



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Trojan Families:

It is hard to believe we are just a few weeks away from the end of the 2023-24 school year, but here we are.

First and foremost, I want to congratulate the graduating Class of 2024 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 more than 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.

This class was part of an incredible academic accomplishment at Troy High School. In the Ohio Department of Education's state report cards, which were released last fall, Troy High School recorded the highest growth score of any of the state's 3,088 school buildings.

As a district, Troy had the third-highest growth index out of 608 public school districts in the state, trailing only Hilliard City Schools and Licking Heights Local Schools.

As we say goodbye to the Class of 2024, I would also like to welcome the incoming class of 2037. 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.

We are especially excited for the class of 2037, as we know they will be spending at least a portion of their careers in new school buildings. For that, we have the citizens of Troy to thank. Last November, your votes allowed us the opportunity to build new school buildings in the near future, as well as make some much-needed upgrades to Troy High School. We have some updates on those buildings you can read inside this newsletter.

Finally, as we prepare to close the book on another school year, I wanted to thank all of our families for a fantastic 2023-24 school year. I know all of our students have grown 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 25

Here is everything you need to know about Troy High School's commencement ceremony, which is scheduled for May 25 at Hobart Arena.

- Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Hobart Arena.
- Commencement will begin promptly at 10:30 AM. Doors will be open to the public at 9:30 AM.
- Graduates should arrive NO LATER than 9:45 AM and should BE IN MARCHING ORDER BY 10:15 AM. Information regarding marching lines, etc., will be given to the graduates at practice on May 23rd.
- GRADUATES ONLY IN THE STAGING AREA - No Parents/Graduation guests in the staging areas.
- The commencement ceremony will be live streamed via the WTHS YouTube channel.
- There are no "tickets" or limits to the number of family/friends who can attend the ceremony. Seating is first-come, first-serve and we ask that you do not save large numbers of seats. All guests should plan to arrive together to be seated together.
- Handicap seating is available at Hobart Arena - if you need assistance upon arrival, please see a Hobart Arena employee working the event that day.
- Immediately following the recessional, graduates will go to the designated areas to retrieve their envelopes that will contain their actual diploma, immunization records, and any scholarship information necessary. As soon as the graduate picks up their envelope, then they can go out and meet up with their families.

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

THIS NAMES TOP STUDENTS IN CLASS OF 2024

Here are the top students in the Troy High School Class of 2024



Lena Walker, Valedictorian

Lena Walker is the daughter of Michael and Annalee Walker. She has served as President and Junior Representative of the National Honor Society, Secretary of the Junior Cabinet, and a four-time elected member of Student Government. Additionally, she has been active in Senior Cabinet, Math Chat Tutoring, Teen Leadership Troy, and is a four year Varsity Track and Field Athlete. Lena will be attending Miami University's Honors College this fall to study mechanical engineering.

Elizabeth Katwyk, Salutatorian

Elizabeth Katwyk, the daughter of David and Karmen Katwyk, is a military child who has managed to stay in Ohio long enough to complete kindergarten through high school in Troy. During her time at Troy High School, she has participated in National Honor Society, Orchestra, Spanish, and Math clubs. Elizabeth is an accomplished pianist and violinist who regularly shares both her musical and leadership talents at church. She also takes great joy in riding horses and volunteering at two local horse-riding facilities. She is attending Brigham Young University-Idaho this fall, where she plans to major in Virtual Design and Construction as the first step toward a career in architecture.



Owen Walters, Upper Valley Career Center Honor Student

Owen Walters is the son of Mr. Eric Walters and Mrs. Lisa Walters. He is enrolled in the Computer Information Technology program at the Upper Valley Career Center. He is in Archery Club, Chess Club, and the UVCC Honor Society. Owen enjoys all kinds of science, and is especially fond of computer science and computer programming. Owen also competed in both the local and state computer programming competitions for SkillsUSA. When he is not writing code, Owen enjoys practicing archery, going to movies with friends, or reading a good sci-fi novel. While Owen does not have plans to immediately enter college, he hopes the skills he's learned at the UVCC will take him into an enjoyable career.

CARTER NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST



The congratulatory letter was addressed to Noah Carter.

But as far as the Troy High School senior was concerned, it may as well have been sent to every teacher he's ever had at Troy.

"They've been the only reason I can get here, really," said Carter, who found out recently he has been named a National Merit Finalist. "With other teachers, I probably couldn't have gotten to half of this."

Carter, the son of Julie and Jeremy Carter, recorded one of the highest scores in the nation on the PSAT test, taken in the fall of 2022 by then-high school juniors. Last fall, he was notified he recorded one of the top 16,000 scores out of 1.3 million students who took the test and was a National Merit Semifinalist.

Less than 1 percent of all students who took the test were named semifinalists.

From that pool of 16,000 semifinalists, 15,000 were named finalists. Carter now hopes he's one of about half of the National Merit Finalists who will earn a National Merit Scholarship.

"I knew the odds were pretty likely, since they don't do a very rough cutdown, but I'm still glad to have it happen," Carter said of being named a finalist.

Carter has a 4.4 grade point average, which puts him in the top 10 of his class. He's been on the principal's list every semester in high school, and last year, was the Rensselaer Medal Winner as the top mathematics student in the junior class.

He's a member of the Troy Academic Quiz Team, which won the school's first league title last year and earned a trip to state. He's also a member of the Math Club, Chess Club and Latin Club. He's also done volunteer work for the Troy Historic Preservation Alliance.

Carter said he figured out early in his high school career his performance in the classroom could carry him a long way in life.

"I think the real moment was freshman or sophomore year, when I started realizing that these classes are who I'm going to be, what I'm going to know and these are setting the path for my future," he said.

Carter looked at a number of top schools from around the nation before deciding where he would go to college. With his test scores and grade point average, there were no shortage of opportunities.

"I'd like to go into mechanical engineering and I've applied to a few schools, but I'm still not sure which one it's going to be. I've applied to Princeton, Cornell, Rensselaer (Polytechnic Institute), Ohio State and the University of Dayton," he said during the college search process. "Right now it's between Ohio State or Cornell, if the application comes back."

Ultimately, Carter decided to attend The Ohio State University.

No matter what his future holds, however, Carter said he'll never forget where it all began for him.

"It's meant the world; it's a lot better than a lot of the neighboring schools, and I'm glad to be here as opposed to anywhere else," Carter said.



AN UPDATE ON NEW BUILDINGS

Working in tandem with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, we have hired Ruetschle Architects as the project architect, Peterson Construction as the construction management firm and Stan Engineers as commissioning agent.

Ruetschle Architects is a Dayton-based architecture firm dedicated to personal attention, design excellence and the creation of projects with lasting quality and value. Ruetschle has a long history of educational, institutional, religious, commercial and community projects. They have worked on designing Milton-Union's K-12 school building, Northmont High School, Fairmont High School's auditorium and Trent Arena, as well as the addition to Bethel High School. To learn more about Ruetschle, click [HERE](#).

Peterson Construction Company was founded in 1949 as a family-run general contracting business that served the Wapakoneta community building homes and residential properties. The company expanded into larger scale commercial projects and developed a reputation for producing high-quality facilities including schools, hospitals, and water and wastewater treatment plants. They have worked on school projects including: the Covington PK-8 building, Piqua primary schools, Versailles K-12 school, Jackson Center PK-8 school, Van Wert 6-12 school and Lima Senior High School. To learn more about Peterson Construction Company, click [HERE](#).

STAN Engineers was formed on April 15, 1981. STAN is a full service mechanical, electrical, and plumbing consulting engineering firm. They specialize in design engineering, commissioning, and energy engineering for building systems across a broad range of facilities throughout the country. STAN has been selected by OFCC as an approved Commissioning Agent since the inception of the program in January 2005. They were instrumental in development of the scope of services and statewide standards. The scope originally included thorough design reviews, development of the commissioning specification, test plan and forms, functional testing of the HVAC systems/controls and electrical systems, seasonal testing, final warranty review and project closeout. For more information about STAN, click [HERE](#)

Design work is taking place now, and expected to run through the Spring of 2025. The plan is to start construction in the Summer of 2025 and continue through the Summer of 2027, with the new schools opening in the Fall of 2027.

For more about the project, please see our community presentation [HERE](#).

SUMMER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE



The district will be working on a number of capital improvement projects this summer.

The biggest summer project will take place at Troy High School, where there will be a partial roof replacement. The roof will be replaced above the science wing, part of the commons outside the Trojan Activities Center and the area of the building near the bus circle. The cost of the project will be \$253,622, in addition to \$22,000 for replacement design services.

The district also will spend a total of \$55,410.17 in repaving two areas near the high school, including Ferguson Drive and the parking area outside the district's technology department.

All told, the district expects to spend \$532,778.26 this year in capital improvement projects.

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.

Maintaining buildings is critical to the goal of keeping students warm, safe and dry.

"While we look forward to getting new elementary school buildings in the very near future, the fact remains we still need to work hard to maintain the schools we do have in order to achieve our goal of keeping our students warm, safe and dry," Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper said. "Our custodial staff and maintenance staff do a fantastic job on our buildings on a daily basis, but given the age of the buildings, there are going to be projects like these to maintain what we have."

A NEW LOOK FOR TROY MEMORIAL STADIUM, FERGUSON FIELD



TURF PROJECTS UNDERWAY

The Stadium & Turf Enhancement Project (STEP) Committee is pleased to announce that enough funds have been raised allowing the project to move forward for use in the fall of 2024.

Although the amount raised thus far is approximately \$300,000 short of its goal, there are sufficient donations to cover the replacement of the turf at both Memorial Stadium and Ferguson Field along with the installation of new lights and scoreboard at the soccer field.

Work has already begun on the soccer field. This season, the soccer teams will use the existing bleachers and press box while the Committee continues to raise the remaining funds to cover the installation of new bleachers and a press box at the soccer field in time for the 2025 season.

"We are pleased to be working with the Motz Group on the installation of both turf fields," said Jeff Price, Troy City School District Treasurer. "They have a long history of successful turf projects throughout central/southwest Ohio including The Horseshoe and OSU's practice facility."

The project was kicked off in March 2023 with a donation spark from the Ernst Family.

"Growing up in Troy and having attended Troy schools, we are excited to give back to the Troy Community by supporting this worthwhile project for Troy students to have two amazing fields to practice and compete on," said Dan Ernst.

The project is 100% funded with private donations which have been received from individuals, businesses, foundations, and civic organizations throughout the Troy Community.

"We have been really pleased with the response from the Trojan Family," said Chris Piper, Troy City School District Superintendent. "Our community has a long history of supporting Troy City Schools and worthy projects throughout the District and we are confident the remaining funds will be raised."

Turf installation at Troy Memorial Stadium will begin as soon as the track season is over. Donations will continue to be accepted by the STEP Fund of The Troy Foundation to close the remaining gap. Checks may be mailed to the Foundation at 216 W. Franklin Street (place STEP on the memo line) or online through their website: thetroyfoundation.org

For more information, please contact Tom Kleptz at (937) 875-2550 or tkleptz@turnstonefinancial.com.



NEW CHILDCARE PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERED

Troy, Ohio – The Miami County YMCA, Troy City Schools and The Troy Foundation are excited to announce the launch of a new before and after school pilot program to start with the 2024-25 school year. The pilot program will be located at Cookson Elementary and Kyle Elementary Schools and also available to students at Forest Elementary School at the Kyle site.

The primary objective of this initiative is to offer convenient and reliable childcare solutions for families with elementary-aged children attending Cookson, Kyle, or Forest Elementary schools initially. Childcare will be provided before school beginning at 6:30 AM and after school until 5:30 PM, and aims to provide a safe and enriching environment for students outside of regular school hours.

The pilot program is being funded by a grant from The Troy Foundation's Priority Needs Fund in the amount of \$112,500 and will address the childcare needs of Troy families initially attending Cookson, Kyle, and Forest Elementary schools. The Priority Needs Fund was created by The Troy Foundation to fund grants that address the needs identified during their 2020 Community Needs Assessment, childcare being identified as the second most pressing need for the Troy community.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Miami County YMCA to bring this much-needed service to our students and families," said Chris Piper, Superintendent of Troy City Schools. "This program will not only offer childcare but also provide opportunities for academic support and enrichment activities for the students."

The Miami County YMCA has hired Robin Mitzelos as the Before and After School Director. Dr. Mitzelos' background will ensure the highest standards of care for participating students.



Additionally, qualified teachers will be hired to oversee the classrooms at both locations.

"We are looking forward to collaborating with Troy City Schools and The Troy Foundation to launch this pilot program," said Donn Craig, Branch Executive, Robinson Branch of the Miami County YMCA. "By offering before and after school care, we aim to alleviate the childcare burden on families and create a supportive environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive."

"This pilot is the first step towards helping Troy families secure childcare for their children," said Melissa Kleptz, President and CEO of The Troy Foundation. "The Troy Foundation would like to thank the Miami County YMCA and Troy City Schools for providing this much needed program, and we look forward to continuing to support this program in the future."

The YMCA will begin registration for this pilot program beginning in June. Information pertaining to the registration process will be available soon by visiting the Miami County YMCA's website at www.miamicountyymca.net or by contacting Donn Craig, Branch Executive, at (937) 440-9622.



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