



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Piper, Superintendent, Troy City Schools

Trojan Families:

It is hard to believe we are just a few weeks away from the end of the 2023 school year, but here we are.

First and foremost, I want to congratulate the graduating Class of 2023 and wish them well in all of their future endeavors. I also want to thank them for being leaders not only at Troy High School, but throughout our district and in our community. This is a tremendous group of around 300 students who have truly made a difference in their time here with the Troy City Schools. I have no doubts they will continue to do so moving forward. I expect great things from this class. You will be missed, but you will never be forgotten.

As we say goodbye to the Class of 2023, I would also like to welcome the incoming class of 2036. We recently held our kindergarten registration and screenings; it was amazing to see the future members of our Trojan Family. I know some of you may be nervous about sending your children off to kindergarten this fall, especially if it is your oldest child, but I can assure

you they will be in good hands. We are looking forward to having them all in our buildings this fall, as they begin a 13-year journey that will go by much faster than you will ever expect.

Finally, as we prepare to close the book on another school year, I wanted to thank all of our families for a fantastic 2022-23 school year. I know all of our students grew academically and socially this year. I hope all of you have a wonderful summer. Have fun, be safe and we can't wait to see you again in the fall.

Chris Piper
Troy City Schools Superintendent

TROY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION IS MAY 27

The commencement ceremony for the Troy High School Class of 2023 will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. at Hobart Arena.

The doors to Hobart Arena will open at 9 a.m. Tickets are not required to attend the ceremony, and seating is first-come, first-served. The commencement is expected to last approximately 90 minutes.

The valedictorian for this year's senior class is Savannah Swanson, daughter of Kevin and Marion Swanson. This year's salutatorian is Luke Huber, the son of Ben and Amy Huber. The Upper Valley Career Center Honor Student is Sophia Walker, the daughter of Ronda and Willie Walker.

For more graduation information, click [HERE](#).



TROY SENIORS HUBER, SWANSON NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Troy High School seniors Savannah Swanson and Luke Huber have both been named National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship program.

Last fall, both students were named National Merit Semifinalists after scoring in the top 1 percent of all students who took the PSAT test. Roughly 16,000 students in the United States were named semifinalists.

After being recognized as Semifinalists last fall, Swanson and Huber fulfilled additional requirements, including completing an application, having a consistently very high academic record, writing an essay, being endorsed and recommended by a school official, and taking the SAT or ACT and earning a score that confirmed their PSAT/NMSQT performance.

Both were pleasantly surprised when they found out they had been named a finalist.

"It was a bigger surprise, because this one's a lot tougher to get," Huber said. "It was just a big surprise and a lot of excitement comes with it. I got to get out of class and call my mom and dad; it was just really exciting." Swanson agreed.

"I was super honored," she said. "It's such a big deal to have made that jump, and it was definitely not expected. I had no idea the results were coming out, so when I was called down to the office, I was kind of like, 'Ok, this is happening again.' But it's really exciting and it's such an incredible honor."

Both are now eligible for one of the 7,250 National Merit Scholarships that will be awarded. They also said having this honor likely will help them as they apply for other scholarships, as well.

"Obviously it helps with scholarships, because it's something really big that I can put on applications, and I think it shows how I've done academically throughout the years," Swanson said. "There are scholarships that come, literally because of it, but I also think it shows how much work I've done, and anyone who sees this can see how much work I've put in. It's awesome to have something physical like this to show for it."

Just by being a National Merit Finalist, Huber said, he'll be in the running for scholarships at Liberty University, where he plans on matriculating in the fall.

"In terms of the future, it opens up more opportunities for college scholarships," Huber said. "I know at Liberty (University) they honor the National Merit stuff, so it should bring me in more scholarships and more opportunities that will help me succeed more in the future."

Huber is a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Business Club, the Patriot Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He's on both the golf and basketball teams for the Trojans. Huber also is active in his church youth group at Christian Life Center in Dayton.



He has been set on going to Liberty University for quite some time; he said he plans to major in mechanical engineering in college. He said he feels his time at Troy High School has him well-prepared for college and beyond.

"It's meant a lot," Huber said of his time at Troy. "All of my teachers have really helped me. They've helped me learn a lot about myself and to grow as a person. They've pushed me to be where I'm at today."

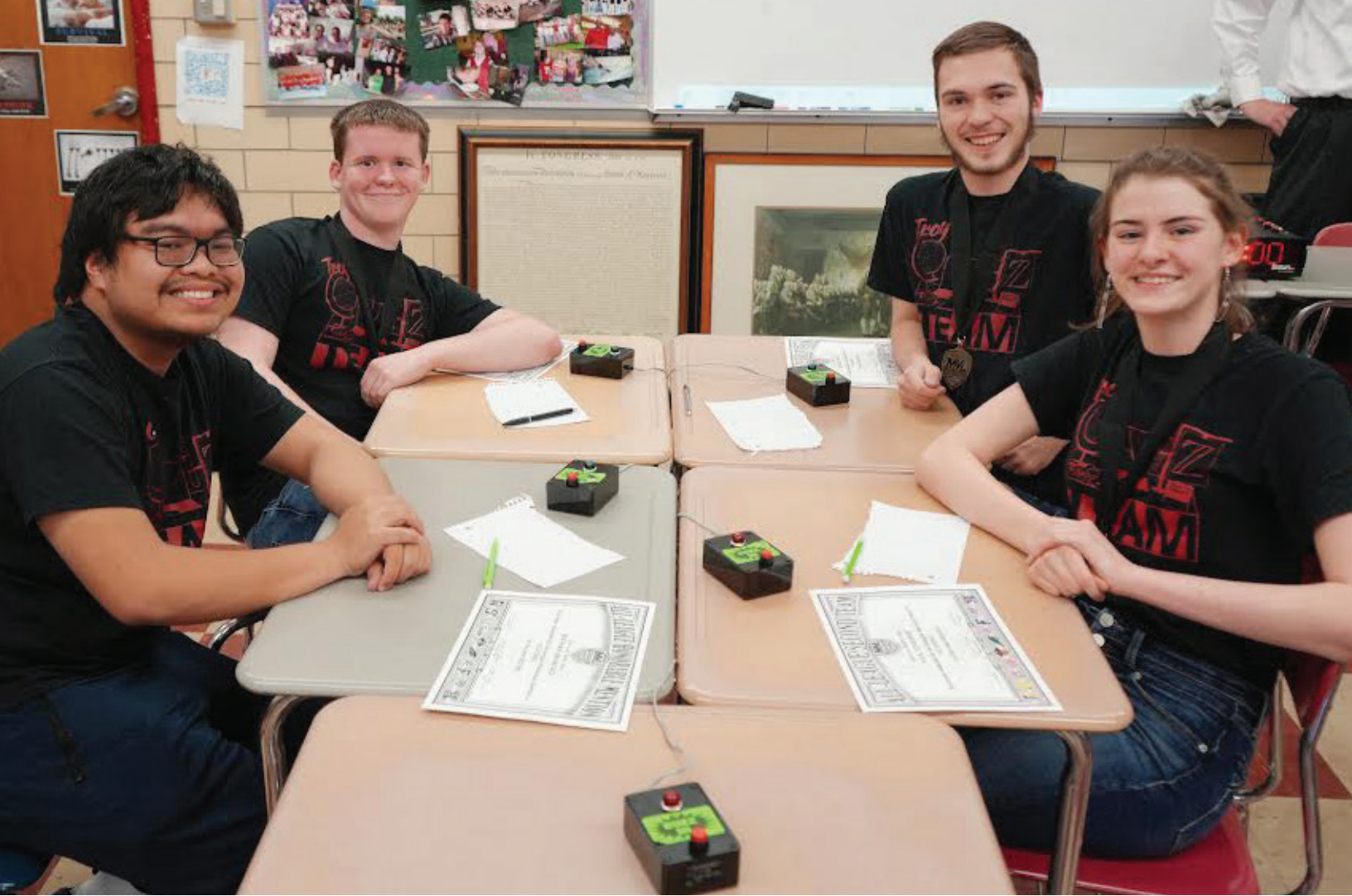
Swanson has been a member of ASTRA, Latin Club, Culture Club, National Honor Society, Math Club and Drama Club. She's also been a member of the Troy High School tennis and softball teams, as well as the Trojan Thunder traveling softball team. She enjoys the theater, and has appeared in "Shakespeare in Love" and "High School Musical" at the Troy Civic Theater. She was in the Troy High School production of "The Puffs" in the fall and is a member of the THS musical "Seussical" this spring. She also has volunteered with Reading Buddies, Lunch Buddies, Hayner Art Camps and at the park district.

After looking at a number of schools, Swanson has been accepted into the Honors Tutorial (HTC) program in communications at Ohio University. She'll work closely with professors during her four years of undergraduate studies before writing a senior thesis.

"I'll probably go to grad school," she said. "I think I want to do something political; I really love argumentation. I'm not sure if that means being a lawyer or being a journalist."

Like Huber, Swanson is appreciative of her Troy High School education.

"Honestly, it's been incredible to be at Troy High School," she said. "I'm so glad I moved to Troy when I was in the eighth grade. I think there have been some teachers who have really helped me along the way. Mrs. Watson was my English teacher in 10th grade, and I genuinely don't think I could have made it to this point, my writing ability has improved so much, and I honestly owe that all to her. But there's tons of other teachers throughout the years, and there's been so much support from faculty and students."



ACADEMIC QUIZ TEAM QUALIFIES FOR STATE

The Troy Academic Quiz Team won the Ohio Academic Competition Northwest Regional Tournament on April 15. This qualifies them to compete at the State Championship Tournament on Saturday, May 6 at Olentangy Berlin High School.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our team," Troy Academic Quiz Team coach Steve Becker said. I am especially happy that our seniors are getting one last opportunity to compete."

The four competitors for Troy will be Charles Wyatt, Nathan Mamitag, Ava Scheerer, and Noah Carter

"Mr. Becker is the glue that holds together the gears of the quiz team," Scheerer said.

On Saturday morning, you can follow the live results of the tournament [here](#).

Wyatt, Mamitag, Scheerer, and Carter also have been selected as the Buffalo Wild Wings Blazin' Athletes of the Week. They will be interviewed by Power 107.1 at 6 p.m. Monday, May 8 at Buffalo Wild Wings in Troy. Come out to Buffalo Wild Wings on Monday to support them and/or listen to their interview on the radio.

HOOK ELEMENTARY STUDENT RECEIVED ADAPTED BIKE

All Kalen Ulmes wants for her daughter Jayli is the same opportunities other children her age have.

Sometimes, however, that's difficult for Jayli Williams, a kindergarten student at Hook Elementary School. Williams has cerebellar hypoplasia, a neurological condition in which the cerebellum – the part of the brain that coordinates movement – is smaller than usual or not completely developed.

As a result, Jayli has to use a walker or wheelchair to get around and wasn't able to ride a bike like her classmates.



"For years now, I've been trying to get her to ride a bike," Ulmes said. "And she's always wanted to know when she could have a bike. Just last night, I think she caught on a little bit to what was going on. She said, 'How old do I have to be to get a bike? Do I have to be a teenager?' And I was like, 'Well, maybe we'll see ...'"

"We'll see" became "we will" Wednesday afternoon, as Jayli received a special tricycle, adaptive to her needs, through MiamiBucs - a local chapter of a national organization called AmBucs. The members of MiamiBucs do fundraisers and have donors, which allows the organization to give the trikes away, at no cost, to youngsters with different abilities who cannot safely ride a standard bicycle.

Miami County Commissioner and local business owner Wade Westfall and his wife Susan donated Jayli's bike. Family and friends were on hand after school to present a surprised Jayli with her bike. She immediately hopped on and began riding around the Hook gymnasium.

"It just means so much, because she can fit in with everybody else without having to look any different or be any different and she can just be her own person and be able to do the same things that typical kids are able to do," said Ulmes, who was overcome with emotion watching her daughter ride around the gym.

Jayli was too busy riding to stop and talk, but the smile on her face told the whole story.

"It's going to be amazing," Ulmes said. "We're going to be able to go for longer walks and she's not going to get as tired using her walker. She's not going to be pushed in a wheelchair. She's going to be independent and go on her own. I think she's going to love it. And she just got a new puppy, so she'll be able to ride her bike now when we go on walks. We're going to be able to have a lot of fun with it this summer."

Ulmes said she was incredibly grateful to the generosity that has been shown to her daughter, and others with special needs, by the Troy community over the years.

"It's fantastic, and I would like to see more and more of it," she said. "People don't realize the amount of support you need until you are in the special needs community and have a special needs member in your family. And just the support we've had from within the school, outside the school and within the community in general has been amazing."

MATH TEACHER SELECTED FOR DESMOS CLASSROOM FELLOW PROGRAM



Troy High School math teacher Andrea Becker has been accepted as a Desmos Classroom Fellow.

To be accepted into the prestigious Desmos Classroom Fellow program, Becker had to go through a competitive application process in which very few teachers were selected.

“Desmos is a company created by math teachers with the goal of helping everyone learn math, love math and grow with math,” Becker said. “They offer a free online graphing calculator as well as free digital classroom activities that are thoughtfully designed by teachers for teachers. The company’s goal is to help students explore concepts deeply, collaborate with their peers on problem-solving, and apply knowledge creatively as mathematicians.

“The math teachers at Troy have fully embraced Desmos as part of our daily learning routines as their company values are reflected in Troy’s educational philosophy. Parents will see our students using the Desmos calculator or completing Desmos Classroom activities created by our math department staff members on a regular basis.

Becker will participate in the Desmos Experience this summer in Chicago, where she’ll work with other selected teachers from across the country.

According to the Desmos website, “The Desmos fellowship invites a diverse and talented group of educators to help shape our understanding of ‘every student’ and their needs.

We started the Desmos fellowship to invite a diverse and talented group of educators to join us in conversation and help shape our understanding of ‘every student in the classroom’ and their needs.”

“Every year Desmos selects a cohort of math teachers from all across North America to take part in a Desmos Fellowship,” Becker said. “To be invited to the fellowship is to be invited into community with other math teacher Desmos enthusiasts. In the world of math teachers, it is a highly coveted invitation; this year there were 270 applicants and only 25 teachers were selected. Fellows are part of a professional learning community that provides the opportunity to learn in depth tricks of the trade that they can then take back to their classrooms to help their students learn.”

TROY JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS REACHES STATE IN ORATORICAL COMPETITION

When preparing for some of the most-intense oratorical competitions in the state, Troy Junior High School student Caroline Rohlfs makes sure she practices in front of a tough crowd.

And she doesn't have to look far to find it.

"Well actually, originally, I didn't want to practice in front of my family because the first year it was, I wouldn't say embarrassing, but these speeches are very heartfelt and especially when you involve it with a family in the speech, you will kind of want to surprise them," Rohlfs said. "So it took me a while to open up and want to actually say it to them before competitions."

Not only would Rohlfs learn to give well-composed, moving speeches in front of her family, she would also learn how to give them in front of Optimist Oratorical competition judges and rooms filled with complete strangers.

As a result, for the second year in a row, the eighth-grader reached Ohio's District Oratorical Contest, where she competed against the best competition in Ohio, most of whom were high school students.

Rohlfs' journey to the statewide competition has been a long one. She first competed at the school level, then moved on to the Troy Noon Optimists club competition. She and Troy High School senior Savannah Swanson were selected as the top two at the club competition, allowing them to move on to the zone competition. Once again, she and Swanson were selected as the top two, allowing them to move on to the regional competition. She then earned a trip to the district competition.

It's been a remarkable experience for a student who never envisioned herself as a public speaker, and didn't consider entering the contest until one of her teachers suggested it.

"So my 7th grade language arts teacher, Mrs. (Laura) Rayner, she inspired me to join this when I heard it on the announcements," Rohlfs said. "I wasn't sure if I was going to because I never thought I'd be one to public speak, but she said that I have a gift that I should use, and so I told myself that I should join and I just did after school."

Each year, all contestants are given a different topic; this year's is "Discovering the Optimism Within Me." They not only write their speech, but also must memorize it and learn to present it in front of an audience within a set time frame.

"So after Christmas break, in early January, after school practices start and they tell us to just write a speech and they give us the topic," Rohlfs said. "This year it was, 'Discovering the Optimism Within Me.' And so then we basically have maybe three weeks to a month to have a good rough draft written and then from there, we just start memorizing it at our own pace, whatever works best for us and using our own methods to memorize. And then from there, what I did is I go paragraph-by-paragraph and just start practicing it in front of people after school."

Much of that time practicing after school is spent with Troy Junior High School language arts teachers Angela Clouser and Jennifer Karnehm, who help all of Troy's contestants with their speeches. Contestants are judged not only on the content of their speeches, but their ability to effectively present those speeches to an audience.

"So it's kind of breaking it down step by step," Rohlfs said. "You have to work on your volume and the pitch and everything has to be down to the details. The pauses are what I focused on mostly. Pausing at the end of each sentence



and counting the one, two, three, and just emphasizing what needs to be emphasized and really acting like you're hearing the words for the first time is how I did it."

In a 2017 poll by the Washington Post, public speaking was ranked America's No. 1 fear. That hasn't been much of a problem for Rohlfs, however.

"So I trust in myself that I know my speech and I'm not worried about the actual presentation when I'm up there," Rohlfs said. "But it's almost the adrenaline beforehand when seeing my competition or just, I don't know, getting my head about it makes me nervous sometimes, but usually it's not too bad."

Rohlfs said she hasn't yet decided if she'll continue entering oratorical competitions when gets to Troy High School next year – it takes up a lot of her time and she's involved in a number of sports and other activities, she said – but even if she doesn't, she's learned valuable skills from the experience she hopes to carry with her into the future.

"I mean, speaking in general, I would definitely stick with," she said. "It might be something in my future too. But high school, I don't know if I'll have time to do Optimist Oratorical, but I love speech. It really helps with my communication skills at school because I haven't always been as bubbly and open and this has helped me realize that not everything has to be academic. Socially, it matters too, and encouraging other people with optimistic things, obviously."

TROY CITY SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

Auditor of State Keith Faber is pleased to announce that the Troy City Schools received the Auditor of State Award for their clean audit report for Fiscal Year 2022.

Less than 10% of all auditees received this award out of the over 6,000 audits completed by the Auditor of State for 2022. The auditor's office presents the Auditor of State Award to local governments and school districts upon the completion of the financial audit. Entities that receive the award meet the following criteria of a "clean" audit report:

- The entity must file financial reports with the Auditor of State's office by the statutory due date, without extension, via the Hinkle System and in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles):
- The Audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weakness, significant deficiencies, Uniform Guidance (Single Audit) findings or questioned costs;
- The entity's management letter contains no comment related to:
 - Ethics referrals
 - Questioned costs less than the threshold per the Uniform Guidance
 - Lack of timely annual financial report submission
 - Bank reconciliation issues
 - Failure to obtain a timely Single Audit in accordance with Uniform Guidance
 - Findings for recovery less than \$500
 - Public meetings or public records issues
 - The entity has no other financial or other concerns.
 - Full copy of this report is available online.

SUMMER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PLANNED

The district has a number of capital improvement projects planned for this summer.

The biggest projects the district will undertake this summer include: flashing and roof work above the new cafeteria hallway at Concord (\$41,500), tuckpointing on the north wall of the main building in the courtyard at Van Cleve (\$49,200), cleaning the masonry and adding water repellant to the entire building at Troy Junior High School (\$49,000) and coping on the commons and gym roofs at Troy High School (\$39,375).

These projects will be paid for by a 1.1-mil permanent improvement levy first passed in November of 1984 and most recently renewed in November of 2018. For fiscal year 2024, the levy will generate \$784,612.

"Our maintenance staff does an outstanding job maintaining our buildings throughout the year," Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper said. "But when the average age of your buildings is 78 years old and you have several buildings that are more than a century old, there's only so much routine maintenance you are going to be able to do before you have to undertake major projects such as these. We will continue to do everything necessary to make sure our buildings keep our students warm, safe and dry."

TROY CITY SCHOOLS RECEIVE SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT

The Troy City Schools have been selected to receive state funding support for physical safety and security upgrades as part of the latest round of Ohio's K-12 School Safety Grant Program.

Our district received a grant of \$794,625, which will be split among its nine buildings, based on needed safety and security upgrades.

"Student and staff safety is a top priority for us at the Troy City Schools," said Assistant Superintendent Michael Moore, who spearheaded the project. "We are incredibly grateful to receive this grant and will be diligent in using it to make necessary safety and security upgrades to our schools."

A total of \$100,000 will be spent on Troy High School, Troy Junior High School, Concord Elementary School, Cookson Elementary School, Forest Elementary School and Hook Elementary School. The Van Cleve Sixth Grade building will receive \$91,500 in grades, \$52,750 will be spent at Kyle Elementary School and \$50,375 will be spent at Heywood Elementary School.

"We worked closely with the Troy Police Department to determine what our greatest areas of need are," Moore said. "We had different areas of need in all of our schools, so we distributed the money based on those needs. All of our schools will be safer places for our students and staff members as a result of this grant."

Building security upgrades will include: lock control upgrades for some of our buildings, duress alarms in our buildings, GPS systems for our bus fleet, video/camera upgrades in our buildings and security film for the entrances to our buildings.

A total of \$112 million was allocated for the fourth and fifth rounds of the grant program by the Ohio General Assembly as part of House Bill 45, which was signed by Governor Mike DeWine last month.



The investment more than doubles the initial allotment of \$105 million for the program provided by Ohio's operating budget and the American Rescue Plan Act.

"When we created the K-12 School Safety Grant Program, we expected that the need for funding would far exceed the amount of money available, but I vowed to go back to the legislature and ask for more," Governor DeWine said in a press release. "Now, with the generous support of the Ohio General Assembly, I'm proud to announce that every single qualifying school that applied for a grant will receive funding."

TROY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PAINTS MURALS FOR LIBRARY



Lily Scheerer is the sort of enterprising young student who likely will benefit greatly from the Troy-Miami County Library Maker Lab.

Long before the new makerspace opened to the public Monday, Scheerer, a junior at Troy High School, had already left her mark all over the Maker Lab. Scheerer was chosen to paint a massive mural that stretches across several walls in the library's newest addition.

"I was in art class with Mrs. (Jill) Hartman, and she knew of the opportunity and suggested me for it," Scheerer said.

The 5,000-square foot makerspace, located on the second floor of the Hobart Center for County Government, near the main library, will offer the public the opportunity to use machines and equipment such as 3D printers and a 3D scanner, a laser cutter, vinyl printer, CNC milling and routing

machines, soldering stations, a sublimation print station and press, embroidery and sewing machines, an electronic cutter, an engraver, a UV printer, an audio recording studio, hand tools and safety gear.

Scheerer said she used the possibilities the Maker Lab will present to the public as inspiration for her mural.

"I had a lot of freedom to do what I wanted to do," she said. "It was just keeping with the theme of makerspaces and STEM and that kind of thing, and then go from there."

Scheerer started the project in November of 2022 and kept track of how long it took her to finish. All told, the project clocked in at 162 hours.

"Most weekends I would come in, a lot of times after school," Scheerer said. "Whenever I could, really."

At Monday's ribbon cutting and grand opening, Scheerer said she was excited for everyone to finally be able to see what she's been working on so diligently for the past five months.

"I am relieved that it's done," she said. "I'm very proud of what I've done. I like how it turned out. It's definitely the biggest project I've ever done, but I'm super happy with how it turned out."

Scheerer said she particularly enjoyed doing such an immense art project for a space that will continue to foster art and creativity for generations to come.

"It's really cool," she said. "It's a cool space to be doing art for, and it's cool that I was chosen."

FIELD TURF FOR TROY MEMORIAL STADIUM, FERGUSON FIELD

We are continuing our efforts to replace the natural grass at Troy Memorial Stadium and Ferguson Field with field turf at both locations.

Additionally, the new field at the Ferguson location would be reconfigured to make it a regulation-sized soccer field. There also would be permanent lighting installed, as well as upgrades to the press box, bleachers, scoreboard and fencing.

With turf at both locations, Troy High School football games would be played at Troy Memorial Stadium, while soccer games would take place at Ferguson Field. Currently, both varsity football and varsity boys and girls soccer games are played at Troy Memorial Stadium.

The total estimated cost of this project will be \$3.9 million for both fields. The turf project is being done by a group of volunteers and is being funded through private donations. So far, approximately \$2.9 million has been raised. NO TAXPAYER dollars will be used to install field turf.

The STEP (Stadium Turf Enhancement Project) is continuing to secure funding to put in turf that would benefit our athletic programs and marching band. To learn more or donate, click [HERE](#).



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