



TROY School District

Volume 4, Issue 1

NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Richard Machesky

If anyone had tried to predict the challenges schools would face over the past year, no one would have believed it. A pandemic, shutdowns, cases spiking, then dropping, only to spike again. Mandates from the state, changing CDC and local guidance, teachers reimagining the way they engage with students—only to reinvent it again as conditions and needs shifted.

It would be easy to focus on what we couldn't do this year. But I would rather focus on the incredible things we DID do—and what we can take away as we enter a much more "normal" environment in the fall.

As you'll read in this issue, there were many successes in the TSD this year. Elementary students made gains in literacy. Middle and high school students won state and national awards. High school student athletes were able to compete. Student musicians and performers found creative ways to use the Arts to bring people together. We were able to celebrate the Class of 2021, with a fantastic in-person graduation.

We never accepted that things couldn't be done. We saw problems and developed solutions. We created L.I.V.E. and WIFI access centers. We ensured that no TSD student was left behind during quarantines or shutdowns. We provided voluntary vaccine opportunities for staff and students. We fed thousands of children and families—and provided critical assistance on everything from internet access to basic needs to mental health.

Did we get everything right? No. There are certainly things we would have changed. But through it all, our focus on our students and the health and safety of all never wavered.

I'm proud of what we accomplished this year—and that we did it together, in true ONE Troy fashion. Our staff demonstrated extraordinary flexibility and our students showed incredible resiliency. We pushed one another to think differently and never said never. And because of that, we succeeded.

All of these things we will carry with us—and make us stronger, better educators, students and members of this community.

Have a fantastic summer, ONE Troy—the best is yet to come!

Dr. Richard Machesky
Superintendent
Troy School District

Congratulations 2021 TSD GRADUATES!!



On a glorious June day at the outdoor DTE Energy Music Theatre, 1,000+ TSD seniors from all four Troy high schools received their diplomas in four separate graduation ceremonies. Congrats, class of 2021! You did it! **See inside for stories and more photos.**

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO CELEBRATE OUR 8TH GRADERS!

Our administrators and teachers went the extra mile to ensure that our soon-to-be freshmen wrapped up their middle school experience in style. Staff from all four middle schools visited students' homes to deliver congratulatory yard signs, surprising students and their families, who were moved by this personal touch.

Middle school graduates and their families were also treated to a "8th Grade Parade" where staff celebrated their accomplishments and wished them well in their new adventures.



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SUCCEED DESPITE UNUSUAL YEAR

When our youngest elementary students returned consistently to school this fall, teachers knew there would be gaps in their learning. After all, when the state abruptly shut schools down last March, our Kindergarten and First Grade students were just hitting their strides in reading and writing.

But thanks to the incredible work of our classroom teachers and reading specialists, students are back on track. It is an amazing feat, given the obstacles schools have faced with quarantines and learning disruptions as coronavirus cases ebbed and flowed. The key, for our lower elementary students, was the



The results speak for themselves. Eighty percent of students who were identified as reading below grade level in September have advanced so far that they are indistinguishable from their peers in any other "typical" year. For those who are still progressing, our teams are providing multiple supports to ensure that the "pandemic year" doesn't have a lasting impact on student success.

TSD students are thriving despite the challenges of a challenging year!

SCHOOL BOARD CORNER



**Karl Schmidt, President
Board of Education**

What an incredible 15 months since COVID-19 forced us to re-think how we deliver a quality education. Yes, it's been extremely rough for our administration, teachers, support staff, parents, and students—but working together allowed us to meet phenomenal challenges. Let's take a moment to celebrate some of the District's notable accomplishments during this crisis.

Thanks to a collaborative effort with the Troy Educational Association, Troy developed and executed one of the few hybrid teaching systems in the state allowing real time learning for both remote and in-seat students. Beyond preserving a sense of common community between our "roomies" and "Zoomies," it allowed us to quickly pivot to 100% remote teaching if a class required a short quarantine.

Our state-approved Return 2 Learn Plan kept our staff and students safe. Our mitigation

efforts worked, with infection rates dramatically lower than our surrounding community, with no significant spread in buildings. Walking school hallways, I was surprised by how "normal" things felt for the kids. They were happy, learning, and engaged. In spite of visible safety protocols, classrooms looked welcoming as teachers adeptly served both in-seat and remotely-engaged students.



For its entire second year, our new Preschool safely executed in-seat learning for all students. Last September we opened our new Troy

Learning Center, replacing the disintegrating Niles Center. The TLC has allowed us to expand community programs and shift our Troy College and Career High School students to a state-of-the-art educational facility with first-in-district opportunities. Niles has been removed and the lot rehabilitated, providing new space where our preschoolers can run and play.

Our Employee Services and Business Services Teams recently secured new long-range contracts with every employee group, freeing us from labor negotiations for the next 3 years—a situation we haven't achieved in more than 10 years. Now everyone can focus together on providing a world-class educational experience for our kids.

None of this happens by accident—it is the result of many people keeping their heads clear in a crisis and working committedly for our children. As I speak with counterparts in other Michigan districts, I am struck by how exemplary our District team's performance has been. The Board of Education is sincerely grateful and we want our entire community to know just how good you are.

Three TSD Schools Named Schools of Character

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

Three Troy School District schools were named Schools of Character for 2021 by Character.org, a national advocate and leader for character. Athens High School, Bemis Elementary, and Troy Union Elementary achieved State School of Character, and Bemis and Troy Union were also named National Schools of Character.

Athens' Principal Lara Dixon acknowledged key staff in her building who went above and beyond: "I am proud of all of us on this school-wide effort and am especially grateful for Jessica Blake, Eric Flessa, and Asst. Principal Dan Mills, as they have helped lead this work. It has been gratifying to watch our commitment to character grow throughout the years."

Each year, Character.org certifies schools and districts at the state level that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development and have a positive effect on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. According to Troy Union's Principal Mike



Cottone, "We strive to empower students to learn about and take action in the world through our CULTURE traits while fostering positivity amongst our community. Our staff has spent the past several years documenting and reflecting on how we have implemented the standards articulated in Principles Framework for Schools. None of our successes happen without a beyond amazing staff, supportive parents and hardworking kids."

"The Character Education process has been such a meaningful experience," said Bemis' Principal Jeremy Whan. "We are excited because our students are benefiting and understanding how they can help to make our world a 'little bit' better each day by being purposeful people who care about others."

Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky praised the staff at each school, especially for their strong leadership during the challenging environment of COVID-19. "Congratulations on being named Schools of Character. I know you and your teams worked hard to make this a reality. Given the timing and manner in which you had to work, earning these distinctions is even more impressive."

BAKER STUDENTS REIMAGINE FOOD DRIVE

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

Each year, as part of Baker Middle School's social studies unit on food insecurity, students host a huge food drive to benefit the District's "Bridge the Gap" food pantry. Students start collecting food the summer before and compete to be "Super Donors." However, this year's food drive, like so many other things, had to change due to COVID. Baker students decided to hold a ONE Troy food drive at Morse Elementary where folks could drive up, pop their trunks, and students could unload, sort, and store all the food at once. Baker students felt so strongly about making this re-imagined food drive successful that they invited the community and other schools in the District to help, and together they collected enough food to fill the pantry--and feed families for the entire school year.

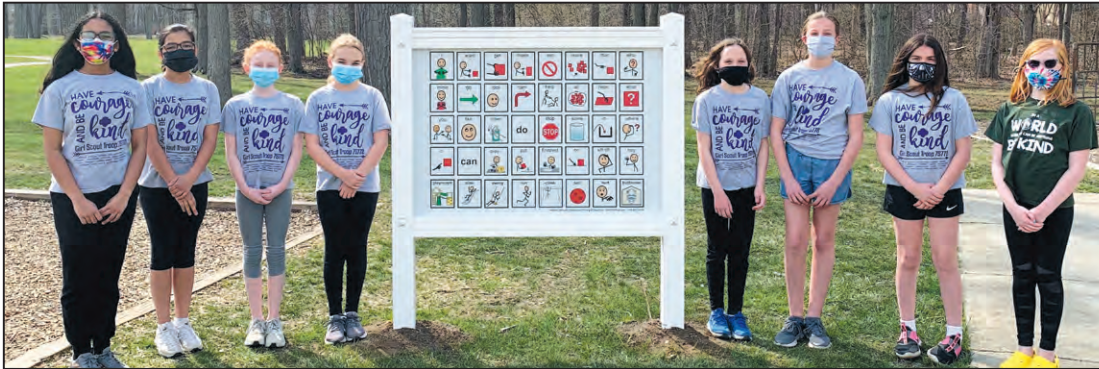


Schroeder Robo-Dragons Create Playground Communications Board

Can you imagine not being able to talk with your friends at recess and tell them what you want to do? This is the problem that the Schroeder Elementary Robo-Dragons Girl Scouts team wanted to fix. The Robo-Dragons—Megan Hatto,

the communication board, kids can combine pictures to create many messages, such as “I want swing,” “I like you,” “I go on playscape,” “I want help,” and “I get ball.”

The Scouts held a Pajama Day where students donated \$2 to wear pajamas at school, which



Samantha Downs, Isha Chawla, Shalini Srinivas, Tatum Sheckell, Lily Bastien, Lila Sieber, and Edy Mayotte—have been a robotics team together since Kindergarten. They settled on helping kids with disabilities for their innovation project in their First Lego League Robotic competition. The Girl Scouts’ goal was to help kids with severe communication delays, such as students with autism or Down syndrome, have fun at recess.

The girls did research and they found that the best way to make this happen was a Playground Communication Core board. One member of the team, Megan Hatto, explained that, “It’s a board that has pictures representing words. If kids can’t talk or have limited language, they point to a picture with a friend and then they will be able to play if the word says ‘play.’” Speech Pathologist Jenny Michalek said, “This is a good way for kids with a communication delay to be able to let people know what they want. This can help prevent tantrums or an isolated feeling.” Using

raised over \$200! They also wrote a grant for the Troy Women’s Association for \$312. Two Girl Scouts members created a small neighborhood business for making and selling handcrafted soap. Between the grant, the Pajama Day fundraiser, and the soap sales, they met their goal to purchase the communication board.

Canfield was proud of his students, “It is impressive to not only see our students excel at Schroeder, but for students to really embrace helping others and serving the

school.” The Robo-Dragons Girl Scouts team is so thankful for the support from Girl Scouts Southeastern Michigan, Mr. Canfield, Troy Women’s Association, and the Schroeder community. Said Scout Samantha Downs, “It’s so exciting, because we worked hard on it and it was finally on the playground so Schroeder students can use it at recess and be social together.” Scout Megan Hatto agreed, “I am so proud of our team’s accomplishment! I hope this will help the Schroeder community for years to come.”

TREE HIRES FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In May, the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence (TFEE) hired Alison Hendry to be its first Executive Director. Mrs. Hendry was most recently the Executive Director of the Birmingham Education Foundation and has worked in both the nonprofit field and as a teacher in Northern Michigan. She is also the mother of a Martell second grade student. When asked about leading the TFEE, Mrs. Hendry said, “I’m thrilled to have been chosen as the first Executive Director for the TFEE and am excited to lead the Foundation as we seek to connect teachers and our schools with community support!” To learn more about the TFEE, visit TroyFoundation.org.



“Log Off & Lace Up!” to Encourage Health and Fitness

To encourage physical activity and screen breaks during COVID quarantine, Elementary PE teachers created “Log Off & Lace Up,” a virtual walk and run that could be planned and executed when convenient.



Routes were established in area parks and Troy Schools’ tracks, and families were encouraged to participate.



Participation was FREE, online training plans were available, bibs were provided, and running attire was available for purchase.



3,413 participants from 28 states and 7 countries joined, logging a grand total of 6,959 miles!

EMPOWER STUDENTS

TROY HIGH ALUM ISABELLA HOM ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT

Troy High graduate ('20) Isabella Hom achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, one of the first 1,000 female scouts and one of 35 in Michigan to receive this honor. Her Eagle project was providing hygiene kits, touchless thermometers, pulse oximeters, blood pressure monitors, and naloxone medical supply cabinets to a homeless shelter in Pontiac. To fund these activities, she organized Scouts to return over 21,000 bottles and cans. In addition, as an alumna of the TCMB, Hom was asked to be the Bugler for the "Be the Change" online celebration of the induction of the first female Scouts.



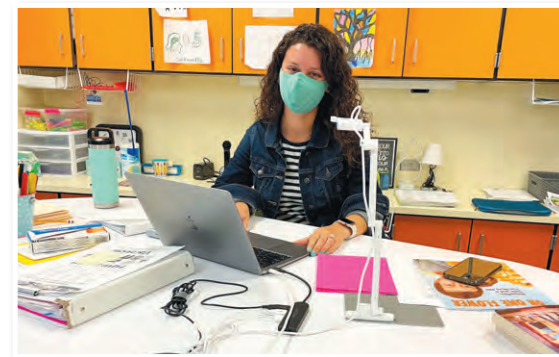
PRIORITIZE LEARNING

TREE PROVIDES TECH TOOLS 4 TEACHERS

The Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence (TFEE) held a gift card raffle fundraiser in December to support an exciting new program for Troy School District teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. All classroom teachers had the opportunity to choose one item from a "Technology Innovation Menu" aimed to impact, enhance, and support the virtual learning experience for over 800 classrooms.

According to TFEE Grant Committee Chair Jennifer Gottlieb, "Our teachers have had some time to determine instructional practices that work (and don't work) in the ever-changing environment that defines 2020-21, and may be thinking..... 'Wouldn't it be cool if I had a fill-in-the-blank?' So, the organization engaged TSD's Teaching and Learning and Technology Services departments to brainstorm what might be useful."

The result was a "menu" of 14 technology supports such as new webcams, Bluetooth-compatible mouse/keyboards, and USB connectivity devices, among others. Said TFEE President Julie McClure, "It is important now more than ever to provide the means for our teachers to be able to



connect with their students and with each other." McClure was proud that this program touched each classroom/teacher/student in the district with these needed technology tools.

To fund the program, the TFEE held their first raffle, with 1,000 tickets at \$5 each (they sold out!) for the chance to win \$1,000 in gift cards. The winner was former IAE teacher Jennifer Gebbie. Stay tuned to see what the TFEE will do next and to support their mission of "strengthening the educational excellence of TSD K-12 students by funding innovative learning opportunities through private support."

TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESCHOOL 2021

ENROLL TODAY!

Register at <https://troy.ce.eleyo.com/preschool>

THE TROY DIFFERENCE

- Authentic literacy and play-based curriculum
- World-Class, brand-new facility
- Expert teaching teams
- Extensive indoor & outdoor natural gross-motor space
- Continued commitment to prioritizing health & safety

PROGRAM OPTIONS

- Tuition Preschool
- Great Start Readiness
- Early Childhood (ECP)
- Pre-K Free Preschool
- Flexible Options



FOR MORE INFORMATION (248) 823-3000

205 W. Square Lake Road
Troy, Michigan 48098

TSDPRESCHOOLINFO@TROY.K12.MI.US



<https://tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us>

0397-2103

TSD PODCASTS INFORM & ENTERTAIN

TSD produces dozens of top-rated podcasts that take you behind the scenes and introduce you to interesting people & places. *Finding a Way* highlights how we navigate challenges; *Sidelines* takes you inside sports; *Speaking of Equity* and *Inside TSD* discuss important issues—there is something for everyone! Search TSD World Class Podcasts wherever you get your podcasts.



KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT SCAN ME

For Kindergarten Enrollment information

← **SCAN ME**

2021-2022 TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

It's Time to Save Your Spot

ENROLLING NOW

Do you live in Troy School District and have a child who will be five years old by Sept. 1, 2021? If so, call your neighborhood elementary school to get on their mailing list or contact us.

Additional Questions?
(248) 823-4002
 OR
(248) 823-4004

TSD Central Enrollment
 4400 Livernois, Troy, MI 48098
enrollment@troy.k12.mi.us



Not ready for Kindergarten? Ask us about the TSD Preschool

TSD PRESCHOOL DELIVERS ALL YEAR LONG

INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Learning won't stop for many of Troy's tiniest learners as our Preschool Summer Program kicks off with a fun and engaging experience on June 21. Students aged 3 to 5 will explore, create, laugh and learn each week in a literacy-rich environment. A separate "First Friends" parent/tot play group will also be available for parents and little ones 18 months to 3 years old.

Both of these programs are designed with world class learning for students and maximum flexibility for families. Parents can sign their children up for only the weeks they need and be assured that they will spend their days in a nurturing, FUN environment with a state-of-the-art facility and the highest quality teachers.

If you are looking for a top-notch preschool for your child for the fall, enrollment is still open, but space is limited. From letters and sounds to science and art, our classrooms are filled with the sights and sounds of students developing a true love of learning. Our experienced teachers guide your child using with developmentally appropriate lessons directly aligned to our K-12 curriculum, so that your child will have a seamless transition to Kindergarten.

Simply put, there is no better start for your child than TSD Preschool.

Visit tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us or call 248-823-3000 for more information.



TROY BOASTS 52 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR FINALISTS

Fifty-two Troy School District students were named 2021 National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. This honor is bestowed to 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. As finalists, our students were eligible for the 7,500 National Merit Scholarships of at least \$2,500 each. For more information, visit nationalmerit.org.

"I am amazed by the large numbers of students from the TSD who are recognized annually for this national honor," said Troy Schools Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky. "This speaks to the dedication of our students, parents and teachers across our learning community who work together to provide the best educational opportunities for our students."

Students are listed alphabetically by high school:

ATHENS: Poulomi Dey, Krishna Kottai, Esha Munagala, Nicholas Simon, Matthew Villavicencio

IA: Harika Billa, Iyer Diksha, Mahith Kanuri, Heeweon Kim, Kishan Patel

TROY HIGH: Nina Aitas, Marcus Chung, Sneda Dinda, Prashanti Donthireddy, Alaina Favret, Archita Girmannagari, Annie He, Madhavan Iyengar, Shruti Jain, Achyuth Kashyap, Arjun Kashyap, Raj Khuperkar, Minseong Kim, Amol Kirtane, Nathan Kovacs, Sophia Liang, Elliot Liu, Shifa Malik, Sandhya Manivasagam, Parvathi Nagappala, Aarti Phatke, Prajna Polamarasetti, Lauryn Prokup, Sohil Ramachandra, Navneet Ramadurai, Swarith Reddy, Surya Sanjay, Sabrina Song, Sohan Vittalram, Allison Wei, Josiah Wong, Jasmine Wu, Alexander Xu, Sarah Xu, Lily Yang, Ruicheng Yang, Dorothy Yin, Michael Young, Darren Zeng, Anna Zhao, Katherine Zhao, Erik Zhou.



EMPOWER STUDENTS

BARNARD STUDENTS SWEEP ART CONTEST

There's something in the water at Barnard Elementary in Troy. The popular 2021 Oakland County Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest has resulted in yet another sweep by Barnard Elementary School students. Out of nearly 200 4th and 5th grade art submissions from across the County, Barnard 4th grader Aditya Yogesh won the grand prize with his artwork titled, "Save Water, Save Nature" and is featured on the cover of the 2021 Kids' Clean Water Calendar.

This is something students and staff at Barnard have been on top of (literally) for years. Out of the last 12 years 5 Barnard students have been Grand

Prize Winners, 37 have been Monthly winners, 32 have been Honorable Mentions, and 47 have been Special Acknowledgement winners. That's a lot of Bluejays, and this contest has become part of the fabric of what they do over at Barnard. "We are grateful that the Water Resources Commission continues to honor our students for not only their beautiful artwork, but also for the important messages they share about protecting our waterways," said teacher Gwen Simon.

The 2021 calendar artwork gallery can be viewed at www.oakgov.com/water/resources/education/calendar-contest, and calendars can be ordered and picked up at the listed local libraries, including the Troy Public Library.



Celebrating



Seniors



Students Stepping Up, Giving Back

The Costello community raised money for Beaumont Children's Hospital by creating archways of holiday lights in the neighborhood. Attendees donated money to take in the sights while helping to support the cause.



TCCHS "Holiday Helpers," working with Troy People Concerned,



raised \$2,000 for families in need and delivered their donations on their new one-of-a-kind school bus, which has been uniquely designed by the school's art teacher.

Troy United Girls' Hockey traded their hockey helmets and facemasks for Santa hats and COVID masks and sorted and packed up enough food to feed 80 families over the holidays,



which was distributed through Morse Elementary's "Bridge the Gap" program.

Athens Student Council members wrote letters to Troy Beaumont patients and also collected \$2,000 in gift cards to aid the Troy Police Department with their Operation Blue Sleigh.

Troy's Key2Finesse student group raised over \$75,000 for organ and



tissue donation, signed up 107 new organ donors, and had 250 people attend their virtual awards ceremony.

Baker 6th grader Brady Langston made



care packages for the homeless. Each bag had a special message and contained a winter hat, gloves, mask, water, food, and \$5.

Bemis 1st grader Shaurya Lohia made 50 holiday cards for frontline workers to bring smiles to the faces of these awesome people and to brighten up their stressful day. The cards went to doctors, nurses, medical assistants, mail carriers, police officers, firefighters, and grocery store delivery people across Troy and Detroit.



In September and April, **IAE's** Key Club had a successful roadside clean-up along 15 Mile with Troy Kiwanis Club. Our volunteers collected trash off the roads to keep our community clean.



TSD SENIORS COMPETE FOR COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIPS

Three TSD seniors at Troy and Athens High Schools are among only 23 semifinalists in the state of Michigan chosen for the 2021 class of the prestigious Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Athens senior Audrey Apahidean and Troy seniors Abigail Liang and Om Shah

Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky is also proud of these future leaders: "I'm extremely impressed by and proud of these wonderful students who will be incredible ambassadors for not only our District,



but for the whole City of Troy."

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is an achievement-based scholarship awarded to graduating high school seniors. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, as well as their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.

THS semifinalist Abby Liang is proud of this designation. "Being recognized as a semifinalist is an honor. At Troy High, I lead several clubs such as Project Lead, where I raised over 2,600 items for a holiday food drive in 2018."

were singled out for the honor by the Coca-Cola Foundation.

"We are lucky to celebrate young people who push themselves beyond what they have been given to achieve great success," said Jane Hale Hopkins, Foundation President.

"The Coca-Cola system is dedicated to giving back to the communities they serve, and the foundation is proud to be a part of that commitment."

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

2021 Best Community for Music Education



It's been quite a year. And even though many fine arts ensembles were unable to meet, practice, and perform as they were used

to doing, Troy was still named a 2021 Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) and the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas. This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made exemplary music education part of the curriculum.

This is the 14th consecutive year Troy has received this designation, and it is especially impressive given the challenges of the pandemic that changed so much of how our music programs functioned. Said TSD Instrumental Music Coordinator Joe Havrilla: "We've seen adaptation and growth for performing arts teachers in the Troy School District, as we have adapted to teaching and learning in new settings. We've incorporated technology such as iMovie, SmartMusic, and Noteflight to engage and collaborate with student groups, until we can all meet again in a classroom setting."

EMPOWER STUDENTS

IAE STUDENT SELECTED AS SEMIFINALIST IN NASA'S "ARTEMIS MOON POD ESSAY CONTEST"

International Academy East Junior Siddharth Gupta has been named one of only 155 semifinalists in Future Engineers

and NASA's Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest. This prestigious national competition challenged K-12 students to think about leading a one-week expedition at the Moon's South Pole, including writing about their expedition's crew and technology, and imagining leaving their technology behind to help future astronauts explore the Moon.

Approximately 14,000 essay submissions were received from K-12 students across the country and over

1,000 eligible judge volunteers comprised of educators, professionals, and space enthusiasts helped review essays.

As a semifinalist, Gupta received an Artemis Prize Pack filled with space-themed prizes plus the opportunity to attend a series of virtual Artemis Explorer Sessions with NASA experts. But there was one more surprise in store for all the students who submitted an entry: NASA will fly a digital copy of all 14,000 essays around the Moon aboard Artemis I.

Gupta was thrilled to learn his essay was going up into space and felt he had learned what astronauts would need to

land on the moon and what is crucial for their survival and for future expeditions. "The most exciting thing about going to the Moon is the possibility of living there substantially and having people land on the moon after 50+ years."

He has always had a natural curiosity for science, technology, and space, and credits the International Academy community with "helping to embrace my curiosity about the natural world and encouraging me to take part in this competition." To see a listing of the 155 semifinalists, visit <https://www.futureengineers.org/artemismoonpodessay>



2021 TROYBERY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

You've heard of the Newbery Reading Award, but have you heard of the Troybery? A mock-Newbery medal program, Troybery has encouraged Troy middle schoolers since 2000 to read the best middle grade books published that year and then vote on their favorites. The contest usually begins in the fall, with students reading nominated books and then voting for them in a March Madness-style tournament. But this year was different.

For the 21st Annual Troybery Award Program, TSD middle school media specialists Christina Chatel and Kathy Loch decided to choose a reading theme that would make it easy for all students (whether in-person or virtual) to access books to participate, and chose the theme "Team Troybery vs. Team Newbery." Students were challenged to read the Newbery AND the Troybery winners from 2001-2020 and vote on which books they liked best. The winners were *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (Troybery) and *New Kid* by Jerry Craft (Newbery).



And, as is tradition, a special guest author was invited to ZOOM with the students in real time. This year, Alicia D. Williams, author of Newbery winner *Genesis Begins Again*, spent an hour virtually with students sharing her story of how she became a story-teller and encouraging students to have the courage to be "bold, daring, courageous and DREAM big" and not let others' opinions sway or distract them from writing. She took questions from the students and ended her presentation with a quote from the

Wizard of Oz "You've always had the power, my dear, you just had to learn and find it yourself."

While certainly different like many things this year, Loch and Chatel felt this year's Troybery program was a success: "The 2021 Troybery reading program involved timeless award winners and classics; books that have been cherished over the years by generations of readers."

TCCHS Students Shine

Senior Kayla Sage received a partial scholarship from The Women of Tomorrow, a group dedicated to mentoring young women. As a dual enrollment student, Sage has successfully completed two college classes at Macomb Community College while in high school. She has been involved in Student Leadership and participated in a summer study program through Hillsdale College in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and Gettysburg. She has also been competitively participating in the sport of fencing since she was 11 years old. The St. Clair Shores resident is planning to attend Oakland University in the fall to prepare for a career in a science-related field.



"BOOST GRANTS" 3 TCCHS SENIORS

Seniors Casey Gabriel, Chludio Grishaj, and Paije Ruff are recipients of the first-ever "Boost Grants" from Troy Youth Assistance. The Grant will pay for Gabriel's college computer programming class and related textbooks, and Grishaj and Ruff will each receive a laptop to assist them as they begin college classes in the fall. "I am very grateful to be given a chance to pursue and be introduced to a field I am interested in," Gabriel said. "It is a chance I would not have had otherwise." TYA's "Boost Grant" seeks to honor high school students and support them in moving toward their life goals.



TROY ROBOTICS TEAMS COMPETE VIRTUALLY, BRING HOME AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Members of the Troy FIRST Robotics Teams (FRC 226, the Hammerheads) brought home 3 Blue banners & 1 Engineering Inspiration Award to Troy High School & Athens High School, including their second consecutive State Championship Chairman's Blue Banner, ending the season ranked in the Top 3 of Michigan's 560 competitive high school teams.

Although competitions couldn't take place in person, FIRST made it possible for team members to continue competing for the Chairman's Award at District and State levels. Here is a breakdown of the awards from our 2020 season:

St Joseph District Competition:

- District Engineering Inspiration Award
- District Event Winner (Blue Banner)

Troy District Competition:

- District Chairman's Award

Michigan State Championship:

- District Chairman's Award

The Hammerheads were ranked 2 out of 40, after a day and a half of qualification matches



before playoff rounds. At the St Joseph District Event, students Harshini Padala and Nidhi Jaison were both interviewed by ESPN between playoff matches. Harshini has just been selected as our 2020-2021 FRC 226 Team President, and Nidhi will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall studying Computer Science! Furthermore, Harshini individually qualified for the World Championship as a FIRST in Michigan Dean's List Finalist – an award only received by 15 students in the state of Michigan. COVID won't keep the Hammerheads from competing, and if any parents are interested in getting their kids involved in FIRST, it is available for all grades from Preschool to 12th. Information can be found on their website: www.hammerhead226.org.

ONE TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT SPORTS

Congratulations TO ALL OF OUR 2020-21 ATHLETES!

Troy High Signing Day Athletes

Chris Baxter - Lacrosse - Adrian
 Jessica Green - Soccer - Lawrence Tech
 Alexandra Armin - Soccer - Kalamazoo College
 Marian Croci - Track - Univ. of St. Francis at Fort Wayne
 Paige Anderson - Cross Country - Kalamazoo College
 Lauren Gumma - Basketball - St. Mary's College
 Angela Anderanin - Tennis - Lawrence Tech
 Manny Al-Nsour - Hockey - U of M Dearborn
 CJ Noon - Baseball - Hope College
 Brody Parker - Basketball - Oakland University

Ethan Emerzian - Basketball - Madonna
 Jake Emerzian - Basketball - Madonna
 D'Anthony Hamilton - Basketball - Concordia
 Chris Worrell - Soccer - Northern Michigan
 Ryan Peluso - Football - Central Michigan



Athens Signing Day Athletes

Clara Shoales - Women's basketball - Olivet College
 Hunter Pidek - Baseball - Oakland University
 Andrew Pokley - Baseball - Heidelberg College
 Riley Weber - Baseball - Kalamazoo College
 Miranda McKee - Women's golf - Albion College
 Gabe Brown - Men's tennis - Boston University
 Jake Thompson - Bowling - Rochester University
 Waides Ashmon III - Football - Adrian College
 TJ Renaud - Men's Soccer - Rochester University
 Adrian Lekocaj - Men's Soccer - Northwood University

Fall All State:

Ryan Gruca (AHS Soccer)	Olivia Hemmila (AHS Golf)
Anthony Kopolo (AHS Soccer)	Andrew Howard (THS Soccer)
Adrian Lekocaj (AHS Soccer)	Andrew Wang (THS Tennis)
TJ Renaud, (AHS Soccer)	Samay Achar (THS Tennis)
Gabe Brown, (AHS Tennis)	Rucha Deshpande (THS Swim)
Shray Naik (AHS Tennis)	

Fall Academic All State:

Athens Girls Golf Team	Chris Worrell (THS Soccer)
Zach Chbihi (THS Soccer)	Troy Girls XC Team
Mitchell Chang (THS Soccer)	Paige Anderson (THS XC)
Jacob Gimm (THS Soccer)	Charlotte Guillion (THS XC)
Andrew Howard (THS Soccer)	Aileen Liu (THS XC)
Ryan Peluso (THS Soccer)	Ryan Peluso (THS Football)
Yousef Turf (THS Soccer)	

SPORTS DURING A YEAR OF COVID

Adaptable. Persevering. Strong. Determined.

These words describe our student athletes during this unprecedented year. But pictures are worth a thousand words, so here are some of our favorites:



District Round Up



Athens High: Athens TV students, taught by Adam Burns, made films and PSAs, earning 71 state and national awards and scholarships this year. Innovation, passion, adaption, creativity, and something to say!

IAE: Even through the pandemic, the IA East Forensics Team continues to grow both in participants and in successes. This year the 16-member team earned 5th place in Forensics Finals!!

TCCHS: TCCHS recently established an exciting partnership with “HighScores!”, an esports company to build a technology lab this summer as the district training grounds for establishing an esports “eco-system” in the TSD.

Troy High: The 2020 Gladiator Yearbook and 2021 Chariot Newspapers won impressive MIPA awards, including a Silver Medal/Spartan Award for last year’s Gladiator, and the Chariot swept the illustration category for individual awards.

Baker Middle: Partnered with a meal delivery group called “Lasagna Love,” a grassroots organization that aims to fight food insecurity by connecting those in need with neighbors who can provide homemade lasagnas.

Boulan Middle: BPMS held its first live music event of the year! Thanks to the hard work and ingenuity of Mr. Havrilla and his students, the band performed LIVE on the football field on June 7th!

Larson Middle: Larson Middle School’s Science Olympiad team recently completed its most successful season in many years, finishing 6th at the Michigan State Science Olympiad!

Smith Middle: Smith’s Science Olympiad team participated virtually in the 2021 National tournament which took place at Arizona State University and placed 32nd out of the top 60 national schools.

Barnard Elementary: 5th Grade Egg Drop was live-streamed. Students designed capsules to protect an egg from breaking when dropped from the roof. Cameras on the roof and ground-level helped “zoomies” feel as involved in the action as the “roomies.”

Bemis Elementary: Congratulations to Bemis Elementary parents, students and staff on being named a National School of Character and for supporting our vision to develop the academic--as well as the social emotional--intelligences of our students.

Costello Elementary: Students have been sharing favorite song selections on the schoolwide sound system during morning arrival for Cardinals Music Share Days. Music is a terrific way to bring our community together and an inspiring way to start our day!

Hamilton Elementary: 3rd grade teachers piloted a new writing unit for the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project associated with Columbia University, inviting renowned literacy expert Lucy Calkins to confer with Hamilton students over Zoom.

Hill Elementary: Hill students will create a summer passion project combining what they love to do with core academic areas. In August, they will present their ideas to the Passion Project Team and receive a certificate of completion.

Leonard Elementary: The Leonard family is proud to celebrate all the amazing learning that has happened this school year! Students, staff, and parents have come together to support each other, succeeding in the face of challenges!

Martell Elementary: Martell 5th graders will be honored in a safe, socially distanced, outdoor promotion ceremony at the end of the year, having worked all year long to find ways to be leaders in the building in safe ways.

Morse Elementary: Morse’s Tina M. Houser Bridge The Gap Pantry will serve the TSD community this summer every Wednesday at Morse (475 Cherry St Troy MI 48083) from 6-7PM! Pantry food is FREE to all TSD families in need!

Schroeder Elementary: Students continued Character Education by participating in Dragon Den lessons within their classroom, supporting our core values of kindness, perseverance and respect.

Troy Union Elementary: In March, Troy Union unified staff, students and families around a community wide book study using Wish Tree by Katherine Applegate. The book highlight many of our character education traits like being caring and empathetic.

Wass Elementary: All students participated in our annual Running with the Wolves event for first time since 2019. The focus was for all students to do their personal best and improve upon their former time on a 1-mile course.

Wattles Elementary: Students and staff painted rocks unique to themselves for their OneWattles Anchor rock garden as a way to demonstrate their sense of community.

TSD Preschool: Is so proud to send nearly 200 preschool kiddos on to TSD Kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year! We know you’ll continue to be safe, kind, responsible students who make us proud!

