



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Piper, Superintendent, Troy City Schools

Trojan Families:

I hope this note finds you well and you are having a fun, safe and relaxing summer.

As I am sure you are well aware, the start of the 2023-24 school year is right around the corner. While we are planning on enjoying these last few days of summer, we also are looking forward to the school year ahead.

Before we start looking toward the future, however, I wanted to take a brief moment to look back at the 2022-23 school year. We are incredibly proud of what our students and staff members accomplished, as it was a tremendous year for the district.

We are most proud of our scores on the state report cards, which were released last fall. Of the 610 public school districts in the state, we scored in the top 15 percent. The Ohio Department of Education 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. We scored five stars in both Progress and Gap 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.

We are incredibly pleased with those results, and look forward to continuing to improve upon them. In addition to excelling in the classroom, we are also proud of our students' achievements in athletics, the arts, extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

I would like to wish the best of luck to the Class of 2023 as they move on to continue their education, enter the military or join the workforce. I am confident all of you are well-prepared to handle what comes next.

Finally, I would like to welcome all of our students back for the new year, particularly our kindergarten students in the Class of 2036. You are at the beginning of an incredible journey, and we look forward to having you as members of the Trojan Family.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer. We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

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Chris Piper
Troy City Schools Superintendent

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR DATES TO REMEMBER



Hard as it may be to believe, the 2023-24 begins in a few weeks.

Here are some important dates to remember in the coming weeks:

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Kindergarten – All kindergarten students will be on a staggered start. The first day will be either Aug. 23 or Aug. 24. Students will be contacted by their school and told which day to attend. No kindergarten students will attend school on Friday, Aug. 25.

Grades 1-9 – The first day is Aug. 23. For Troy High School freshmen, the first day will be a “Freshman Focus Day.”

Grades 10-12 – The first day is Aug. 24.

OPEN HOUSES

Troy High School – Schedule pick-up is Aug. 15-22 from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the main office. A freshman and new student parent meeting is Aug. 16 (6:30 p.m.) in the THS auditorium. Open house is Aug. 21 (6 to 7:30 p.m.)

Troy Junior High School – Seventh grade schedule pick up is Aug. 10 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.). Eighth grade schedule pick up is Aug. 9 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). A seventh grade parent orientation meeting is Aug. 10 (6 p.m.). Open house is Aug. 21 (5:30-6:30 p.m. for seventh grade; 6:30-7:30 p.m. for eighth grade).

Van Cleve Sixth Grade Building – Open houses are Aug. 21 (5:30-6:30 p.m.) and Aug. 22 (10-11 a.m.)

Concord Elementary School – Kindergarten Welcome Night is Aug. 17 (5-6 p.m.). Fifth Grade Parent Meeting is Aug. 17 (5:30-6:30 p.m.). Open house is Aug. 21 (Grade 2, 5-6 p.m.; Grade 1, 6-7 p.m.; Grade 3, 6:45-7:45 p.m.). Fourth grade parent meeting is Sept. 7 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

Cookson Elementary School – Kindergarten meeting is Aug. 21 (5-6 p.m.). Open house is Aug. 21 (6:15--7:30 p.m.)

Forest Elementary School – Open house is Aug. 21 (5:15-6:15 p.m.)

Heywood Elementary School – Open house is Aug. 22 (kindergarten 5-6 p.m.; grades 1-5, 6-7 p.m.)

Hook Elementary School – Open house is Aug. 21 (6-7 p.m.)

Kyle Elementary School – Open house is Aug. 21 (5:30-6:30 p.m.)



TROY CITY SCHOOLS PLACING BOND ISSUE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

The Troy City Schools are placing a bond issue on the Nov. 7, 2023 ballot. Should the bond issue pass, it would raise the funds necessary for the district to build four new elementary school buildings, a tax levy for maintenance of those new buildings, and improvements to the infrastructure at Troy High School.

The new buildings would replace seven buildings currently in use: Van Cleve Sixth Grade Buildings (built in 1914), Concord Elementary School (built in 1919), Heywood Elementary School (built in 1930), Forest Elementary School (built in 1949), Kyle Elementary School (built in 1950), Cookson Elementary School (built in 1964) and Hook Elementary School (built in 1966).

Should the bond issue pass, the district would receive \$45,665,637 from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, which oversees capital projects undertaken by state agencies and state-supported institutions of higher education; manages Ohio's school facility programs which provide support for the construction and renovation of public K-12 schools; and administers the funding for community-based cultural and sports facilities projects.

The total cost of the project would be \$154,026,690.

The building plan includes three new preK-4 buildings at the locations currently occupied by Hook and Cookson Elementary School, as well as district-owned property near the corner of State Route 718 and McKaig Road, across the road from the current location of Concord Elementary School. A building for grades 5-6 would be built on property the district owns on Swailes Road.

Additionally, funding raised through the bond would include several major improvements at Troy High School, including: new HVAC systems and the necessary electrical upgrades to maintain those systems. The district would also potentially install new, energy-efficient lighting and ceiling tiles in areas of disturbance at the school. Asbestos abatement would also be a part of the project at the high school.

In mid-February, a building advisory group began meeting monthly to discuss the plan for new buildings, including details such as the number of buildings and building locations. This group, which features a broad spectrum of community members, has been meeting regularly with the Troy Board of Education.

Currently, the district operates nine school buildings: six K-5 buildings, a sixth grade building, Troy Junior High School and Troy High School. The average age of the nine buildings is 81 years old. If the bond issue passes, the district would operate six buildings in total.

To register to vote, or for more information about voting in Miami County, click [HERE](#).

DISTRICT RELEASES 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 \$54,720,510, with total expenditures of \$50,759,358, leaving the district with a cash balance of \$17,026,275. 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 \$56,408,673 and projected expenditures of \$53,932,481. The forecast for fiscal year 2025 projects revenues of \$55,367,919 and expenditures of \$55,932,178. The forecast for fiscal year 2026 projects revenues of \$52,474,535 and expenditures of \$57,682,683. The forecast for fiscal year 2027, the final year of the five-year forecast, projects revenues of \$51,156,010 and expenditures of \$59,517,347. That would leave the district with a cash balance of \$5,368,822 by the end of fiscal year 2027.

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."



Summer projects underway at buildings

The district has been working on a number of capital improvement projects this summer.

The biggest projects are taking place at Troy Junior High School. The south parking lot is being ground down, repaved and restriped at a total cost of \$49,985.66. The exterior has undergone a total power washing and water repellent has been applied at a cost of \$49,000. All of the pads in the building's gym will be replaced for a total of \$24,414. All told, the total costs of projects at Troy Junior High School this summer is \$143,051.61.

At the Van Cleve Sixth Grade building, the cost to replace the stage roof is \$46,549. Tuckpointing on the north wall of the main building on the third story has come at a cost of \$49,200. Those two major projects, along with a number of smaller projects, add up to \$120,651.30 worth of work at Van Cleve.

Roofing work spread across the district's nine buildings continues to carry the biggest price tags for the district. At Concord Elementary School, flashing and roof work on the new cafeteria hallway will cost \$41,500. At Troy High School, coping on commons and gym roofs will cost \$39,735.

The total cost of the capital projects throughout the district this year will be \$460,236.01. 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 2023, the levy will generate \$791,535.

"Our custodial 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 81 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."

District receives Catastrophic Cost Reimbursement

The Troy City Schools applied for and received money from the Ohio Department of Education's Catastrophic Cost Reimbursement program. The program distributes money to districts for costs exceeding the threshold to educate K-12 students with disabilities.

This year, the district received funds totaling \$577,466.17. Funds are distributed from State General Revenue Funds. Last year, the district contributed \$127,946.30 to the fund.

This year, the ODE approved a total of 13,859 applications, an increase of 19.5 percent from the prior year.

THIS STUDENT RECORDS PERFECT ACT SCORE



Elizabeth Katwyk had one goal when taking the ACT test last spring.

"I just wanted to do my best," said Katwyk, who will be a senior at Troy High School this fall.

As it turns out, she couldn't possibly have done better.

Katwyk, the daughter of David and Karmen Katwyk scored a 36 composite – the highest score possible – on the ACT test, a standardized test score used to help determine college admissions. Less than 1 percent of all students who take the test, which measures a student's knowledge in English, reading, mathematics and science, record a 36.

Out of 1.35 million students who took the test last year, Katwyk was one of about 4,000 who recorded a perfect score.

"First I kind of Googled how to do well on the ACT, and then I read some things and got a book from the library," she said. "And then I just took a few practice tests and prayed a lot."

She also got some help from Troy High School math teacher Jacqui Lehmkuhl, who gives juniors in her pre-calculus classes ACT practice tests during the school year. Katwyk said that helped reduce any anxiety she may have had about the math portion of the test.

"Mrs. Lehmkuhl, who is my honors college credit pre-calc teacher, would give us an ACT every month and every week to work on, so that helped me become desensitized to the math test, so it wasn't as scary," Katwyk said.

Even though she felt prepared, Katwyk said taking the 4-hour test wasn't exactly enjoyable.

"It was a really long test and I hated it," she said. "The English was okay, the grammar portion. But the rest was just a toss up."

Katwyk wasn't sure how she had done on the test after she had completed it.

"I had no idea how I did," she said. "I was hoping for the best, but .."

In fact, when the results came, Katwyk was so unsure what they would be that she couldn't bear to check them herself.

"I got an email saying my test results were in, so I made my mom open it and look at it," she said. "She laughed. I ran and told my dad, my sister and my brother. Everyone was excited in my house, then everyone was just happy."

With grades as impressive as her ACT score, Katwyk shouldn't have much difficulty getting into her dream college after her Troy High School career ends next spring.

"My senior I'm just going to finish out all of my high school credits and finish out what I need to, and then for college I'm going to go Brigham Young University-Idaho to study architecture."

As happy as she was with her ACT score, Katwyk hasn't really spent any time contemplating its significance.

"I did my best, and I'm just happy that happened to be my best," she said.

TROY SCHOOLS, FIRST RESPONDERS TEAM UP FOR SAFE-T-TOWN

The Troy Police Department, with help from the Troy Fire Department and student helpers, wrapped up Safe-T-Town classes earlier this summer at Troy Junior High School. Led by our School Resource Officers, youngsters ages 4-5 learned about bus safety, train safety, traffic safety, fire safety and other topics.



SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM FEEDS STUDENTS

Hunger never goes on summer vacation.

And that's why the Troy City Schools food service team, along with the generosity of the community and help from volunteers, does what it can to make sure students who need a meal during the summer are able to find one.

Once again, the district's food service team is serving free lunches at various locations in Troy this summer.

"We know every child comes from a different background or situation so our goal is to help parents and children in any way we can," Troy City Schools Food Service Director Clint Hufford said. "That is what makes this program great, these meals are for all Troy kids, regardless of free, reduced, or paying status during the school year. We see the hunger of certain students during the school year and the thought of them going without a guaranteed meal during the summer is heartbreaking. Having plenty of food is a luxury for a lot of people, but there is certainly a need in our community and for our children."

The free lunch program, which began June 5 and runs through Aug. 11, is available to anyone 18 and under, regardless of what school they attend. Every Monday through Friday, volunteers serve lunches at the Lincoln Community Center (12:30-1 p.m.), Troy Rec (noon to 1 p.m.) and Garden Manor Community Room/Clubhouse (12:15-12:45 p.m.).

The program serves about 300 meals per day, five days per week.

"We serve mostly hot food, since that is what the kids enjoy most, but we also serve different deli sandwiches or peanut butter and jelly," Hufford said. "We also serve a lot of different hot and cold vegetables and various kinds of fruit. We put popular items on the menu that we know the kids will eat, while also menuing new items in hopes of encouraging them to try new things."

All of the food is prepared at Troy High School, then sent out to the sites around Troy. Hufford said he is blessed to have hard-working staff members preparing and delivering the meals.

"Our program has three employees who lead the operation: Kate Kurmas, Michele Ashline and Janel Latif," Hufford said. "One or two of them work daily, and then we have an additional volunteer or two helping each day, for a total of three people each day. We have various volunteers who sign-up to help through the summer. We have a mother/daughter team who rotate on picking up and delivering the meals to the sites, mom Jessica Ross and daughter Peyton Dunn.

"We have three Troy Food Service staff members who do a fantastic job of cooking and preparing meals with the help of so many great community volunteers. Without the staff and volunteers, this program wouldn't be able



to exist. Those three staff members and volunteers take such pride in the meals they provide to our children while having fun in the process. From the minute they get here, they are working diligently to ensure the food they provide is healthy and of great quality."

All of the meals are free to children thanks to the generosity of sponsors within the community.

"The Summer Feeding Program is a team effort with so many great partnerships that help make this a success every summer," Hufford said. "First and foremost, the Troy Foundation. Their generosity to fund this program is a blessing. They understand and share the vision for feeding the youth. Partners in Hope does a great job of getting volunteers for the site. Troy Rec has overseen the grant process and overall program the last two years to make sure everything is operating smoothly for all feeding sites. The Lincoln Center is always willing to help on anything that is needed. When you have so many organizations and people within those organizations who are so selfless and willing to help, it makes for such a seamless operation."

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES WITH HONORS, AWARDS



Troy High School held its annual commencement ceremony May 27 at Hobart Arena.

A total of 301 students participated in the graduation ceremony. The Class of 2023 earned a total of \$3.8 million in college scholarships.

The top students in the class were valedictorian Savannah Swanson, salutatorian Luke Huber and Upper Valley Career Center Honor Student Sophia Walker.

Here's a closer look at the top students:

Savannah Swanson

Savannah is the daughter of Kevin and Marion Swanson and is the Troy High School Valedictorian for the class of 2023. Throughout her highschool career, Savannah has participated in numerous clubs and sports, including tennis and softball. Savannah also prioritized academics throughout highschool, and just this year was named a National Merit Finalist. After graduation, Savannah plans to attend Ohio University and will major in Communication Studies through the Honors Tutorial College, with hopes of attending grad school.

Luke Huber

Luke is the son of Ben and Amy Huber. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Business Club, and Key Club. Luke played varsity golf and basketball as well. He is a National Merit Finalist and was a participant in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student of the Year Campaign. He is very active in his church's youth group and helps out in various service projects. Luke will be attending Liberty University, where he will be in the Honors Program and major in mechanical engineering.

Sophia Walker

Sophia Walker, daughter of Ronda and Willie Walker and sister to Anna, Lauren, Vivian, and Whitney Walker. Sophia attended Upper Valley Career Center during her Junior and Senior years where she attended the Medical Careers Academy. At Upper Valley Career Center she obtained her State Tested Nurses Aid and Medical Office Assistant Licenses, was president of Student Senate, part of National Technical Honors Society, and a SkillsUSA Ohio State Officer. She also took College Credit Plus classes at Edison State Community College all four years of high school and was in the Phlebotomy Program. Sophia plans on attending Ohio State Lima in the fall, majoring in biology, on a pre-med track, with plans on becoming an ophthalmologist.

RESULTS FROM 2023 SPRING SURVEY

Last spring, we sent surveys to parents, students and staff members to find out how we are doing in a variety of subjects. The goal was to find out what we are doing well and continue doing those things, while also finding out some things we need to work on to make our district better.

"We felt it was extremely important to find out what our parents, students and staff think," Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper said. "We want to know how we are doing and how we can better serve our students."

To see the results from the parent survey, click [HERE](#).

To see the results from the student survey, click [HERE](#).



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