



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Piper, Superintendent, Troy City Schools

Trojan Families:

We are pleased to be entering the second semester of the school year and the first part of 2023 with all of the momentum we gained through our many accomplishments during the first semester of the 2022-23 school year and the 2022 calendar year.

We are so proud of what our students and staff members were able to accomplish together in the classroom, in the arts, in athletics, in extracurricular activities and in our community. Each and every day, members of our Trojan Family are making us proud.

Our biggest accomplishment of 2022 was being ranked among the top 15 percent of the 610 public school districts in Ohio, based on the annual state report cards recently released by the Ohio Department of Education.

The ODE gave each district 1-5 stars (1 being the lowest, five being the highest) in each of five categories: Achievement, Gap Closing, Progress, Graduation and Early Literacy. The district scored five stars in both Progress and Cap Closing, four stars in Achievement and Graduation, and three stars in Early Literacy.

We scored highest Progress and Gap Closing, both of which are measures of how the district is doing compared to prior years. In the Progress category, Troy had the 19th-highest score out of 610 districts across the state of Ohio.

With the first semester of the school year behind us, we anxiously look ahead to all the excitement the second half of the school year brings. With a new year ahead of us, we can't wait to see what we can accomplish this year.

Go Trojans!

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH NEW SCHOOLS?

Many of you have asked if/when the Troy City Schools will bring another plan to voters to build new school buildings through a bond issue.

Currently, funding from the Ohio School Facilities Construction Commission is not available, but we have been told it will be soon. When it becomes available, state funding would pay for approximately 42 percent of the total cost for new buildings, should voters approve a bond issue.

Currently, none of our buildings have air conditioning, with the exception of Troy Junior High.

Here is when our buildings were constructed		
Van Cleve Sixth Grade Building (1914)	Concord Elementary School (1919)	Heywood Elementary School (1930)
Forest Elementary School (1949)	Kyle Elementary School (1950)	Troy High School (1958)
Cookson Elementary School (1964)	Hook Elementary School (1966)	Troy Junior High School (1973)



TROY STUDENTS, STAFF GIVE BACK

One of our goals as a district is to make sure our students not only contribute in the classrooms, but within the community.

We are incredibly proud of the many charitable deeds, fundraisers and donations our students and staff members put together throughout the school year, particularly between Thanksgiving and the end of the year.

Here are some of the projects our students and student organizations undertook around the holidays:

- The Forest Student Council held a food drive to help fill the Community Food Trucks.
- The Hook Student Council held a food and toiletry drive. Kids received a little incentive, because for every item they bring in, they are entered in a raffle. Mr. Gustin bought one pizza every day for the raffle winner and seven friends.
- Troy High School Student Government collected items for Seeds of Hope. There were trees throughout the high school with donation ornaments attached.
- Astra, along with Interact, “adopted” seven families from Kyle Elementary School for Christmas. They received the children’s wish lists and provided toys and clothing for the kids, along with some gifts for the adults and rolls of wrapping paper and ribbons for each family.
- The Troy High School Interact Club worked with the Troy Rotary Club at the Lincoln Community Center’s Santa breakfast.

TROY STUDENTS, STAFF GIVE BACK

- Troy High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) organization collected presents for Operation Xmas Child.
- Concord Elementary School held a canned food drive for grades K-2, and then a paper goods drive for grades 3-5. This was in connection with the drives that First Place Food Pantry in Troy held over the holidays.
- At Kyle Elementary School, Mrs. Myers' kindergarten class did Kind Kids Club (random acts of kindness) in December.
- At Troy High School, the National Honor Society collected toys and other toiletry items for Seeds of Hope.
- The Troy High School Business Club donated \$250 to First Place Food Pantry and to the St. Patrick Soup Kitchen.
- Troy High School's Key Club supported Kiwanis in their Toy Drive. Members also volunteered unloading food trucks and other various volunteer opportunities. The Key Club also made blankets for Project Linus.
- The THS Troy girls golf team and Troy Business Club purchased gifts in support of Student Government's toy drive for Seeds of Hope.
- Heywood Student Council collected more than 1,300 items to donate to the First Place Food Pantry in Troy. They also made holiday cards for the local nursing homes for Christmas.



OUR CALENDAR FOR 2023-2024 NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

For those of you who like to plan ahead, our calendar for the 2023-24 school year is now available online. A full copy of the calendar is available [HERE](#).



FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL FORECAST



The Troy Board of Education recently approved the district's five-year financial forecast.

According to the Ohio Department of Education: "A forecast is somewhat like a painting of the future based upon a snapshot of today. That snapshot, however, will be adjusted and the further into the future the forecast extends, the more likely it is that the projections will deviate from actual experience. A variety of events will ultimately impact the latter years of the forecast, such as state budgets (adopted every two years), tax levies (new/renewal/replacement), salary increases, or businesses moving in or out of the district.

The five-year forecast is viewed as a key management tool and must be updated periodically. In Ohio, most school districts understand how they will manage their finances in the current year. The five-year forecast encourages district management teams to examine future years' projections and identify when challenges will arise. This then helps district management to be proactive in meeting those challenges."

For the fiscal year 2023, the district forecasts total revenues of \$51,857,926, with total anticipated expenditures of \$54,064,080, leaving the district with a projected cash balance of \$10,858,969. The district's actual cash balance for the fiscal year 2022 was \$13,065,123.

The forecast for fiscal year 2024 shows projected revenues of \$52,379,584 and projected expenditures of \$55,700,841.

Those numbers only tell a part of the story, however, Troy City Schools Treasurer Jeff Price said.

"These are just projections, a brief glimpse of the way things are at that point in time," Price said.

"That's typical. The state of Ohio only budgets for two years at a time.

The federal government only budgets for three months. There is no guarantee. We have to apply for those funds every year. We project for the worst case scenario expense wise and a conservative scenario revenue wise. Those projections allow us to make the necessary changes, financially, that we need to make to keep the district running."



THS STUDENTS TAKE A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO LEARNING

Some concepts are so complex that the best way to learn them is the hands-on approach.

The students in Page Davis' anatomy and physiology classes at Troy High School have the opportunity to get an up close and personal – as well as three-dimensional – look at how the human body and all of its internal systems work, thanks in part to the “Anatomy in Clay” learning system.



The “Anatomy in Clay” learning system includes MANIKENS (plastic skeletons around which the clay is formed), clay, tools and reference materials for two full anatomy sections.

“The mind cannot forget what the hands have learned! This is the slogan for Anatomy in Clay,” Davis said. “In a learning system of rote memorization, muscle actions such as abduction, flexion, etc. have little context, therefore are less relevant to students and become harder to learn and understand. Instead, by interacting in a hands-on fashion with the MANIKIN, students can make inferences linking anatomical structures with their functions.

“Students can use these to learn about many body systems, including making nerves (with yellow clay), arteries (red), veins (blue), lymph vessels and nodes (green), et cetera. We can also model organs prior to dissecting them to improve the experience. There are 7 colors of clay for these purposes. The clay lasts 10-15 years without drying out.”

Davis and THS Science Department Chair first saw “Anatomy in Clay” four years ago at a conference, and have been working diligently since then to bring them to Troy High School.

“The desire for obtaining this system came about in November 2019 when several of us, including me and Jason Orsborne, attended the National Science Teaching Association Conference in Cincinnati,” Davis said. “I attended a hands-on workshop where we built the rotator cuff muscles that I had my students begin with this week. Jason saw the booth in the vendor hall. We agreed we had to have it!”

The “Anatomy in Clay” system came with a hefty price tag, but thanks to a grant from the Miami County Foundation, students will be able to use it this year and for years to come.

“This was a Miami County Foundation grant in the amount of \$9,500,” Davis said. “It covered purchasing the complete system for two full anatomy sections, which will accommodate up to 48 students. Jason and I began writing this grant in June 2020 when it was clear we would not have district funds to purchase it. Getting it to the right organization took time, but we shot for the stars and landed in the Andromeda Galaxy!”



Davis said MANIKENS have been a big hit with students in her two anatomy and physiology classes.

“The students are very excited and fully engaged,” she said. “They are not anxious for the class period to end! Most feel it will help them learn anatomy more effectively.”

TROY MARCHING BAND CROSSES THE ATLANTIC



The Troy High School marching band had the opportunity to ring in the new year five hours ahead of most of us, as it was in London, England to participate in the London New Year's Day Parade.

A contingent of 55 band members, 48 family members and community members made the trip, which was in the planning stages for more than a year. The group left Ohio Dec. 26, performed in the parade on Jan. 1 and returned home Jan. 2, just in time for the first day back from winter break.

In addition to performing in the parade, the group also toured St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Churchill War Rooms, the British Museum, the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, the Natural History Museum, The London Eye and Stonehenge, just to name a few of the sights. They also went shopping at the infamous Harrod's department store and the ultra posh Oxford and Regent Streets.

"It was the trip of a lifetime," Troy Director of Bands Molly Venneman said. "For most of the kids, it was their first chance to travel outside the United States. For many, it might be their only chance. Not only did the kids do an excellent job in the

parade, they represented their school and their city so well. It was a trip none of the kids or chaperones will ever forget."

This was the band's fifth trip to London, with the first coming in 2002. The band had been returning every four years since then to ensure every interested student had the opportunity to attend once during their high school careers, but the global pandemic threw that schedule off track. This was the first time the Trojans have traveled to London since 2016-17.





STADIUM TURF PROJECT GETS CLOSER TO FUNDRAISING GOAL

The Stadium and Turf Enhancement Project at Troy Memorial Stadium and Ferguson

Field (STEP) is nearly 75 percent to its goal of raising \$3.9 million privately to replace natural grass with artificial turf at both of these heavily used high school venues in Troy, as well as make other enhancements.

In addition to the seed pledge of \$1 million from the Ernst Family/Ernst Concrete, a recent

anonymous donation of \$1.4 million has now brought the total to \$2.9 million, leaving the project \$1 million away from its goal. In addition to these pledges, the STEP has received many generous donations from local businesses, community organizations and local residents, in addition to grants from local foundations. A list of donors is listed on the group's website at stepfortrojans.com.

"We are incredibly humbled and grateful for the outpouring of support from the Troy community," said Tom Kleptz, STEP committee chair. "Once we reach our goal, their collective support will make a significant impact on our schools, our students and our community."

Plans for STEP would reconfigure Ferguson Field to a regulation-sized soccer field with permanent lighting and upgrades to the press box, bleachers, scoreboard and fencing. At Troy Memorial Stadium, the main project would be the replacement of natural grass with field turf.

Despite being the seventh-largest high school stadium in Ohio, Troy Memorial Stadium cannot host neutral site tournament games due to the Ohio High School Athletic Association's requirement for field turf. If the STEP is achieved, football games and marching band events would be held at Troy Memorial Stadium, while all soccer games would take place at Ferguson Field, and Troy would be eligible to host neutral site events, bringing additional business to the local community.

There are many levels of giving and each dollar counts. Donations of \$100-1,000 would have donor names placed on a grid display at both stadiums; donations of \$1,001-\$100,000 would have their names added to a plaque at both stadiums. Gifts of \$100,001 and above would have opportunities for naming rights to parts of the project.

Those interested in contributing to the STEP may do so via check to the Troy Foundation (note STEP in the memo) at 216 W. Franklin St., Troy, Ohio 45373, or via secure online donation at www.stepfortrojans.com.



VAN CLEVE SUPPORTS RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

For the past nine years, Van Cleve 6th Grade has participated in the Miami County Solid Waste Districts "Tab-A-Pull-Ooza" Contest. This contest is open to all schools in Miami County. Proceeds from the pop tab contest go to support the Ronald McDonald House of Dayton!

"We love this opportunity to build positive classroom environments and unity all while supporting a wonderful cause so close to home! We take time to share videos about The Ronald McDonald House of Dayton and their purpose in serving families in our communities," said Katie

Rindler and JoLynn Scalice, Van Cleve Student Council Co-Advisors. "This helps give students a personal connection to the 'why' behind bringing in pop tabs for our competition."

This year, Van Cleve collected a total of 96.75 pounds of pop tabs as a school. The homerooms competed to see who can bring in the most pop tabs. Mrs. Alison Osborne's homeroom was the winning homeroom, bringing in a total of 32.5 pounds of pop tabs!!!

In the spring, Van Cleve Student Council plans to do a collection for items to donate to local food pantries and organizations.



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