TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

THE DISTRICT NEWSPAPER

SHARING WORLD CLASS NEWS ONE STORY AT A TIME

SUMMER 2024/GRADUATION EDITION

SUPERINTENDEN





As the 2023/2024 school year and passion for education inspire comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to recognize the tremendous growth and hard work we have witnessed from our wonderful community of learners. The tutelage and servant leadership Troy School District continues to grow and evolve, driven by the dedication and commitment of our students, staff, and community. Board Members:

This year, we have seen significant advancements in several areas. We introduced a new K-8 math curriculum, launched several bond projects and planning committees, and celebrated the Members: groundbreaking of a new Smith Middle School. Our Web Program has successfully supported sixth graders transitioning to middle school, while the SME Grant has provided innovative spaces and options for students at Troy High. The Career Accelerator Program (CAP) offered valuable pre-internship opportunities for juniors and seniors. Our commitment to social emotional learning practices and initiatives has fostered a more inclusive and understanding community. Celebrations of Learning have made a triumphant return to our middle schools, and we have worked to improve our community and business engagement, enriching the educational experience for our students.

Many of our student groups brought voice and initiative to the forefront this year, including the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board (SSAB), Creative Guild, and the Student Equity Council, along with numerous groups in each of our schools. These organizations empower students to take active roles in their educational experience, and contribute meaningfully to the larger school community.

To our educators, we are profoundly grateful for your unwavering commitment to the students and families of the Troy School District. Your dedication, creativity,

our students to strive for excellence and achieve their full potential.

To our SSAB graduates, your have left a significant impact on our community. Thank you!

- Rachel Asirvatham: IAE
- Niveditha Chandrakanth: IAE
- Kara Crepeau: AHS
- Aanya Shah: THS
- Marlien William: AHS

- Abby Adams: TCCHS
- Avery Appledorn: AHS
- Kvle Berch: THS
- Mason Bui: AHS
- Caroline Cubitt: AHS
- Rachel Holle: AHS
- Kai Hop: AHS
- Maddison Kott: AHS
- Emma Leitheiser: AHS
- Abby Malone: AHS
- Faith Phillips: AHS Teagan Pruitt: TCCHS
- Kara Son: THS
- Madigan Tennies: AHS

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all of our seniors. May your journey ahead be filled with exciting opportunities, meaningful experiences, and abundant success in all your endeavors. Remember, no matter where life takes you, you will always have a place here in the Troy School District community.





SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING

In May, TSD held a groundbreaking celebration for the first phase of the Smith Middle School construction project. The new Smith is the centerpiece of Series 1 of the TSD 2022 Bond, which is part of our commitment to providing our middle school students with a more conducive and modern learning environment.

Looking back to pre-Bond planning, a comprehensive analysis of the existing Smith Middle School included a program assessment, and an assessment of current conditions. The Facilities Review Committee concluded that investing \$50+ million to reimagine an outdated building that would likely continue to need major repairs did not make financial sense and strongly recommended that a new school be constructed on the same site. Further, after the completion of a new school, the existing Smith would be a valuable resource that can be used as a surge space for various school communities while their schools are remodeled and provide a more cost-effective solution.

Attendees at the Groundbreaking Ceremony included Smith staff and current students, Smith band members, TSD school board members, central office staff, city council members, VIPs, and a group of Martell 5th graders--future Smith Knights who will one day be students in the new building, which is estimated for completion during the 2026/2027 school year.

TSD Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky concluded the celebration by saying, "As we embark on this journey of construction, innovation, and transformation, we look forward to doing so with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to providing our students with a world-class facility to match our world-class education."

PREPARING FOR TOMORROW





TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS 2024 RETIRES

The Troy School District honors our 2024 retirees, who represent more than 700 years of experience in the Troy School District. This amazing group of employees will definitely be missed! The following people deserve our congratulations:

Ed Berky

Maintenance, District

Carolyn Brown

Teacher, Wattles

Patrick Dawood

Teacher, Athens

Susan Fortuna

Teacher, Troy High

Tim Fulcher

Athletic Director, TLC

Sheila Gannon

Teacher, Troy Schools

Mary Goetz

Teacher, Bemis

Todd Hensley

Purchasing Sup., Rankin

Susan Hill

Para-Professional, Martell

Joaquina Kapuscinski

Para-Professional, Bemis

Camille Lamesch

Teacher, Martell

Jill Martens

Para-Professional, Troy High

Mark Martin

Teacher, Boulan Park

Melven Moffett

Teacher, Leonard

Joni Pallas

Para-Professional, Larson

Karen Reese

Teacher, Costello

Matthew Reimann

Teacher, Troy High

Tonia Romancheck

Teacher, Hamilton

Patrice Rowbal

Comms. Specialist, District

Cherly Rowley

Teacher, Hamilton

Pamela Russ

Teacher, Bemis

Kitty Schmidt Teacher, Baker

Beth Soggs

Tech Director, Services

Luba Sordyl

Teacher, Athens

Roseann Sparbeck

Secretary, Athens

Sandra Tallant

School Kitchen Mgr., Larson

Ellie Talsma

Secretary, Troy High

Julie Tomasko

Para-Professional, Larson

Raymond Torres

Teacher, Smith

Bill Turner

Supervisor, TCCHS

Lynn Yagley

Para-Professional, Leonard

We honor and thank you for your dedication and service to our schools.

Congratulations!



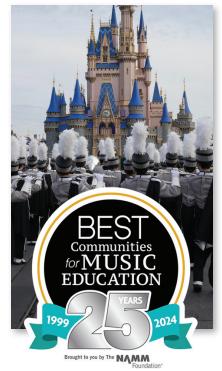
TSD CELEBRATES 18 YEARS

as Best Community for Music Education

Troy has been named a 2024 Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) and the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas. The award recognizes the outstanding efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made exemplary music education part of the curriculum.

According to the Association (NAMM) in a press release: "Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational / cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music: After two years of music education, researchers found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school but also to attend college as well. Everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than those without music training. Later in life, individuals who took music lessons as children show stronger neural processing of sound; young adults and even older adults who have not played an instrument for up to 50 years show enhanced neural processing compared to their peers. Social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism."

With music programs offered at every grade level from our youngest learners to our elite musicians at the high school level, Troy takes pride in our music programs. This is the 18th consecutive year Troy has been named a best community for music education.



Proud BCME District











MR. KARL SCHMIDT

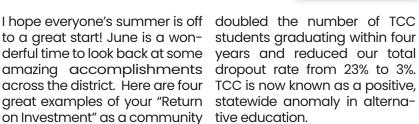
President, TSD Board of Education



Across state-sponsored and national standardized tests, TSD students again scored in the upper echelon of their peers, and more importantly, Troy is only one of a few Oakland County districts that consistently scored higher than our socio-economic level as a city would predict. Troy's national reputation continues to grow.

Our multi-year effort to open access to post-high school curricula to more students continues to reap dividends. This year, more than half of our high school graduates successfully completed at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course with a high enough score to achieve college credit, and almost a third left us under their belt.

Our investment in the Troy Learning Center building and our Troy College & Career alternative high school program has allowed our phenomenal staff there to make dramatic gains. In the past five years, we have



Our 10-year push to expand preschool access has given us the opportunity to identify and correct more student academic challenges before Grade 3. Those early interventions have cut the total number of K-12 interventions for specific learning disabilities in half. Early intervention means greater academic opportunities for those students over the rest of their academic career, and it is also the most effective way to reduce special education costs.

All of these initiatives and subsequent outcomes don't just happen. They are the result of strong organizational coherence to a thoughtful and challenging strategic plan. They start with calm, consistent Board governance that directs what I would argue is the most with five or more AP courses outstanding administrative team in the state. From there, our dedicated, talented teaching and support staff execute our vision with integrity. The results become the pride of our community, as they should be.











A special batch of Chinook The young fish will spend up Salmon, that were hatched Clinton River in early May. Students at Martell, Boulan, Larson, and Athens harvested eggs from fish in their classrooms starting in November, and watched as the eggs morphed into the sack stage where they hatched. Students began feeding them, now called smolts, and closely monitored their classroom tanks to make sure they were exactly 52 degrees. Then, they carefully modulated the water temperature to match the Clinton River Watershed, where 250 fish school students! were released into the wild.

to two months in the Clinton from eggs and raised in TSD River before migrating to classrooms, were released at Lake St. Claire to grow and Riverbend Park into the hopefully more to a Great Lake. They will face many challenges and predators, but for the ones who make it to two years or more, they will return to the waters of Riverbend Park to find their environmental imprint and to spawn the next generation in completing the cycle of life. "This was a fantastic vertical project that spanned from elementary to high school, with students connecting at all levels. The high school students even came and taught lessons to the middle school and elementary

TROY BOND STATUS UPDATE FOR TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT **SUMMER 2024**

With the arrival of warmer weather, we are witnessing incredible growth and renewal all around us. The Troy School District is thrilled to share that we are experiencing our own exciting transformation through numerous bond projects aimed at enhancing our schools and facilities!

Smith Middle School is Leading the Way - At the start of the month, we proudly broke ground at Smith Middle School, marking the beginning of an ambitious project. Our dedicated crews have since commenced sitework, preparing the grounds for the construction of a brand-new school building. This is just the start of something spectacular!

Playground Upgrades Across the District - This month also saw the beginning of playground construction at several of our elementary schools. Morse and Troy Union Elementary Schools are buzzing with activity as fencing has gone up and construction is already underway.

Revamping Troy High's Fields - To better manage drainage and improve our athletic facilities, we are currently leveling several fields at Troy High. Once the groundwork is complete, the rebuilding process will kick off, promising top-notch fields for our students to compete on.

Road Improvements for Better Accessibility - Our paving crews are hard at work refreshing the road that connects our Administration and Services Buildings. This improvement will enhance accessibility and ensure smoother transit between these vital facilities.

We are excited about these developments and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our students, staff, and community. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to build a brighter future together!





Wass Elementary won this spring's Step Up to the Plate contest put on by the Troy Chamber in partnership with Children's Hospital of Michigan. They raised \$619.63 in receipts, and were awarded \$1000! (TSD raised \$1,861.45 overall!)

OAKLAND COUNTY HONORS 40 UNDER 40

Troy School District graduate Hemanth Tadepalli, 22, is recognized by The Oakland County Executive's Oakland Together 40 Under 40 Program as a leader under the age of 40 who has made a difference in and around the Troy community. He is currently working as a Cybersecurity Compliance Engineer with May Mobile (a Troy autonomous transportation start-up).





TROY PRESCHOOL HOSTS FAMILY LEARNING SERIES

TSD Preschool hosted family learning events for 50 preschool families. The events focused on play, language development, and early literacy skills. Following dinner, children played while parents engaged in shared learning with District Teaching & Learning Literacy/ELD Leaders. Children rejoined their parents for hands-on stations to practice parent/child interactions. At the end of the evening, families took home a bag of materials from each station to extend their learning at home.





TSD STUDENTS SHINE AT SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Several TSD teams competed with students from across Michigan in the 40th Annual Science Olympiad State Tournament hosted by Western Michigan University.

In the middle school division, teams from Baker Middle School, Larson Middle School, Boulan Park Middle School, and select students from Smith Middle School competed against 48 qualifying teams: BOULAN - 4th Place, LARSON - 9th Place, and BAKER - 13th Place.

In the high school division, teams from Troy High, Athens, and select students from IA East competed against 48 qualifying teams: ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL - 4th Place and TROY HIGH SCHOOL - 6th Place.

These outstanding results continue a proud tradition of a strong Science Olympiad program in the Troy School



District. Interested students can reach out to coaches and teachers in their respective buildings about how to join one of TSD's remarkable teams next season.



TROY HIGH SCHOOL CLUB CREATES OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

On Saturday, April 20, the THS Green Spaces Club transformed an area of their high school grounds into an outdoor classroom to support the club's vision to improve the spaces in and around campus by making them greener and more sustainable. They built five picnic tables from scratch--including one designed for wheelchair accessibility--demonstrating their commitment to sustainability and inclusivity.

Students assembled the tables from scratch using wood donated by our local Troy Home Depot. This construction is phase one of the outdoor classroom. Future improvements include plans for a native pollinator planter box, as well as supplemental outdoor classroom materials. The classroom will serve as a versatile space for educational activities, fostering engagement with nature and collaborative learning.





TROY 5TH GRADE FITNESS RUN

The annual Troy Fitness Run was held on a blustery Saturday this year, but the grey skies couldn't dampen the excitement of the 250 fifth-grade students who participated. High school cross country runners from Troy High were on hand to assist, and students wore magnetized identification bibs so that the detector strip at the end of the race captured their times as they crossed the finish line. The fastest time for boys was 11:35.8, the fastest time for girls was 13:08.1, and Wass Elementary won the Elite 8 and the Participation Award for most runners, but everyone was a winner as they improved on their own personal best times. See more photos at www.troyfitnessrun.com.







ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Open Air Fest returned to showcase more student music and art! This outdoor event was presented by the Creative Guild, and featured two stages for musical performances along with tables for displaying student art and the sale of baked goods.

The main stage welcomed a variety of student performers from Athens and Troy High, and hosted by IA East's Nurayda Albeez. This year also saw performances both from students and staff on top of the Okavark, a unique school bus crafted by TCCHS teacher Eric Kravako. Meanwhile, students and families in attendance continued to enjoy games and visited the concessions stand



operated by Athens Athletic Boosters.

A number of headlining performances garnered cheers of excitement from the crowd. Student performers included Lindsey Richman, Ben Dannug, Cassandra Wilson, Jerrel Willis, Mara Mitchell, and James Bittner. The behind-the-scenes magic was also entirely student led with special thanks to Maaz Ali, Matthew Schwiderson, and Brandon Mendoza.

one-of-a-kind continues to expand and evolve, and we're excited to see what this creative celebration will offer next year!



ATHENS TURNS



alumni, and community mem- winning burgers, ice cream bers came together for a sundaes, and root beer floats, to OneTroy celebration of Athens High School's 50th anniversary! The fun outdoor event included three bounce houses, over 2,000 water balloons, and conces-

Hundreds of students, families, sions such as pizza, awardname a few. It was truly a celebration of Athens' history along with looking ahead to the renovations that will be made in the near future per the 2022 Bond.

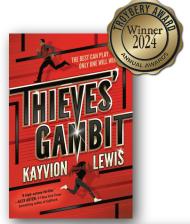


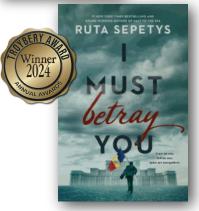


TSD middle school students began the 24th annual Troybery Award program last fall by checking out, reading, and sharing their favorite current books. The reading frenzy lasted for months and ultimately revealed the 32 most popular titles, and a March Madness style bracket challenge whittled that number down to 10. The Top 10 were then voted on and celebrated in a virtual ceremony that featured videos and artwork created by students from all four middle schools, and concluded with the revealing of the winners! 3rd place: The **Tryout: Making the Squad** Means Risking it All Christina Sootonvat and Joanna Cacao, 2nd place: Bhai for Now by Maleeha Siddiqui; 1st place: Unbreakable—The Spies who cracked the Nazis Secrets by Rebecca Barone, and the Grand Troybery winner: I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys.

In the high school "Battle of the Books" exhilarating literary showdown, six finalists were chosen, and authors of nominated titles appeared on Zoom in designated time slots throughout the day to

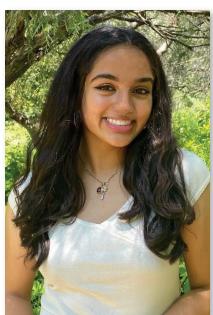
discuss their books. Students engaged in a Kahoot trivia competition between THS /AHS, and a pizza/ice cream party was held for the top three participating English classes as well as students who had read all of the nominated titles. This year's winning title was: Thieves' **Gambit** by Kayvion Lewis, and the winning high school was Troy High. The program gratefully received support from the Troy Community Foundation.







TSD CELEBRATES 3 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS







Troy High Senior Aanya Shah has been named one of two 2024 US Presidential Scholars from Michigan. Daniel Li Xiao of Troy High School and Akshaj Sharma of International Academy East have been named two out of 13 Michigan semifinalists (out of 625 semifinalists) in the prestigious 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, out of over 6,000 applicants. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected based on their accomplishments in many areas: academic and artistic success, accomplishment in career and technical fields, leadership, strong character and involvement in school and the community through essays, school evaluations and transcripts, and a demonstrated commitment to community service and leadership.

Troy High's Principal Remo Roncone shared pride in Aanya's achievement: "This amazing award is a testament to her hard work, dedication, and academic excellence. We wish her all the best as she continues to pursue her goals and positively impact their communities and beyond." Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky agreed: "To have three semi-finalists is amazing, and to have one of them named a a Presidential Scholar is nothing short of incredible!"

As a Presidential Scholar, Aanya will be recognized with a Presidential Medallion at the end of June in a virtual ceremony, where she will join her 99 "classmates" in the ranks of previous Scholars (over 8,000), and she will also attend a Virtual Week of Connection in July.

A complete list of 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars is available at http://www.ed.gov/psp.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY EAST A DT CLIONAL

Nineteen IAE Arts Seniors held a reception to share their exhibition of work and celebrate the culmination of their years in the IB Visual Arts Program. The IB Art Program provides students with a holistic and enriching experience in the visual arts, while fostering creativity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness of the visual arts in society and culture throughout history and across the world. The 19 seniors curated and displayed their entire exhibition of work. Students from grades 9–12 (approx 140 students total) were also included, and each student selected at least one piece of their art to display. All art students and their families were invited to a reception to celebrate and honor their amazing work this year. The exhibition served as part of their IB Exam and coincided with Senior Honors Night.











We've learned from the bad times and humbled by the good. Teachers - Thank you for all of the great life lessons!



Here's to the first step of the next chapter of your life!

















What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.









You're off to great places. Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So ... get on your way. Oh, the Places You'll Go.





You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.





MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



TSD high school students hosted a leadership conference to welcome middle schoolers and help make the transition to high school a little easier. One hundred students from all four middle schools attended for lunch, tours, and breakout rooms geared towards different aspects of high school such as peer mediation, student life, extracurriculars, sports, and other excellent leadership opportunities. It was a great day, and now new high schoolers have a group of friendly faces to look to during their time of transition.



Team Duilding

TCCHS students and staff took a team-building field trip to Tree Runners in Rochester, where students were presented with challenges in small groups to work together on how to overcome the trials via various levels of high ropes adventure courses. Students and staff encouraged each other to persevere through fears and trust their peers. This experience was the best way to end a wonderful school year at TCCHS.





BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP APPRECIATION RECEPTION

As a thank you to our business leaders, the Troy School District held a Business Partnership Appreciation Reception hosted by Trion Solutions. The district celebrated a wonderful year of collaboration and partnership with several businesses that have been instrumental in serving our students and the larger community this year. Students shared with the businesses how these programs have impacted them directly. It was a wonderful culmination of experiences! Thank you to the following businesses for their investment in our students: Trion Solutions, TMP Architec-

ture, Barton Malow, Children's Hospital of Michigan Troy, Rehmann, Northwestern Mutual, Digital Interiors, Firebird Tavern, Signs & More, Kickstart Toddler Soccer, DENSO International America, Stifel Public Finance, Troy Chamber of Commerce, T&I Credit Union, National Branding, Emicity, and Chief Financial Credit Union. We look forward to building a larger network of businesses next year. If your business is interested in a partnership, please reach out to Director of Communications and Strategic Initiative, Kendra Montante at the following:

kmontante@troy.k12.mi.us.











ATHENS & TROY HIGH SIGNING DAY CLASS OF 2024 ATHLET



Claire Balintfy - Lacrosse Northwood University

Madison Bloom - Soccer Central Michigan University

Joel Botardo - Baseball Kalamazoo Valley Comm. Coll.

Elena Carey - Cheer Central Michigan University

Parker Ciurla - Baseball Kalamazoo College

Dylan Esser - *Track/XC* **Grand Valley State University**

Jacob Esser - Track/XC **Grand Valley State University**

Adam Ethridge - Soccer Colgate University

Brody Fahnestock - Baseball Oakland University

Aurora Gignac - Cheer Wayne State University

Rintaro Goda - Tennis Hillsdale College

Abby Malone -Basketball & Lacrosse Adrian College

Sydney McBride - Soccer **Tiffin University**

Deshaun Nolton - Football Lawrence Technological Univ.

Micah Pobursky - Football Calvin University

Kristen Rivett -Competitive Cheer & Stunt Alma University

Dominic Roehl - Lacrosse Indiana Tech

Nichole Russell -Soccer **Adrian College**

Anna Trupiano - Lacrosse Lawrence Technological Univ.

Evan Watson - *Track* Illinois State University

Ava Weeks - Golf **Northwood University**

Trisha Wright - Cheer **Davenport University**

Donovan Yousif - Football Lawrence Technological Univ.



Hresh Anand - Tennis Kalamazoo College

Clark Anderson - Baseball Lansing Community College

Kendall Best - Hockey Utica University

Derek Blackwell - Tennis Kalamazoo College

Carly Blair - Softball University of Northwest Ohio

Gabby Bouzide - Volleyball Calvin College

Parker Brandenberg - Football **Elmhurst University**

Erica Didocha - Hockey Lindenwood University

Zephyr Fegley - Wrestling Olivet College

Erin Humphrey - Lacrosse **Eastern University**

Conner Miller - Lacrosse **Emory & Henry College**

Conner Moya - Track & XC Adrian College

Vishvaa Ravishankar -Track & XC Carnegie Mellon

Adam Smolcic - Soccer Western University

Alexa Valiotis - Soccer DePaul University

Jon Whiteside - Baseball **Lansing Community College**





American University

Baker College

Boston University

Calvin College

Art Institute of Michigan

Baker Culinary Institute of MI

Bowling Green State University

Brigham Young University

California College of Arts

Carnegie Mellon University

Central Michigan University

College for Creative Studies

Columbus College of Art & Design

Case Western Reserve

Columbia University

Cornell University

DePaul University

Excel Beauty School

Harvard University

Hope College

Duke University

Davenport University

Eastern Michigan University

George Washington University

Grand Valley State University

TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT

From the Classes of 2020 through 2024, Troy School District students have matriculated to many prestigious colleges, universities, trade schools and programs listed below. We are exceptionally proud of our graduating class of 2024.

Indiana Technological Univ. **Albion College Indiana University Bloomington** Alma College

John Carroll University

Kettering University

Lawrence Technological Univ.

Macomb Community College

Madonna University

Miami University

Michigan Barber College

Michigan State University

Michigan Technological Univ.

Northern Michigan University

Northwest Michigan College

Nova Southeastern University

Oakland Community College

Oakland University

Ohio State University

Princeton University

Purdue University

Saginaw Valley State University

San Diego State University

Santa Monica College

Spring Arbor University

St. Mary's College

Stanford University

Texas A&M Univ. - Commerce

Troy Center for Transition

University of California

University of South Florida

University of Texas at Arlington

University of Toledo

University of Washington - Seattle

University of Wisconsin - Madison

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

U.S. Military Academy

Virginia State University

Washtenaw Community College

Western Michigan University

Yale University

University of Alabama

University of Detroit Mercy

University of Michigan

University of Missouri

University of Pennsylvania

Wayne State University

Wellesley College







We also have a few students attending international universities in France, Korea, Spain, and India. Several students are proudly serving our country in the military. Others will be continuing their education in apprenticeship programs, certificate programs, trade schools, traveling, or going directly to the work force.

