

TROY SCHOOLS RECEIVE 4.5 STARS ON STATE REPORT CARD

The Troy City Schools are one of the top districts in the region and Ohio, based on the Ohio Department of Education's state report cards, which were released Thursday.

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 ODE also gave each district an overall score, also based on the 1-5 star system.

Overall, the Troy City Schools earned 4.5 stars.

The district scored five stars in both Progress and Gap Closing, four stars in Achievement and Graduation, and three stars in Early Literacy.

"This is definitely a credit to all of our students," Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper said. "They are showing up every day ready to learn and grow. We are incredibly proud of the work they've put in. We believe our district is an excellent place for students to learn, and these scores reflect that.

"We also are so thankful to have an outstanding staff who are helping our students succeed. This is obviously a sign of how hard our teachers are working with our students. It also shows we have tremendous staff members who help put students in a position to succeed, whether it be by administering our school buildings, transporting our students to and from school, feeding our students, keeping our students healthy or keeping our students warm, safe and dry."

Troy City Schools scored highest Progress and Gap Closing, both of which are measures of how the district is doing compared to prior years. According to ODE, "Progress looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past state test performances. The Progress Component measures the academic performance of students compared to expected growth on Ohio's State Tests. This calculation uses a 'value-added' model of measuring academic growth that compares the change in achievement of a group of students to an expected amount of change in achievement that is based on the students' prior achievement history."

"We are particularly proud of the progress we've made," Piper said. "We are focused on improving student learning and it's good to see that hard work paying off."

Piper said the hard work by students and staff will continue throughout the district.

The mission of the Troy City Schools is to empower students to dream big, work hard and succeed," he said. "We are confident we have the staff in place to do just that."

SCHELKUN CELEBRATES 55 YEARS WITH TROY CITY SCHOOLS



Tom Schelkun spent August 25 the same way he's spent every Aug. 25 for the past 55 years.

He spent his day making life better for Troy City Schools students.

"It's been great. Troy is a great town," said Schelkun, who celebrated his 55th year with the Troy City Schools Friday. He spent his first 35 years teaching physical education in Troy, and has spent the past 20 working in the district's technology department. "Good school system. Good people. It's been very nice."

Schelkun is a lifelong Trojan, born in Troy and a 1963 graduate of Troy High School. While at Troy, Schelkun played football and basketball, as well as running for the track and cross country teams. He also was a member of student council, the Scholarship T committee and the Varsity T committee.

He went on to graduate from Ohio Wesleyan and nearly took a teaching job in the Columbus area before fate seemingly intervened and brought him home where he belonged.

"I actually had a job lined up in Delaware, Ohio, and at the last minute they gave it to someone who came in and had a master's degree," Schelkun said. "So I called Jim Welbaum, who was the basketball coach. I had kept in touch with him, and he said, 'Hey, we've got a couple openings. My first job was originally going to be teaching fifth grade at Concord. That summer, Jay Dorsey moved from elementary phys ed to junior high phys ed, and that opened up, so I got it. So I never did go in a classroom."

For the next 35 years, Schelkun would teach physical education at Forest, Cookson and Van Cleve. He also coached track and football at Troy Junior High School.

"I loved doing phys ed," he said. "I did the exercises with the kids every day. I did as much as I could with them. Whenever we were playing games in the gym, if any administrators came through, we pulled them in and made them play with us."

And just as his career as a physical education teacher was winding down, Schelkun discovered his love for working with computers. That would eventually lead to a second career that has continued for the past two decades.

"The last two years of teaching, my brother-in-law got me into technology," Schelkun said. "He worked for (Hewlett Packard) and Cincinnati Bell. This is when computers were just starting to hit. So he and I would bring the computers that he got in and we would just tear them apart and play with them, see how they worked and things like that. So he just got me involved."

"The last few years, I started to help out around the school. The teachers would come to me and say, 'My printer is not working.' At the time, I think (the tech department) could only get around one day a week to the buildings. Several times, I would fix them before they could come over."

After he retired as a teacher, Schelkun would spend one year working with computers at the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School (now the Upper Valley Career Center) before returning to Troy.

"At the time, Tom Dunn was the technology director, and I told him, 'Hey, I'd love to work in the technology department if anything ever opens up,'" Schelkun said. "That first year, nothing opened up, but that second year he said, 'We're doing some reshuffling, and we've got something open for you if you want to do it.'"

Currently, Schelkun spends much of his day servicing, cleaning, and maintaining the district's nearly 5,000 Chromebooks.

He said he's had some trouble getting around lately and will need a hip replacement in the near future, but other than that, has no desire to stop doing what he loves, which is to the benefit of every student in the Troy City Schools.

"If I get up in the morning and say, 'Hey, I'm done with this,' I'll stop," Schelkun said. "But so far, I enjoy coming in every day."



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