



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Piper, Superintendent, Troy City Schools

Trojan Families:

Hard as it may be to believe, we have reached the end of the first quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

It seems like just yesterday our students were walking through our doors for the first day of school, and here we already are, 25 percent of the way through the school year. I am incredibly happy to report that we are once again off to a great start to the school year, and have a number of big things we are looking forward to both this year and beyond.

The Ohio Department of Education's state report cards came out last month, and we are proud to report that the Troy City Schools scored in the top 15 percent of district's throughout the state. The ODE gave each district 1-5 stars (1 being the lowest, 5 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 Progress, while scoring four stars in Achievement, Gap Closing, Graduation and Early Literacy. The area in which we scored highest was student growth. As a district, we scored 16th out of 606 districts in the state in student growth. Troy High School, meanwhile, scored second out of 3,022 schools in Ohio in student growth. This comes on the heels of the high school scoring first in the state for student growth last year.

You can read more about our state report card in this newsletter.

We are heavily into the design phase for our new school buildings. We are currently looking at opening the new schools on the sites currently occupied by Cookson and Hook elementary schools in December of 2026. We are planning on opening the remaining two schools, near the current Concord Elementary School site and the new middle school on Swailes Road, in the fall of 2027. We also are planning on completing the HVAC renovations at Troy High School to open the 2027-28 school year. You can read a full update on our new buildings in this newsletter.

We are off to a tremendous start to the school year, and for that I would like to thank all of our students, their families and our hard-working staff members. I am confident that as well as things have gone through the first quarter, the best is yet to come for the Troy City Schools.

Thanks to all of you, I am looking forward to a bright future for our district. Thank you and go Trojans!

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY ON NOVEMBER BALLOT



The Troy City Schools will have a 1.1-mil permanent improvement levy on the ballot this November. Since this is a renewal of an existing levy, it will not raise taxes.

This levy first passed in 1984 and was most recently renewed in November of 2018. If renewed, this levy will cost homeowners \$1.92 per month for every \$100,000 of home valuation. Money raised by this levy can only be used for permanent improvements, and cannot be used for any other expenses, such as payroll.

“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.”

The permanent improvement levy often goes to pay for expensive repairs or replacements.

This past summer, for example, we had a number of projects that were paid for with money raised through the permanent improvement levy.

The biggest summer project took place at Troy High School, where there was a partial roof replacement. Roof areas were 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 was \$253,622, in addition to \$22,000 for replacement design services.

The district also spent 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 on capital improvement projects.

“We feel we do an outstanding job maintaining our buildings,” Piper said. “But that maintenance comes at a high cost. This permanent improvement levy, which will not raise taxes if renewed, allows us to pay for those projects without using funds that are currently spent on student learning.”

HOW TO VOTE

To learn more about general voting information in Miami County, click [HERE](#).

To find out where your precinct’s voting location is, click [HERE](#).

For early voting information, click [HERE](#).

For absentee ballot information, click [HERE](#).

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY FAQ

We understand you may have questions about the permanent improvement levy on the November ballot. Here are some answers to your Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a permanent improvement levy?

A Permanent Improvement (PI) Levy produces funds that can be utilized for items with a lifespan of five years or more. Items of this nature are:

- School buses/vehicle upgrades
- Roofs and parking lot repair/upgrades
- Boilers repair/upgrades
- Safety upgrades
- Classroom furniture upgrades
- Technology upgrades and improvements
- Wireless/network upgrades
- Plumbing repair/upgrades
- Electrical repair/upgrades
- HVAC updates/repairs
- Maintain athletic facilities
- Exterior building maintenance, such as tuckpointing, caulking, windows, etc.
- Interior building maintenance, such as flooring, ceilings, fixtures, etc.



Can this money be used for anything else, such as payroll?

No, it cannot. We are legally required to use money raised through a permanent improvement levy on items such as the ones listed in the question above. It cannot be used for other costs, such as payroll.

How much is Troy's permanent improvement levy?

The Troy City Schools will have a 1.1-mil permanent improvement levy renewal on the Nov. 5th ballot

If this levy passes, how much will it raise taxes?

Because this is a levy renewal, it will NOT raise taxes. This permanent improvement levy was first passed in 1984 and last passed in November of 2018.

If it passes, how much will it cost taxpayers?

If renewed, this levy will cost homeowners \$1.92 per month for every \$100,000 of assessed home valuation.

With new buildings on the way, why is this permanent improvement levy necessary?

We expect to have two new buildings open and operating in December of 2026. We expect to have two more new buildings open and operating in the fall of 2027.

In the meantime, the permanent improvement levy will help maintain the nine buildings and other structures we currently have.

Once the four new buildings are finished, six buildings (Cookson, Concord, Heywood, Hook, Kyle and Van Cleve) will be demolished and abated.

Following the demolition of those schools, we will still need to maintain Troy High School, Troy Junior High School and the Forest building and other remaining structures.

What happens if the levy does not pass in November?

Even if the levy does not pass, we will still be responsible for keeping students in all of our buildings warm, safe and dry. If forced to do so without the benefit of the permanent improvement levy, we would need to use money from other sources, such as the general fund.

AN UPDATE ON NEW SCHOOLS

Scope Description	2024			2025			2026			2027																															
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.										
Phase 1 - North ES (PK-4), East ES (PK-4) Schools																																									
Building Design																																									
Site Preparation																																									
Construction Document Development																																									
Building Construction																																									
Owner move in																																									
Existing Hook and Cookson Building Abatement / Demos																																									
Site work completion																																									
Phase 2 - West ES (PK-4), South MS (5-6) Schools																																									
Building Design																																									
Site Preparation																																									
Construction Document Development																																									
Building Construction																																									
Owner move in																																									
Phase 3 - Troy HS HVAC (LFI)																																									
Hazmat Survey / Confirm Project Scope																																									
Corridor Ceiling Demo																																									
Schematic Design																																									
Construction Document Development																																									
Abatement																																									
Troy HS HVAC: Construction Phases																																									
Existing Building Abatement / Demos																																									
Kyle - Abatement / Demo																																									
Heywood - Abatement / Demo																																									
Concord - Abatement / Demo																																									
Van Cleve - Abatement / Demo																																									
Forest - Abatement																																									

Since the passage of a bond issue to build four new schools – three new elementary schools and a new middle school – passed in November of 2023, we have been working closely with Reutschle Architects, our design team and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission on the design phase of the buildings.

We expect the design phase to last through the spring of 2025. For the latest design update, as well as previous updates, click [HERE](#).

The plan is to begin construction in the summer of 2025. We are planning on finishing construction at the North site (where Hook Elementary School is located) and the East site (where Cookson Elementary School is located) in December of 2026. We would then move students currently at the Hook and Cookson locations into those schools to finish out the 2026-27 school year.

We would then finish construction of the new schools at the West site (on the land between McKaig Road and State Route 718) and the middle school (grades 4-5) at the South location on Swailes Road to begin the 2027-28 school year.

We also plan on having the HVAC renovation project finished at Troy High School in time for the start of the 2027-28 school year. For a more complete project timeline, see the chart on this page.

We have hired Ruetschle Architects as the project architect, Peterson Construction as the construction management firm and Stan Engineers as commissioning agent.

Architects

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](#).

Construction Management Firm

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](#).

Commissioning Agent

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. To learn more about STAN Engineers, click [HERE](#).

DISTRICT EARNS HIGH MARKS ON STATE REPORT CARD

The ODEW gave each district 1-5 stars (1 being the lowest, 5 being the highest) in each of five categories: Achievement, Gap Closing, Progress, Graduation and Early Literacy. They also gave each district an overall score, also based on the 1-5 star system.

Overall, the Troy City Schools earned 4.5 stars, putting it in the top 15 percent of all schools in the state.

The district scored five stars in Progress, while scoring four stars in Achievement, Gap Closing, Graduation and 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."

The district's highest score came in Progress, which is a measure of how students in the district scored 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."

In the student growth category, the Troy City Schools scored 16th out of 606 districts in Ohio. Troy High School, which placed highest in the state last year, placed second out of 3,022 schools in the state in terms of student growth. Troy High School currently boasts a 94.2 percent graduation rate.

"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."

Compared to the 2023 report card, the district also increased by one star in Early Literacy, going from three stars to four stars in 2024. The Early Literacy Component is a measure of reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade.

"The Early Literacy Component has been a particular area of focus for us," Piper said. "There is a lot of good work going on in our primary grades when it comes to reading and literacy, which then serves as a building block for our students as they move on through the school careers into the upper grades. We are thrilled to see this improvement."

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."





THS STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL COMMENDED SCHOLARS

Troy High School seniors Alex Rammel and Jeffrey Smith have been named Commended Students by the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Both students were named Commended Students based on their PSAT scores. Each posted scores among the highest 50,000 in the nation. Roughly 1.5 million juniors take the PSAT test every year, which puts Rammel and Smith in the top 2-3 percent.

Both were surprised by Troy High School counselors and administrators recently. Smith was particularly surprised, as he figured his score wasn't high enough to make him a National Merit Semifinalist, and didn't know the Commended Student award was a possibility.

"I didn't expect to get this, honestly. I finished in the 98th percentile, which was typically just short of getting the scholarships," he said. "I didn't even know this existed. It feels good to be acknowledged for that score."

Rammel is in the Troy marching band and Troy Indoor Percussion. She also is President of Math Club and a member of Quiz Team, American Sign Language Club, Drama Club, this year's fall play, Culture Club and ASTRA.

Smith is a member of the Troy High School golf team.

Both plan on attending college next year and have lofty goals and aspirations following college.

"I am looking at going to college. I'm not sure where yet, but OSU (Ohio State University) is the top contender right now, and I'm looking

to study biochemistry or chemistry, something along those lines," Rammel said. "The ultimate goal there is to end up doing medical research."

Smith said he hopes to attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and eventually attend law school after completing his undergraduate degree. He's already started job shadowing local attorneys.

"I'm applying to Georgetown, and I hope to major in political science there," he said. "I've always had an interest in law, particularly. I've shadowed a few lawyers here and there, and it's always been my interest."

Both also were quick to credit the staff members at Troy High School for helping them advance their academic careers.

"It's been great," Smith said. "The teachers in Troy are amazing. I've had at least one every year that I can really just think about and appreciate them and what they've done for me not even as a student, but just as a person."

Rammel agreed.

"Being at Troy, there's just so many opportunities here, all of the classes that are open for me to take," she said. "My parents are always talking to me about how when they were in high school, AP classes, college credit classes ... none of that would have been even remotely possible. I have friends who have graduated from Troy with associate's degrees. I myself have a firm foundation in chemistry and science and biology and all of that."

ORSBORNE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS TEACHING HONOR

For Jason Orsborne, it isn't enough for his students to be prepared for what they might face when they arrive at college.

The Troy High School science teacher wants his students to already have a taste of what to expect when they start taking college courses.

"As for the science department, I have the privilege of serving as the department chair," said Orsborne, who began his teaching career at Troy High School in 2006. "When I first started this position over 12 years ago, we talked in a department meeting about increasing rigor of our courses to provide students who are interested in STEM careers

an opportunity to explore a variety of disciplines. In the science department, we now offer college credit courses in physics through Edison State Community College, as well as biology and chemistry, both through Indiana University. We also offer a weighted, advanced version of Anatomy and Physiology, and although it is not a college credit course, it has also proven to prepare students for potential careers in health and allied sciences."

Recently, Indiana University, one of the schools with which Troy partners to offer college credit classes, determined that Orsborne was the best high school teacher it had teaching its curriculum to prospective college students, honoring him with its Advance College Project Distinguished Faculty Award. This was the inaugural year for the award.

"When my name was called for the award at the annual ACP Chemistry Professional Development seminar, I was shocked and very honored to be chosen as the distinguished ACP faculty member for 2024. IU is very careful in their selection of ACP faculty members through a rigorous application process, and I was honored several years ago when they selected and trusted me to teach ACP Chemistry and uphold the high standards of academics for the program.

"To be given this award amongst the many excellent teachers in the ACP program was unbelievable. I have had the privilege of working with the ACP Chemistry teachers over the last 12 years, and they are excellent, dedicated teachers and a valuable resource for lessons and ideas. I can only imagine the same is true of the educators selected for all other ACP disciplines offered at IU, which makes the award even more surreal. I am very thankful to IU for all of their support in the program and for choosing to honor their educators with such a special award. It is an amazing program and an amazing honor."

The award was based on the nominations from Indiana University site visitors for all academic disciplines, not just chemistry, which Orsborne teaches. Each year, an assigned faculty member from the partner IU campus (for, Troy, it is Indiana University East) observes a lesson and evaluates the course rigor pertaining to exams and lab activities, as sample work, with names omitted, must be submitted to the assigned faculty member as part of the site visit. Nominations were reviewed by ACP faculty and one ACP teacher was selected for this year's honor.



ORSBORNE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS TEACHING HONOR

Orsborne said there are a number of advantages to students taking college credit courses while still in high school. Troy High School offers college-level classes in a number of subjects, not just science.

“We offer many college credit classes at the high school, and there is a value to students for taking these courses in high school,” he said. “In most cases, the class sizes at Troy are much smaller than a college like IU. During a visit to the IU Bloomington campus a few years ago, I observed an IU faculty member during a lecture for the same course I teach at the high school, and there were 225 students in the lecture hall. With the course offered at high school, the average class size is 22-24, so students can get much more one-on-one attention to learn the content and get extra assistance with problems.

“Additionally, for students who are interested in college and the traditional four-year path, not only do they get a jump start on their degree with free credits, which lessens the time and cost needed in college after high school, but these courses in high school help ease the students into the rigorous expectations and workloads of college courses.”

Orsborne said he sometimes hears from former students who are grateful they got their experience with college expectations while still at Troy.

“There is also some value in coaching students on how to study and manage time in college level courses while in high school, which makes the transition to college much more smooth,” he said. “I know that myself and several other colleagues who teach these college credit courses get emails from former students every year proclaiming how much the college credit courses prepared them for college, both in terms of academics and time management, so the courses offered seem to be working for our students.”

It’s not just the college courses Troy offers that students can benefit from, Orsborne said. He hopes his department offers a wide array of classes that will benefit students down whatever path they may choose.

“Additionally, we have honors courses for physical science and biology, which provide significant advancements when compared to the traditional curriculum,” he said. “Our hope with higher level courses is to spark an interest in our offered subjects that could lead to STEM careers, but also provide the students valuable critical thinking and problem-solving skills, science knowledge, and laboratory skills that would allow them to be successful in future science courses, even at the college level.

“We also try to provide real world examples of the use of the subject in the real-world, which are related to careers, such as how molecules are being specifically engineered to recognize specific proteins related to diseases. I have a former student who reached out to me via email recently, reminding me that he gained a love of chemistry and biochemistry from my ACP chemistry class and the ACP biology class at THS. He just finished his undergraduate degree in biochemistry at the University of Dayton, and is pursuing a PhD in Chemistry from Ohio State beginning this year. Success stories like this one are one of the reasons why we choose to offer these rigorous, advanced courses to help prepare students for college.”

DELCAMP RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS AS TEAM DOCTOR

For nearly 40 years, through five different coaches and injuries that ran the gamut from strains and sprains to compound fractures and major dislocations, one thing has remained unchanged for the Troy football program, standing sentry on the sidelines on Friday nights to ensure every players' health and safety.

Since 1987, Dr. Don Delcamp has served as the Troy High School football team's doctor. While he retired at the end of last season – both as Troy's team doctor and as a practicing orthopedic surgeon – he remains a fixture on the sidelines, now in a consulting role.

Recently at Troy Memorial Stadium, Delcamp was honored for his many decades of service prior to Troy's homecoming game against Xenia.

"When I first started, it was primarily the football players that were coming to see me. But I'd also have some wrestlers, some tennis players, some basketball players, things like that," Delcamp said. "(Former Troy football coach) Steve Nolan came to me and said, 'Will you come stand on the sidelines during football games and provide medical attention to our players?' I told him I was starting a new practice and I had young kids at the time, so I wasn't sure I could do it. But I told him I'd do it for a year and see how it went. And here we are 38 years later ... I guess I found the time."

Delcamp graduated from Newton High School in 1974 and earned his medical degree from The Ohio State University in 1982. He would go on to open an independent practice in 1987, the same year he started working with Troy High School's athletes. He joined Premier Health on the Upper Valley Medical Center campus in 1998.

"It's turned out to be mutually beneficial," Delcamp said. "People would come to see me and tell me that they saw me standing on the sidelines, and if I was good enough for our boys, I must be good enough for them."

Delcamp has been an integral part of the Troy football team's staff through five different decades.

"We are very lucky to have had Dr. Delcamp be a part of our program for so long," Troy Athletic Director Dave Palmer said. "Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable and professional, but he also does a great job working with our student-athletes and our coaching staff. He genuinely has the best interests of our

student-athletes at heart, which is something you look for in a team doctor. We can't thank 'Doc' enough for what he's done here at Troy."

Delcamp said he's seen an evolution in the way teams and schools handle the medical needs of student-athletes, as well as an evolution in himself as a student of the game of football.

"I never played football, Newton didn't have football then and still doesn't now, so I really didn't know too much about the game," he said. "I spent a lot of time early on just trying to figure out what was going to happen next so I could be ready for it. In 1987, having trainers on the sideline was basically unheard of, so the team doctor had to deal with everything."

Over the years, Delcamp said he's made plenty of memories of watching Troy's storied football program. Some of those have been painful memories, while others have been highlights for him.

"There are a couple of moments that stand out. I remember (in 1993) when we lost to Piqua on the final play of the game," Delcamp said. "That was the year where it looked like if Troy and Centerville had both finished the season undefeated, which it looked like we were going to, Centerville would be left out of the playoffs. I also remember the 1996 playoff game against Lima Senior. I have no doubts that if we had won that game, we would have won the state championship that year."

"I also have a lot of positive memories. I remember us winning some games we weren't supposed to win. I remember (in 2007) when Piqua had a really good team and we beat them in the final seconds of the game. I remember one year (1993) when we went over to Greenville and had 11 possessions and scored 11 touchdowns."

Although retired, Delcamp remains a fan of the game and the Trojans. Premier Health's Dr. Thomas Zink has taken over as team doctor, but Delcamp said he'll remain on the sidelines as both a consultant and fan.

"It's become almost a ritual for me," Delcamp said. "In the fall on Friday nights, I get the opportunity to watch a lot of good kids and a lot of good people standing on the sidelines at Troy football games."



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