project. "I'll keep him for 12 months, and teach him about socialization through exposure to different kinds of people and situations. An elementary school is perfect for that, and the kids benefit from being around Archie too," said Apol. "He stays with me in the media center, comes with me to deliver books to classrooms, assemblies and other special events in the buildings." Students love seeing and interacting with Archie because

"He's so cute and friendly," said Bemis 4th grader Lily Smith. Archie will be returned to Leader Dogs in May of 2020 to continue his training to become a trusted companion to someone who is visually impaired.







# TSD Welcomes All Back to School





# HOME COMING 2019



Athens photos courtesy of [StoppingAction.com](http://StoppingAction.com)



EMPOWER STUDENTS

### COMIC BOOK AUTHORS VISIT BAKER

The Center for Cartoon Studies visited Baker MS to talk to students about rights, government, and about what they can do to be active citizens in today’s society. CCS provided 8th graders with copies of their new graphic novel “This is What Democracy Looks Like: A Graphic Guide to Governance,” which helps students gain a deeper understanding of how their government works—and doesn’t work. “Comics can engage and inform students in a different way from traditional textbooks,” said Baker history teacher Zach MacIntosh.



EMPOWER STUDENTS

### TROY HIGH STUDENTS ATTEND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Twenty Troy High students had an amazing answer to the age-old “what did you do this summer?” question, as they traveled to Austria and Switzerland in July to attend a Global Leadership Summit with students from around the world to address global issues centered around this year’s theme: The Power of Communication.

One of the most important issues was how technology could augment, but not replace, face-to-face interaction. Said THS senior Mallory Bouque: “Technology can be a huge help in a lot of instances, but we learned we can’t replace a personal connection with devices.” Senior Jessica Toomajian felt that her generation could change the world. “I was surrounded by thousands of kids from all over, and I could feel the strength, perseverance, and the desire to create an amazing future for us and this planet...I felt the beginning of something bigger than ourselves, something great.”

As the only Michigan school in attendance, THS students worked



### THE TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW STAFF:

Alyssa Armstrong, Troy High/Smith	Casey Crawford, Barnard	Madelaine Reem, Smith
Jacob Augustine, Athens/THS	Lydia De Leeuw, Elementary Strings	Rachel Romer, Morse
Victoria Blust, Smith/Troy Union	Brittany Elsey, Barnard/Wass	Emily Rusk, Troy High
Kelly Cardozo, Morse	Elizabeth Gossman, Hamilton	Jenna Russell, IA East
Katelyn Carroll, THS	Hannah Hodges, Hill	Julian Sanders, Athens
Glynda Chamie, Larson	Kelsey Kavulich, Costello	Blair Schwartz, Barnard
Colleen Chick, Costello	Kyle Larson, Troy High	Sarah Steffen, Elementary Vocal Music
Alyssa Clack, Boulan Park	Stephanie Lindsay, Baker	Heather Theisen, Schroeder
Tyler Clouse, Athens	Nicholas Lusk, Athens	Madeline Wahl, Service Center
Emily Cooper, Athens/Hamilton	Victoria Massey, Barnard	Alyson Weeda, Bemis
Jessica Craft, Troy High	Allison McKee, Costello	Deborah Wilson, Troy Union
	Diana Pierscinski, Larson	

EMPOWER STUDENTS

### ATHENS DEDICATES NEW OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE

Athens has a new outdoor learning space. A cooperative effort between Athens, the TSD, Troy Kiwanis Club, Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence, and Troy Community Foundation, Athens’ Outdoor Classroom is a shining example of the good that can happen when community and public/private partnerships come together to help students. The Troy Kiwanis Club initiated the effort several years ago through their Key Club model, and brought other charitable organizations on board to help. Students who were freshmen when the project began are now seniors who have seen the process through to fruition, and Principal Dr. Lara Dixon is grateful Athens was chosen to pilot this effort. Teachers can “check out” the classroom, which can accommodate 40 – 100 students at a time, and after school hours Troy residents will be able to reserve and use the space.



EMPOWER STUDENTS

### DAY OF FIRSTS AT TROY COLLEGE & CAREER HIGH SCHOOL

Both new and returning students were warmly welcomed to Troy College & Career High School in late August with a half-day full of interactive team-building activities, making new friends, and meeting staff members while setting the stage for World Class learning!

Students interacted collaboratively in changing groups throughout the morning. New student lang Chin said she was impressed in those first few hours of being a part of TCCHS.

“I loved how involved the new



principal, teachers, and students were. The staff made us feel so welcome. I loved to see how teachers introduced themselves to each student,” she said.

Chin, who will be participating in the dual enrollment program by attending Oakland Community College while finishing her senior year at TCCHS, added that she appreciates the smaller size of the school, the diversity of the student body, and the encouragement of staff.

“I learned on that first day that the teachers are here to fully support me in my college and career plans,” she said.



## MORSE KALE PROJECT BRINGS FARM TO TABLE

As a follow-up to their composting project, 3rd grade students in Missy Batt's class (also known as The Batts Cave) made kale chips with kale from the Morse Community Garden! The students wanted to do something with the kale in the garden, so they researched recipes in a book and cross-referenced them on the internet. Next, they harvested the kale, washed it, chopped it up, and tossed in some olive oil and seasoning. They baked it in the oven for 20 minutes at 350 degrees F until browned and crispy. It was delicious—and a hands-on example of farm-to-table!



## GRADS GO TO Google

Three TSD 2019 graduates participated in Google's Computer Science Summer Institute: Joseph Chinoski--Athens (UM), Joe LoGrasso--Athens (MSU), Claire Yang--Troy High (UM).

CSSI was a three-week intensive course for rising college freshmen interested in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or related tech fields. Students teamed with Google professionals across the country to deepen their coding skills so that they will excel at their chosen universities. Said Chinoski: "Google CSSI was a perfect introduction to college Computer Science. I was undecided between computer science and computer engineering as a major, but the experiences I had with my mentor along with other students steered me towards the computer science."

Where do they go from here? CSSI prepared participants for other Google programs such as internships in software Engineering, UX, Product Management and more, along with opportunities to learn programming fundamentals from Google engineers and get an inside look at some of Google's most exciting emerging technologies.



## SPORTS ROUNDUP

**Red Hawks** boys soccer is currently undefeated and ranked number 1 in Division 1. Varsity football stands at 2 wins and 2 defeats. In women's sports, volleyball boasts victories in several high powered tournaments and swimmers are showing that Hawks can swim well. Coach Cooper is pleased with his young golfers, and the Coach Johansson's Unified Boys Water Polo team has been the surprise of the fall, dominating old foes. Remember to stop by the Athletic Boosters concession stand at the next home football game for the Fulchinator burger, the most popular burger in Oakland County if not the State.



The TSD is pleased to recognize the following students for being named All-State Athletes, Spring of 2019 for excellence in athletics, by the Michigan High School Athletic Association:

Tahra Brodbine (12, THS Soccer), Jenna Doyle (12, AHS Track), Lauren Fulcher (12, THS Track), Cameron Graziosi (11, AHS Track), Grace Johnson (11, THS Track), Morgan MacDonald (12, THS LAX), Alexis Morse (12, THS Tennis), Sahaja Pinnu (12, THS Tennis), Jordyn Rauser (12, AHS Soccer), Brooke Russell (12, AHS Soccer), Agata Szewczuk (12, AHS Tennis)

**Troy Colt** Football celebrated the 25th anniversary of the 1994 State Championship team. Girls Golf took home 2nd place in league tournament. New head coach, Eric Schuman and the Girls Swim team defeated Athens 120-66. Boys Soccer heads into playoffs with a 5-game winning streak. Boys and Girls Cross Country excel, girls were crowned back-to-back Oakland County Champions. Water Polo continues to make splashes as they get into the height of their season. Coach Brian Miska leads the Boys Tennis team to a #2 state ranking, with their eyes on a state championship.





## DISTRICT ROUND UP

**Athens High:** Senior Nick Carlier plans to study at MSU to become an OB/GYN by taking 3 science classes, working as a student athletic trainer, and interning at Troy Beaumont Hospital.

**IAE:** IA East's fall field day Olympics made learning fun, as each class competed against the others in 25+ different events throughout the building and outside.

**TCCHS:** Leadership students continue their partnership with senior friends at Oakmont Manor, assisting residents with their cell phones, iPad, and other technologies.

**Troy High:** In addition to THS' 42 National Merit Semifinalists, 33 Troy High students were recognized as Commended by the National Merit Corporation.

**Baker:** Bobcats are A-OK! Accountable, Open-Minded, and Kind. Every student committed to joining at least one club, organization or sport, allowing our community to reconnect and support the social-emotional well-being of all.

**Boulan Middle:** Boulan Park TLA 1 students took a field trip around the city of Troy. Broncos had a great day visiting Troy City Hall and getting a tour of the Troy Police Station and Community Center.

**Larson Middle:** The LMS Green Team recently harvested and shared tomatoes, asparagus, peppers, kale, and okra from their school garden which was planted back in the Spring.

**Smith Middle:** Smith's Creation Lab students with teacher Gareth Eve researched, developed, and created 2-liter bottle rockets, which can be found in a World Class Wednesday video.

**Barnard Elementary:** Students at Barnard wore red, white and blue to celebrate Constitution Day! Scouts led a flag raising ceremony, 5th graders recited the preamble to the Constitution, and the Athens band performed patriotic songs.

**Bemis Elementary:** After-school clubs connect parents with their children through educational experiences that enrich their school day, while our PTO helps create a support network for our families through our programs that reach out to all.

**Costello Elementary:** Visiting author Kat Kronenberg shared inspiring messages with the Costello Cardinals about choosing your dream, working hard, and never giving up.

**Hamilton Elementary:** Maker-centered learning is coming to our media center and classrooms! Students have been using this space to collaborate around a problem and use maker skills to create a solution!

**Hill Elementary:** Husky Character Teams are full of P.R.I.D.E.-- Be a Problem Solver; R- Show Respect and Be Responsible; I-Always have Integrity; D-Be Determined in all that you do; E-Show Empathy.

**Leonard Elementary:** Leonard Leopards want to change the world one shopping bag at a time by selling reusable shopping bags in order to reduce the amount of plastic waste that has damaging effects on our oceans.

**Martell Elementary:** A first-day delay in the school year start due to flooding did not stop the excitement and pride in the air as the Martell Mustangs began the 2019-202 school year.

**Morse Elementary:** Morse students and families are supporting homeless individuals by "Plarning"-a process by which non-recyclable plastic grocery bags are "knitted" into waterproof, weatherproof mats and blankets, which will be given to an area shelter. Donate your bags to Morse today.

**Schroeder Elementary:** Author Maria Dismondy supported Schroeder's core values of kindness, perseverance and respect by conducting assemblies to enhance student learning within Schroeder's Character Education Program

**Troy Union Elementary:** Our Media Specialist, Mrs. Alexander has developed a new space within the Media Center to support Media 2.0. This new special offering supports student creativity, prototyping, problem solving and the design process.

**Wass Elementary:** Our Kindergarteners started their school experience with a 5-day Camp where teachers and support staff learned about each child's strengths before assigning teacher placements.

**Wattles Elementary:** "We are One: Home, School, and Community." In September, parents have coordinated our Fun Run, kicked off our Math Pentathlon club, hosted our WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students) Pizza Party, and organized an outside clean-up!

