



# Twinsburg

APRIL | 2018  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Superintendent’s *Message*

Dear Community Members,

The second semester of this school year has been a productive and exciting time here in the Twinsburg City School District!

- With the pending retirement of Twinsburg High School Principal Louise Teringo, an extensive search began for her replacement. More than fifty individuals applied for the position of High School Principal. The Twinsburg City School District engaged members of the community including parents, teachers, support staff members, students, administrators and the Board of Education in Listening Sessions to determine the desired characteristics of the next Principal. Following initial interviews, members of the community were then invited to participate as interviewers during Circuit Interviews. Feedback provided by the participants assisted the District in determining the candidate with the experience, skills and leadership we sought in the next Principal. On April 4, 2018, the Twinsburg Board of Education approved the hiring of Dr. Laura Hebert as the next Principal of Twinsburg High School.
- In February 2018, the Twinsburg City School District began its Strategic Planning process. This process will guide the District in identifying goals and objectives and in creating a blueprint for our future. Members of the school community including parents, non-parents, business owners, senior citizens, teachers, support staff and administrators were invited to participate in Focus Groups as the District gathers feedback to inform the development of our Strategic Plan.

I sincerely appreciate the interest of our community members in participating in these two important initiatives. Your opinions, feedback and suggestions assist the District in focusing its efforts upon matters most important to our community.

Congratulations to two outstanding members of Twinsburg High School’s Class of 2018:

- Alexandra Holmes is a 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Gold Medal Winner. Alexandra’s winning artwork, “Plastic Politician” is an Editorial Cartoon. Nearly 350,000 works of art and writing were submitted by students in grades 7-12 this year. Receiving a National Medal places Alexandra within the top 1% of all submissions. Alexandra will be honored at the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Event in New York City on June 6 – 8, 2018 at Carnegie Hall.
- Tyahana Elder is the OHSAA Girls’ Division I State Bowling Champion. Tyahana won the state title on Saturday, March 10, 2018 during the 2018 OHSAA State Girls’ Bowling Tournament at Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl in Columbus, OH. Tyahana bowled a 729 series, 268 – 213 – 248, which is the highest three game series in the OHSAA Division I Girls’ Bowling State Tournament history.

All of our outstanding academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs and services are made possible by the continued support of our parents and community members. On May 8, 2018, Issue 3 will allow the District to maintain the quality programs and services our community expects. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in education,

Kathi Powers  
Superintendent



# Purple Star Designation bestowed on *Twinsburg City School District*



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria announced 44 Ohio schools that received the Purple Star designation for their commitment to serving military-connected students and families. The Twinsburg City School District is proud that four (4) of those 44 are District schools: Twinsburg High School, RB Chamberlin Middle School, Samuel Bissell Elementary School, and Wilcox Primary School.

“A supportive school environment can have a significant impact on our military-connected students, and we’re happy to see such a great interest in this designation by Ohio’s schools,” said Superintendent DeMaria. “These Purple Star schools provide our children and families with the resources they need to be successful. We’re thankful for their service and honored to continue the important work of improving services for Ohio’s military families.”

The Purple Star designation for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation’s armed forces. Purple Star awardees receive a special Purple Star recognition to display in their buildings. The Purple Star Advisory Board, formed by the Ohio departments of Education, Higher Education, Veterans Services and Adjutant General, helps decide eligibility.

A Purple Star school will receive the designation for two years. After two years, the school must reapply. The Purple Star emblem was selected because purple symbolizes support for military families.

## *Dodge designated an* **Ohio School to Watch**



George G. Dodge Intermediate School was recently awarded the designation of an Ohio School to Watch. The prestigious award seeks to recognize diverse, high-performing, growth-oriented middle-level schools.

Schools to Watch® is an initiative launched by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in 1999. Through the Schools to Watch initiative, the National Forum identifies schools across the United States that are well on their way to meeting the Forum’s Four Criteria for high-performing, middle-level schools:

- Academic Excellence
- Developmental Responsiveness
- Social Equity
- Organizational Structures and Processes

The Ohio Schools to Watch designation is an extensive process involving a staff survey analyzing the four criteria, a comprehensive application detailing achievement data, as well as student and family programming, and a site visit displaying all the wonderful student-centered initiatives in place at George G. Dodge Intermediate School. This designation exemplifies the hard work and dedication of the students, families, staff, and district community members. George G. Dodge will be awarded and celebrated as an Ohio and National School to Watch at a conference in Washington, D.C. in June.

## **The Academy at Twinsburg High School** *notes first-year success*

*The Academy at Twinsburg High School* is wrapping up its first year in operation. The purpose of *The Academy* is to help prepare students for life after high school and to develop partnerships with businesses and organizations to accomplish this mission. Students in *The Academy* are required to take the Introduction to Business course, but beyond that, there are no requirements, just opportunities.

Some examples of these opportunities include summer camps, Twin Talks, Ahuja Medical Center talks, volunteer opportunities, a programming class, micro business workshops, and shadowing business professionals. During the school day, *The Academy* brings guest speakers to classrooms. Our partners have helped with resources which supplement our curriculum.

### **Details about *The Academy* thus far:**

- 75 students have participated in *Academy* events;
- Students have logged over 310 hours of time in outside opportunities;
- Each student has logged over 135 hours of class time in the Introduction to Business course;
- 55 businesses and organizations are partners with *The Academy*;
- 3 summer camps will be offered in Summer 2018.

# Wilcox Reads Week *a "flat out" success!*



For the third year, students and families at Wilcox Primary School became a community of readers as the entire school read the same book at the same time. *Wilcox Reads Week* is an annual event that is supported by the Wilcox PTA. The PTA chooses an age-appropriate novel, creates fun activities for students, and transforms the Wilcox entry into the theme of the book.

This year, every Wilcox student received a copy of *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown. In the book, which was written in 1964, Stanley has a little accident that makes him "flat". What could have been very tragic becomes interesting as his new state allows him to experience some unique adventures. Students colored their own versions of Flat Stanley and families took photos of their Stanley at home and around Twinsburg. It was really fun for the entire Wilcox community to guess where Stanley had been when these photos were posted to social media.

At school, parent volunteers supported *Wilcox Reads Week* by taking student groups on a reading scavenger hunt, reading *Flat Stanley* during recess, and helping in the Young Writer's room. Community Readers included Chief Noga, Mayor Yates, and firefighters Stan Bindus and Steve Bosso. The Twinsburg Fire Department really joined in the fun by creating their own book with a giant Flat Stanley using Mr. Bindus' photo.

*Wilcox Reads Week* has become a highlight of our school year. We are so grateful to Patricia Gilbert and the Wilcox Reads Week PTA Committee who have made this event so meaningful for our students and families," Wilcox Principal Lynn Villa said.

## *Welcome, Class of 2031!*

It is difficult to imagine, but children entering kindergarten during the 2018-19 school year will graduate from high school in 2031!

Parents of children who were born on or before August 1, 2013, are invited to visit the Twinsburg City School District

webpage under "For Parents" and "Registration Information" to download enrollment forms and set up an appointment for their child to participate in the preliminary screening process.

Families should plan to be at their appointment for about one hour. Children will work

with Wilcox Primary School Staff to complete academic tasks and State-required vision, hearing, and speech-language assessments.

Registration and screening will take place on May 9, 10, and 11, at the Twinsburg Community Center by appointment only.



## *Wilcox welcomes new* **Kindergarten Preparatory Program**

The Twinsburg City School District is expanding its preschool opportunities by adding a Kindergarten Preparatory Program (KPP), which will provide a high-quality, economical preschool option to families of the Twinsburg community.

"Because we know that high-quality preschool programs positively impact kindergarten readiness, our District has decided to offer a new center-based preschool option for our community," said Wilcox Principal Lynn Villa.

For the 2018-2019 school year, preschool options at Wilcox will include the current Integrated Preschool Program (IPP) and the new Kindergarten Preparatory Program (KPP). KPP is for students who are at least four-years-old by August 1, 2018, and not beginning kindergarten in the 2018-19 school year. The KPP will be a five, half-day-a-week program with sessions in the morning or afternoon. It will provide a rich pre-academic and social-emotional foundation for all who are age eligible. Each class will serve approximately 16 students and will be housed at Wilcox Primary School with a lead teacher and classroom assistant.

The KPP will follow the District preschool curriculum and the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards. Teachers will use a project-based approach that encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication among peers. It will be an extension of the Twinsburg City School District's current five-star rated Step Up To Quality program. Students will explore art, music, and physical education within their classrooms.

Selecting and enrolling strong typically developing peer models for the Integrated Preschool Program will continue to be the focus for the Twinsburg City School District. These openings will be filled first. KPP annual tuition is \$1,875 (the equivalent of \$10.42 per day). Scholarship opportunities based on financial need are available for families who qualify for the KPP only.

Applications can be found and completed online through the Wilcox Primary School webpage or by visiting the Wilcox Primary School office during the school day. Applications will be accepted through June 1, 2018, for the following school year. Visit [twinsburg.k12.oh.us](http://twinsburg.k12.oh.us) for an application and additional information.



# THS Performing Arts continues to amaze audiences and judges.

## Twinsburg Concert Band *qualifies for States!*



On March 2, 2018, the Twinsburg High School Concert Band performed at the 2018 Ohio Music Education Association's District Large Group Contest. This year's event was held at the Medina Performing Arts Center.

The THS Concert Band earned a Superior Rating for the fourth consecutive year with an exceptional performance. In addition to this, the band received an additional distinction, earning "Straight 1's" from all judges, which indicates the highest rating from all adjudicators.

The Concert Band will perform at the state level on April 20, 2018. Congrats to our talented Concert Band and to Director Ryan Bonitz.



## THS Orchestra *soars in ratings*

On January 27, 2018, the Twinsburg High School Orchestra students participated in the District Six O.M.E.A Solo and Ensemble adjudicated event at Firestone High School in Akron. Out of 18 events, the Orchestra students earned 11 superior ratings and seven excellent ratings. Solo and Ensemble provides each student the opportunity to perform before a judge and receive comments with a rating of I (superior), II (excellent), III (fair), IV, V. Music must be selected from a required state list and is classified A, B, or C, with class A being the most difficult.

### The following students received superior ratings (I) on solos:

- Daryl Nana, *violin*
- Kevin Onion, *violin*
- Aimee Flores, *viola*
- Amy Dokiburra, *cello*
- Kent Weinroth, *violin*
- Rebecca Mold, *viola and piano*

### The following students received excellent (II) ratings on solos:

- Mariam Fahmy, *violin*
- Zack Dobrski, *cello*
- Ana-Maria Surdu, *violin*
- Deepti Naruka, *violin*
- Allison Riley, *violin*
- Emma Unangst, *cello*

### The following students received superior (I) ratings on ensembles:

- Daryl Nana, Kevin Onion, Rebecca Mold, Faith Geho, *string quartet*
- Joshua Powell, Ana-Maria Surdu, Dawn Falokun, Amy Dokiburra, *string quartet*
- Deepti Naruka and Allison Riley, *violin duet*
- Zack Dobrski and Emma Unangst, *cello duet*



### The following students received excellent (II) ratings on ensembles:

- Annabelle Dolney and Mariam Fahmy, *violin duet*.

*Congratulations to all of these outstanding Orchestra students and to THS Orchestra Director Damon Conn.*

## *Celebrating success* in the visual arts



Twinsburg High School Visual Arts students demonstrated talent and creativity this school year as two THS standouts continue to win awards at the local, state, and national levels.

Senior Lucas Fisher received recognition two years in a row in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions contest. Last year, Lucas earned an Honorable Mention with his creation, and this year Lucas received a Blue Ribbon. Lucas' art piece is still on display at the Global Center for Health Innovation in Cleveland.

THS also celebrates senior Alexandra Holmes, as her colorful editorial cartoon creation titled "Plastic Politician" continues to earn awards. Alex is a 2018 Scholastic Arts National Gold Medal Award Winner. Alexandra's artwork will also be on display in a state exhibition in the State Capital of Ohio.

Congratulations Mrs. Sharon Misanko, THS Visual Arts teacher and chairperson of the THS Art Department.



## Great Expectations

### *continues bringing home trophies*



The Twinsburg High School show choir, Great Expectations, was selected as Grand Champions at the Mt. Zion Invitational. Competitions this season have included local venues like the one held at Medina High School. In addition, Great Expectations traveled as far as Mechanicsville, Virginia, in the Hannover High School and Lee-Davis High School competitions, which spanned over three days in March.



## Twinsburg athletes set to compete in

### *Special Olympics Track & Field Day*

Twenty-one Twinsburg athletes will be participating, alongside athletes from 10 other school districts, in the Summit County Special Olympics Track and Field Day at Nardon High School on May 15, 2018. Special Olympics provides our students continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

The athletes will participate in a variety of track and field events beginning at 10:00 am with an opening ceremony where they will recite the Special Olympics oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

The events conclude with a closing ceremony at approximately 12:30 p.m. where each participating school district receives a trophy. The athletes have been practicing their skills with their Physical Education teachers and are anxious to showcase their abilities. Good luck to all of our athletes!

## Elder wins State Championship in Bowling

Twinsburg High School senior Tyahana Elder brought home the Division I State Championship trophy in bowling. Elder bowled a 729 series to win the title in Columbus.

Junior Kaleb East also qualified for the state championship tournament.



## THS Academic Challenge Team

*in Top 10 of WEWS show*



On February 10, 2018, the Twinsburg High School Academic Challenge Team competed on Channel 5 WEWS' Academic Challenge show. The Academic Challenge Team is made up of approximately 20 students in grades 9-12. Throughout the school year the team takes part in close to 20 matches and tournaments, but this year, THS was chosen to be on WEWS' Academic Challenge show. The students that were selected to be on the show earned the four highest scores during several competitions. School teams are comprised of three students and one alternate. This year's students were Dominic Gordon (sophomore), Ian Chenkus (senior), and Nithya Kasibhatla (senior). The alternate was Luke Peiris (junior).

The THS team won against two strong schools, Firestone and Wooster. The final scores were Twinsburg (535), Wooster (445), and Firestone (310). While the show's competition continues, there is no way to know currently where THS will end up in the final standings. As of now, THS remains in the Top 10 of the standings. Congratulations to THS Academic Challenge Advisor, Mrs. Shannon Foskett, and each team member.

## Panel discussion addressed *suicide prevention*

Because of the alarming number of teen suicides statewide and nationally, the Twinsburg City School District recognizes the need to address suicide prevention. On April 12, 2018, at 6 p.m., the District hosted a panel discussion for parents at Twinsburg High School.

Representatives from Beech Brook, TCS D Guidance, Law Enforcement, LifeAct, NAMI, Summit County ADM Board Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, Cornerstone of Hope and Akron Children's Psychiatric Intake Response Center participated in a panel discussion and then answered questions related to family support and available resources for families.

# Themed activities at Bissell

*engage students*

Samuel Bissell Elementary School students and staff are so excited about a new program that enables students to show off their creativity, while at the same time, use their GRIT to complete monthly-themed activities and challenges. These activities incorporate our STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Math) initiative.

The first of these exciting challenges was The Bissell Blizzard Blast in January when each class participated in winter activities both in the classroom and in the gym. Students decorated hallways and classrooms with snowflakes. Classroom doors were also decorated with Simile (Language Arts) Snowflake Activities. The entire school dressed in white, played a snowball game (using throwing and catching skills) in the gym, and had hot chocolate after lunch in the cafeteria. Students also played Pin the Carrot on the Snowman as every activity was related to the winter season.

“Through teamwork and cooperation, students were learning without even knowing it,” said third-grade teacher Mrs. Rohwedder.



Physical education teacher Mrs. Haines added, “It was a blast!”

In February, in celebration of the Winter Olympics and GRIT Day, students participated in the “Grit Games.” Through a variety of short videos, students learned about the science involved with Winter Olympic Sports, such as curling, bobsledding, and figure skating. Then, they were given the opportunity to be Olympians. Students played an adapted form of curling. They designed a maze and guided a tiger ice skater, using magnets. Finally, students engineered a bobsled and tested it out on the Bissell Slopes.

## Student artwork on display *in Twinsburg*

Several pieces of artwork created by talented Samuel Bissell Elementary School artists are on display in the community. In February, six pieces of art created by Jackson, Brooke, Colin, Brenna, Laina, and Lily were chosen to be permanently displayed in the halls of the newest addition to Akron Children’s Hospital.

Art teacher Mrs. Castrigano said, “It’s such an honor to have Twinsburg artists recognized for their creativity and passion for art by Akron Children’s Hospital. I hope it brightens the day of patients.”

In March, students were happy to hear that some of their beautiful creations will be part of an art show at a local dentist’s office. Bissell is grateful for the partnerships created, which enable students to showcase their artistic abilities in the community.



## Engineer’s Week *at Bissell*

During the week of February 19, 2018, Samuel Bissell Elementary School students participated in Engineer’s Week, which is a global learning event designed to introduce students of all ages to engineering and expose them to some of the wonderful things made possible by engineers.

At Samuel Bissell Elementary School, students and staff celebrated by learning about engineering and using GRIT to demonstrate engineering skills with a hands-on challenge. Students had a chance to become earthquake engineers and were challenged to design and build a tower that could survive the forces of an earthquake. As they used the engineering design process, students tested their designs on a shake table, which simulates the forces found in an earthquake. Bissell’s future engineers did an amazing job planning, building, testing, and improving their designs!



## RBC takes PBIS *to next level*

RBC Chamberlin Middle School turned its attention to taking PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) to the next level this year. Students were greeted with new signs and bulletin boards to start the year. The bulletin boards were created with the help of the RBC PTA, where parents and students volunteered their time to display positive messages. Each space in the building showcases signs that have expectations for behavior in the hallways, classrooms, restrooms, and cafeteria. All of the behaviors are written in the positive, the behavior we want to see from the students, and contain our slogan **TIGER P.R.I.D.E.**



RBC is excited about what was learned in order to create a positive and safe school that allows for student achievement to be maximized. The staff will continue to work with PBIS and has set the goal of being a Gold Standard school by next year.

The students at RBC are able to take advantage of opportunities through the PBIS initiative. Every three weeks students are rewarded with a Tiger Day, where fun activities are planned for the students that meet expectations. Activities include basketball, dancing, karaoke, board games, a book club, ga-ga ball, and even a visit from magician Rick Smith Jr.

Students also participated in special trainings with the Diversity Center. Sessions covered topics such as re-thinking labels, bullying, cyber-bullying, and student leadership. The training with the Diversity Center culminated with a group of students attending the Middle School Conference on March 7, 2018. The day was powerful and meaningful, and as one student said, “They helped me to put myself in other people’s shoes and to learn how to respect each other.”



Our teachers took their training and knowledge of PBIS to the next level. A PBIS team was formed and sent to training on Tier 1 and Tier 2 PBIS behavioral interventions. During the second training the team shared all they had accomplished in the past year, and the trainers asked our staff to apply to be

recognized as a Bronze Medal PBIS School. The staff brought their training back to the rest of their colleagues during after school meetings and Professional Development Days.

## Twinsburg looks to the future with launch of *strategic planning*

With the expectation of achieving continuous district-wide improvement, the Twinsburg City School District has embarked on the process of strategic planning. This project will conduct several focus groups with key stakeholders, including business leaders, parents, teachers, and more. Planning and action teams consisting of these stakeholders will be formed with the goal of working toward the development of a strategic plan to serve both internal and external audiences in moving the district forward in the years to come.

The Board of Education approved this project at their February 7, 2018 regular meeting with the focus of looking at key areas including academics, communications, school culture, facilities, finances, community perception, and school safety.

“The Board and I look forward to this very important process of listening to our stakeholders and working with them to shape a strategic plan,” said Kathi Powers, Superintendent. “The work involved in forming a strategic plan will help the Twinsburg City School District focus on the future and continue to move us forward.”

## Ms. Goodnight’s *quick thinking*

Some quick thinking by a Samuel Bissell Elementary School staff member helped a student who was choking in the cafeteria. Lunchroom/Playground Assistant, Ms. Patricia Goodnight, sprang into action after she noticed a student in distress while eating in the cafeteria. After quickly assessing the situation, Ms. Goodnight determined that the student was choking and performed the Heimlich Maneuver and was able to dislodge the food from the student’s throat.

Ms. Goodnight learned the life-saving procedure through a District training offered to staff. Ms. Goodnight said that she was very happy to have used her training to help the student. The Twinsburg City School District is very grateful to Ms. Goodnight.

## Looking Ahead

### April

**April 18** Twinsburg Board of Education Meeting

**April 19** Interim Grades Available Online

**April 20** Data Day, No School for Students

### May

**May 2** Twinsburg Board of Education Meeting

**May 4** Twinsburg High School Senior Prom

**May 8** Election Day

**May 16** Twinsburg Board of Education Meeting

**May 21** Twinsburg High School Baccalaureate

**May 22** Twinsburg High School Commencement

**May 24** Last Day of School for Students

**May 25** Teacher Work Day

### June

**June 6** Twinsburg Board of Education Meeting

**June 27** Twinsburg Board of Education Meeting



### Twinsburg City School District

#### Board of Education

**Matthew Cellura**, *President*

**Rob Felber**, *Vice President*

**Mark Curtis**, *Member*

**Tina Davis**, *Member*

**Angela DeFabio**, *Member*

*The Twinsburg Board of Education meets in regular session at the Twinsburg Government Center in Council Chambers on the first and third Wednesdays of each month with the exception of June and September when the meetings are on the first and fourth Wednesdays. All Regular and Special Board Meetings are open to the public.*

#### Administration 330.486.2000

**Kathryn Powers**  
*Superintendent*

**Martin Aho**  
*Treasurer/CFO*

**Chad Welker**  
*Business Manager*

**Jennifer Farthing**  
*Director of Curriculum*

**Belinda McKinney**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Denise Traphagen**  
*Director of Pupil Services*

