



Twinsburg

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CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's *Message*

Dear Community Members,

Happy New Year! We hope your holidays were relaxing and enjoyable and you are ready for the second semester of learning and growing. In the Twinsburg City School District, we are Tiger Proud to engage and empower our students to achieve success. This can only occur with the ongoing support of our parents, residents and staff members. Thank you for providing the resources necessary to bring innovative curriculum and outstanding opportunities to our students.

The first semester of the 2018/2019 school year was an extremely busy time as we moved forward in the development of our Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will set the District's priorities, will focus our energy and our resources, will strengthen our operations and will ensure that our staff members are aligned with the desires of our community members in working toward common goals. The Strategic Plan will ultimately be a living document, reviewed annually, in efforts to determine the progress made toward the goals so that the District remains focused on providing the very best opportunities for our students.

Parents, residents, students and staff members have been actively engaged in the work of Action Teams. Each Action Team is focused upon one area of the Strategic Plan: Academics, Culture & Climate, Communications, Facilities, Finance, and Safety. The work of the Action Teams is facilitated by our Strategic Planning Steering Committee consisting of the Twinsburg City School District Leadership Team. Team members have been meeting in collaborative groups since late September. Each Action Team focuses on the development of measurable strategies that may be included in the District's final Strategic Plan.

The Action Teams are currently finalizing their draft goals and action steps with the plan to present their ideas in late January. After gathering feedback from other Action Team members, final revisions will be made to the Action Teams' goals and action steps before they are presented to the Twinsburg Board of Education for consideration. The Action Teams' goals and action steps will inform the development of the Strategic Plan which will assist both staff and community in moving the District forward in the years to come.

This is a very exciting time in our school district with many stakeholders taking part in these collaborative meetings. I sincerely appreciate the time and focus dedicated to this important work. We look forward to sharing the Strategic Plan with our community in summer 2019.

Yours in education,

Kathi Powers
Superintendent



Honoring Military at Wilcox

Hits 15-Year Milestone

Wilcox Primary School has demonstrated a 15-year commitment of honoring our local veterans and military personnel through the school's Bring-A-Veteran-To-Lunch Day. This year's event welcomed over 150 military guests who are currently on active duty, in the reserves, or who are veterans who have served our country.

Preparation for this exciting event started months ahead of time through a collaborative effort among staff, the Wilcox PTA, the Twinsburg VFW Post 4929, and community members. Members of these groups worked together to transform Wilcox Primary School into a learning experience for students and a tribute to our military. Guests were welcomed with American flags lining the long driveway as they approached the school. The school hallways were decorated with student-created patriotic artwork; the foyer display case displayed military artifacts and the flags of each military branch hung in the main entry and school cafeteria.

To emphasize the importance of this event for Wilcox students, the cold, snowy day began with the Pledge of Allegiance at the flagpole in the front of the building. Members of VFW Post 4929 led a formal flag-raising ceremony surrounded by over 650 preschool, kindergarten, and first grade students. Throughout the day, veterans arrived to visit the "canteen" and enjoyed lunch in the "mess hall" with their Wilcox Primary School student hosts and hostesses. Wilcox students prepared a special song thanking their military guests, and each guest was asked to stand and be recognized when the theme song of their branch played.

This event was not possible without the hard work of the Wilcox PTA and teachers Shirley Browning, Mike Scolaro,



and Susan Wozniak. Wilcox was honored with a \$250 grant from the Northeast Ohio Education Association to assist in paying for military guests' lunches. Wilcox has received the Purple Star Designation from the Ohio Department of Education (2018), the NEOEA Community Service Award (2014), and Ohio Best Service-Learning Project (2006) for their many efforts in creating this memorable day during the last 15 years.

"It has been a fantastic example of how Wilcox integrates the Ohio Learning Standards of citizenship and community service into a memorable, real-life experience," said Wilcox Primary School Principal Lynn Villa.

Wilcox Preschool

"Roars" for New Tiger Cubs

The Twinsburg City School District has opened the 2019-2020 registration for its 5-Star *Step Up To Quality* rated preschool programs. The programs are seeking amazing typical peer models for the Integrated Preschool Program (IPP) as well as 'young investigators' to join our project-based Kindergarten Preparatory Program (KPP). Both programs provide high quality, preschool options to families of the Twinsburg City School District community and are outstanding opportunities for our future Twinsburg Tigers.

Selecting and enrolling strong typically developing peer models for the Integrated Preschool Program (IPP) is a priority for the Twinsburg City School District. Typical peer models are selected through a lottery system and are invited to attend a screening. Children who will be three years of age by August 1, 2019, are eligible to apply. Selected students are required to serve as role models for our students with special needs.

The Kindergarten Preparatory Program (KPP) is designed for students who will be at least four years old by August 1, 2019, and not enrolling in kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. The KPP operates 5-half day sessions either in the morning or the afternoon. The program uses project-based learning strategies which encourages developmentally appropriate communication and pre-academic skills to start building a strong educational foundation for the future. Tuition scholarships are available for those with documented financial need.

Visit www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us to learn more. Information about both the IPP and KPP can be found on the Wilcox Primary School homepage under "Preschool". Applications for the IPP program will be accepted through February 18, 2019. KPP applications will be accepted through May 15, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year. For more information contact Wilcox Primary School at 330.486.2030.



Twinsburg History Comes Alive for First Graders



First grade students from Wilcox Primary School took a step back in time in November when they went on a field trip to visit the Twinsburg Historical Society. The children toured the main building on Darrow Road where they discovered how students learned long ago.

“Many children thought that having all grades in one school was unusual,” said Wilcox Primary School Principal Lynn Villa. “They also learned about how teachers couldn’t be married or have children and there were no art, gym or music classes.”

Accompanied by volunteers from the Twinsburg Historical Society, students also toured the kitchen and weaving areas in the back of the building to see how the food was prepared and clothing was handmade. In the barn, students had the opportunity to see tools that had been used for building homes and animal care on a farm.

The field trip aligned with Ohio Learning Standards in social studies. These standards encourage historical thinking and the development of a clear sense of past, present and future. First grade children start to develop an understanding of chronological order through hands-on experiences and the opportunity to explore primary sources, such as the tools, furniture, and machines at museums like the Twinsburg Historical Society.

Senior Leads Effort to Bring Recycling to Tiger Stadium

Xan Denker, a senior at Twinsburg High School, wasn’t just looking to put Environmental Club on her college applications. She wanted to take action to help the environment.

Denker, who serves as the president of the THS Environmental Club and also sits on the City of Twinsburg’s Environmental Commission, wrote to the Twinsburg City School District Board of Education to get the District to take their recycling efforts to Tiger Stadium, where a football Friday night can lead to massive levels of trash from concession sales. Denker wrote to the Building and Grounds subcommittee members of the Board and put into motion a project she had been wanting to get off the ground since she entered high school.

“The request I had was to implement recycling at the football stadium,” said Denker. “Every time there is a home high school sporting event, especially a football game, a large amount of plastic and other recyclables are thrown away, and I believe putting recycle bins at the stadium would substantially cut down on the plastic waste.”

Due to Denker’s efforts, 10 recycling totes were placed in strategic locations at Tiger Stadium, beginning on September 14, 2018. Recycling efforts continued throughout the fall sports season and will provide a recycling resource in the spring and in the years to come.

“I am Tiger Proud of Xan. This is another example of how our students take their leadership roles seriously and put their ideas into action,” said Superintendent Kathi Powers.

Curriculum Quick Hits



Ohio State Test Results

Results from the previous school year’s OST results were analyzed, and the results were used to plan for the 2018-2019 school year.

KPP launches at Wilcox

Our first year of Kindergarten Preparatory Program (KPP) at Wilcox Primary School is going smoothly and is full of project-based learning.

Makerspaces

The District now has five Makerspaces. Each building is using the Makerspaces in a slightly different, age-appropriate manner. Students can tinker, create, and try tasks multiple times.

New Textbooks

New textbooks are in the vetting process for several courses: mathematics in grades seven and eight; science in grades four through eight; microbiology and environmental science at Twinsburg High School.

Counseling Plan

A revised Guidance Course of Study and Comprehensive Counseling Plan is in its final stage of completion. Also, the health curriculum has received a much-needed update and was approved in October 2018 along with a new human anatomy and physiology textbook.

Academy at THS Update

The future of Twinsburg students after graduation is a top priority. The Academy at Twinsburg High School is being revised to meet the needs of students and to accommodate both college and career pathways. A recent meeting with a diverse range of students provided an interesting and beneficial perspective into what their view and vision is for high school and life after graduation. This information will be used to plan future courses and programs.

Chromebook Initiative

The Chromebook Initiative is in its second year of implementation. Grades nine and twelve have received their devices. This makes Twinsburg High School a complete 1:1 learning environment. Students have been engaged in a wide range of online tools this year. RB Chamberlin Middle School teachers have received their Chromebooks and are immersed in professional development to help them prepare for a cart model of Chromebooks for the 2019-2020 school year.



The Tiger Learning Lab

The District is in its first stage of piloting a new program: The Tiger Learning Lab. This program focuses on 21st Century Teaching and Learning through personalized and blended learning instruction. The goal is student achievement and ownership of learning as subjects integrate into project-based learning activities, mini-lessons, and digital content exposure. Instruction in this manner will help students develop creativity, collaboration, communication, and creative thinking skills that will help them inside and outside of the classroom walls. This new program should be underway in select elementary classrooms at the end of January 2019.

Celebrating the Culture of #WINSBURG



Twinsburg High School works hard to keep the school's "AAA bond rating" intact. This effort entails working to ensure high academic achievement, superior athletics and extracurriculars, and all-around great students who demonstrate compassion and kindness at every turn. While the "AAA bond rating" continues to be a work in progress the culture of the school shows firsthand how THS has earned the hashtag #WINSBURG.

Academically, four juniors received Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program for outstanding performance on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test: Ryan Adkins, Alexandra Denker, Ian Furniss, and Adam Groenke. Commended students are recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT. Over 1.6 million students took the PSAT, and these four students rank in the top three percent of all test takers. Two seniors, Rohan Deshpande and Cameron Lucas were recognized as National Merit Semi-Finalists, ranking in the top one percent of test takers.

Last year, English teacher Megan Holzheimer was named the Twinsburg Rotary Teacher of the Year. This year, Holzheimer traveled to Texas to attend the National Council of English Teachers Conference where she added even more tools to her teaching toolbox.

Twinsburg High School students are to be commended for the many ways they show compassion and kindness at every turn. Earlier in the school year, Nate Wagner and friends organized a 9/11 memorial – displaying 2,000-plus flags in the front of Twinsburg High School to visually remind the community of the lives lost on that fateful day in 2001.

The entire school district filled a school bus with non-perishable food items for The Emergency Assistance Center and then, THS turned around and collected an additional 11,000 items for the World Language Food Drive.

In October, THS hosted the Rachel's Challenge event, and THS students have created an extracurricular club dedicated to compassion and kindness, with the goal of inclusiveness and tolerance.



Tiger Student-Athletes, Coaches Recognized for Success

- Ryan Adkins, a senior on the boys' cross country team placed first in the Suburban League, second in the State of Ohio for Division 1, sixth in the Nike Midwest Regional, which gave him an opportunity to run at Nationals in Oregon. He placed 36th out of 200 in the nation. Also a National Merit Commended Scholar, he received a Division 1 college offer from Butler University, where he will compete in the fall as he works to become a doctor.
- The girls' soccer team finished 21-1-0 for the season, winning the Suburban League champs after undefeated regular season play. They lost a tough game to Strongsville in the quarterfinals of the OHSAA Division 1 tournament. Allison King was named the Summit County Girls' Soccer Player of the Year, as well as First Team All-Suburban League, First Team All-Greater Cleveland Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (GCSSA) and First Team All-State. McKenna Donahue was also named First Team All-Suburban League and First Team All GCSSA, as well as being recognized as the GCSSCA Girls' Division 1 Player of the Year. Coach John Garber was named Summit County Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year.
- In boys' soccer, Coach Michael Lally was recognized by the United Soccer Coaches as the Coach of the Year, an honor celebrating his outstanding work with student athletes.

Dr. Laura Hebert Returns to Ohio Roots as THS Principal

While the Board of Education approved the hiring of Dr. Laura Hebert as the new principal of Twinsburg High School during their regular Board meeting on April 4, 2018, her hiring almost didn't happen. Dr. Hebert was serving as the principal of Lloyd C. Bird High School in Chesterfield County Public Schools located in Chesterfield, Virginia when she was confronted by a crisis in her building.

"During the Twinsburg interview process my school in Virginia was placed on lockdown and I realized I couldn't come for a face-to-face interview due to the crisis," said Dr. Hebert.

"I contacted Superintendent Powers to let her know I needed to withdraw because I needed to be with kids at my school."

The hiring committee was so impressed by Hebert, though, they made it work.

"I most appreciated how the committee made it work for me. They valued and honored how I felt about my students in Virginia and that resonated with me," Dr. Hebert reflected on her decision to eventually accept the position.

The rest is history as Dr. Hebert began her tenure on August 1, 2018.

(continued on page 5)

New Initiatives Take Shape *at Dodge*



Makerspace

George G. Dodge Intermediate School has developed a Makerspace classroom. The school has taken a unique spin on the Makerspace experience by incorporating it into the daily schedules of the students to ensure they all have an opportunity to experience the Makerspaces and the learning opportunities that come with it. A Makerspace is a collaborative workspace within a school, library or separate public/private facility for making, learning, exploring and sharing creative ideas. It is a place in which students can experience hands-on learning, help with critical thinking skills and even boost self-confidence.

Tiger Learning Lab

George G. Dodge Intermediate School has embarked on an innovative learning opportunity that is designed to support quality teaching and learning for all students with the implementation of Tiger Learning Lab Pilot Program at each grade level in the school. The focus of the pilot will be to enhance the learning experiences of students through blended learning and improved instructional strategies. Blended learning is a mix of technology and traditional face-to-face instruction that helps students develop ownership in their education and, in part, control the time, pace, and place of their learning. It can also involve using learning management systems to deliver a diverse range of teaching methods and resources to offer more effective learning. Blended learning is important because it helps break down the traditional wall of teaching and learning. With access to present day technologies and resources, participating teachers can tailor the learning experience for each student.

Zones of Regulation

George G. Dodge Intermediate School will join Wilcox Primary School and Samuel Bissell Elementary School as Zones of Regulation schools. After completing training, the staff has spent time preparing to kick off Zones of Regulation with students. Zones of Regulation is a conceptual framework used to teach students self-regulation and self-control. The curriculum teaches students to use strategies or tools to help them move between zones. The Zones of Regulation categorizes states of alertness and emotions into four colored zones. The Zones of Regulation framework is founded on evidence-based research.

Rachel's Challenge

In January 2019 Rachel's Challenge arrived at George G. Dodge Intermediate School. After seeing the Rachel's Challenge Program at Twinsburg High School, the staff at Dodge was inspired to find an age-appropriate way to continue the kindness initiative that started at the beginning of the school year. The purposes of the elementary component of Rachel's Challenge are to encourage students to use kind words and to do simple acts of kindness through the example of Rachel Scott, who was an example of how one person can make a difference to make her school a better place. All topics are presented in an age-appropriate, positive language for the elementary-age audience. The student and parent presentations contain elements from the Awaken the Learner framework. Awaken the Learner gives the tools, resources, and the process roadmap to fully implement the Rachel's Challenge vision.



Dr. Laura Hebert *(continued from page 4)*

Becoming principal at Twinsburg High School would return Dr. Hebert to her roots. An Ohio native who graduated from Walter E. Stebbins High School near Dayton, she was looking to get closer to her family. Growing up, her dad was in the Air Force and she was part of a large family, the oldest of six children. She earned her bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and her master's degree from Ashland University. When her mom passed away recently, it sparked a need to return to the state to be closer to the family.

"I loved Virginia and never would have left for any other reason other than family," offered Dr. Hebert.

She originally began to search for jobs near Columbus but expanded her search later to include Twinsburg High School.

"Twinsburg was very different than where I worked in Virginia. This is a small town and the high school is the flagship whereas Bird was one of the 13 high schools in a very large district," Dr. Hebert said. "I was very impressed by the interview process and how involved everyone in the community seemed to be in the schools. I appreciate the way the community, families, and students feel welcomed at THS and how they frequently attend events from musical performances to athletic events."

Dr. Hebert's career began as an industrial engineer for Rockwell International in Columbus before she moved into the classroom as a social studies teacher. She spent 20 years in the classroom of various school districts in Ohio and Virginia. In 2003, she was awarded Teacher of the Year honors while at Manchester High School in Chesterfield, Virginia.

"My time at Rockwell helped me realize I belonged in the classroom. I never wanted to be an administrator, but after becoming one I discovered the larger impact I could have on students and staff," said Dr. Hebert, who believes that all kids need solid leadership.

With one semester under her belt, Dr. Hebert is excited about the future at Twinsburg High School and is getting used to the new role in a much different school district that she's been most impressed with.

"One thing I noticed was how the THS students sought me out and wanted to know who I was. At my larger high school, they weren't waiting around to find out about me," Dr. Hebert observed. "THS students are more invested and willing to seek out information. The students are confident and take charge of their academic careers. Their confidence has been impressive."

COSI on Wheels Makes Stop *at Bissell*

Bissell & RBC honored at Ohio PBIS Showcase



COSI on Wheels stopped by Samuel Bissell Elementary School on December 12 and 13, 2018, to turn the gymnasium into a chemistry lab. Each day started with students attending assemblies where they became Certified

COSI chemists. Students used the scientific method to perform different tasks, including using chemicals to reveal a secret message. Then, each class had the opportunity to conduct many different experiments in break-out sessions involving solids, liquids, and gases, as well as to test a liquid's pH Level. The slime making station was the most popular. Many parent volunteers and the PTA supported students and staff during the event.



RB Chamberlin Middle School won silver and Samuel Bissell Elementary School won bronze at the 2018 Ohio PBIS Showcase. Each year the Ohio PBIS Network via the 16 Ohio State Support Teams (SST) recognizes schools for their quality and fidelity of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) implementation. Schools are eligible to receive awards at the bronze, silver or gold level of distinction.

Both schools were recognized for positively rewarding student achievement and behavior choices. Teachers traveled to Columbus in November to receive the awards.

Pupil Services: Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child

Beech Brook

Twinsburg City School District welcomed new Beech Brook Social Workers: Laura Cole, who is working at RB Chamberlin Middle School and George G. Dodge Intermediate School, and Felicia Coffman, who is working at Wilcox Primary School and Samuel Bissell Elementary School.

The District received a \$7,500 grant from Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Service Board (ADM Board) for the "Too Good for Drugs" curriculum at the middle school and high school, as well as a Cross-Age Mentoring Program at the intermediate school. The District also received \$30,000 for the expansion of Prevention Evidence-Based Practices from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Bureau of Prevention. This grant will be used to train all George G. Dodge Intermediate School staff and provide them with books and toolkits for the Zones of Regulation. Zones of Regulation is a cognitive-behavior curriculum developed by Leah Kuypers to assist students in gaining skills in self-regulation.

Parent Mentorship

The "Peer 2 Peer Game Club" is off to a good start at RB Chamberlin Middle School. This club meets after school on select Mondays to give special education and typical peers a chance to enjoy social time together. Parent Mentor Tisha Eisenhuth and RB Chamberlin staff members Brynn Greene



and Kristin Walters helped re-launch the club. Eisenhuth will host an informational class for parents called "Understanding and Writing an IEP". This session will be held on February 13, 2019, at Kent State University Regional Campus in Twinsburg, held in conjunction with the Hudson and Nordon Hills Parent Mentors.

Co-teaching

On December 5, 2018, several Twinsburg High School teachers visited Hudson High School, and on December 7, 2018, several George G. Dodge Intermediate School teachers visited Lee Eaton Elementary School to engage in professional development aligned with the District's co-teaching service delivery model.

Arts for All Festival

The Arts for All Festival was held on Saturday, October 13, 2018. The Twinsburg Parks and Recreation Department helped plan the event, furnished the space, and provided the supplies for the crafts. Parent Mentors from Twinsburg, Hudson, and Nordon Hills helped plan, set-up the stations and make sample crafts. Kent State University students and Twinsburg City School District Special Education Consultant Monica Price helped as well. In addition to the art stations, a music therapy guest "The Groovy Garfoose" performed. Elementary and intermediate art teachers submitted student work for display and high school students earned volunteer hours for their help at the Arts for All Festival.

Team-Centered Academics at RBC

Keep Students Engaged

At RB Chamberlin Middle School students are engaged through a team-centered academic approach. Four teams (Red, Yellow, Blue, and Green) provide a unique structure for students in the middle school.

Red Team

In Ms. Lowden's Science 7 class, students have been problem-solving about the world in which they live. They have studied how the sun's energy moves throughout all different types of biomes. Mrs. Craig's social studies classes have been journeying through Ancient Greece. They will soon start creating board games that connect to the curriculum. From there, they will head to ancient Rome. Mrs. Wilson's and Mrs. Jimenez's Language Arts classes have been studying Greek and Latin root words that will provide context for unknown words found in the reading of fiction and nonfiction texts across all content areas (science, math, and social studies). Some lessons have included the integration of technology through Quizlet, Pear Deck, and Google Classroom activities in the Makerspace.

Yellow Team

Ms. Fontana's classes have been connecting to literature for insight into different types of conflict such as disagreements, misunderstandings, competitions, and struggles. Ms. Thompson's classes have started Friday Fun: Pay Day! The goal is to keep an accurate balance of their checkbooks to ensure that their account doesn't go below zero. Mrs. Lonczak's students have been working hard all semester to improve their reading and writing skills. Students have written poems, blog posts, and essay responses and have acted out skits and delivered presentations to showcase their learning. Finally, Mr. Lipnos and Mrs. Solis have worked with building student skills using content literacy strategies in science and social studies.

Blue Team

The 2018-2019 year has been one of challenge, new experiences, and hard work. In Mr. Edwards' class, students enjoyed a day in the Makerspace at the completion of a lesson on coding with Ozobots that incorporated graphing a line in slope-intercept form and programming their bot to follow that line. Mrs. Copen's classes are reading every 8th grader's favorite novel, "The Outsiders". Mrs. York's classes have just finished a genetics unit. The students have become knowledgeable about the processes of meiosis and mitosis and have critically analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of each method of reproduction. Mr. Davis' history class finished covering the founding fathers of the United States, The Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Finally, Mr. Peterson's academic classes started "The Diary of Anne Frank".

Green Team

Students are singing their way through history as they rock out to the Preamble in Mrs. Mentzer's history class. Miss Coseno's math classes have been "Breaking out of the BOX" Chromebook style. Students are solving equations using exponents, slope intercept form and point-slope form. Nobody is an "outsider" in Mrs. Paul's activity station-designed classroom. Students have actively engaged in digging into the depths of their identity as they explore the effects of social isolation and acceptance through reading and writing connections. Finally, potential energy turned Mr. Hribar's students into "can racers" bringing physics and the concept of potential energy together.

All Around *RB Chamberlin*



Teachers Keep Learning

Our teachers are committed to professional development, and they have spent time studying Blended Learning, Makerspace Lessons, and Content Literacy Strategies this year.

Jimenez Wins Award

Lynnette Jimenez, a language arts teacher, was chosen to receive the National Education Association's 2018 George I. Sánchez Memorial Award. NEA presents the Memorial Award to a nominee whose activities significantly impact education and the achievement of equal opportunity for Hispanics. She received the award at the 51st Annual Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner on July 1, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Extra-Curriculars

RBC students have been busy participating in extra-curricular activities. Over 200 students participated in an extra-curricular activity this fall, including football, cross-country, volleyball, RBC Singers, jazz band, cheerleading and more. RBC performing arts students have presented many performances this school year. Besides the band, choir, and orchestra concerts, artists presented a Veteran's Day display for the community.

RBC Band Students Earn Honors

RBC Band students selected to the OMEA District 6 Honor Band Festival included Aiden- 8th grade, Percussion; Alijah- 8th grade, Clarinet; Theresa- 8th grade, Flute; Logan- 8th grade, Clarinet.



May Renewal Levy

Will Keep Twinsburg City School District Great

By Martin Aho, Treasurer/CFO

Let's be honest: School funding in Ohio is a mess.

It's been 25 years since the Ohio Supreme Court ruled the state's school funding methodology unconstitutional and in all that time little has been done. Exacerbating matters further is the elimination of the TPP/CAT tax. Many of our neighboring school districts in Ohio, like our district, have concerns as they struggle to navigate periodic gaps in their budgets. Every school district in Ohio uses levies to fund operations.

Here in the Twinsburg City School District, the situation is no different and this determines our need to put a renewal levy on the ballot, which the Twinsburg Board of Education resolved to do during a December meeting. The renewal levy will be on the ballot May 6, 2019. It is important to remember that this is a renewal levy meaning it will not increase taxes. In other words - no new taxes! This renewal levy will bring in the same \$4,000,000 as it did in 2004 when it was initially approved.

The residents of Twinsburg City, Reminderville and Twinsburg Township have been supportive of the Twinsburg City School District, and for that we are grateful. We strive every day to provide high-quality educational programming while keeping per-pupil costs in check. This levy is an investment in our children so that they can continue to excel both in and out of school.

The latest measure from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) illuminates our efforts. The ODE's FY2017 District Profile Report documents the Twinsburg City School District's per-pupil expenditures were \$10,933, which is lower than the

State Average (\$11,237) not to mention lower than Nardonina (\$11,740) and Solon (\$14,825).

This renewal levy is an essential piece of the Twinsburg City School District's funding picture. It provides \$4,000,000 or about 8.5 percent of the District's operating funds. Revenue from this levy will continue to address five priority areas:

- Support student learning and instruction;
- Provide a source of stable and predictable revenue;
- Maintain high-quality, innovative educational programs for all students, PreK-12;
- Maintain and enhance classroom technology; and
- Maintain current class sizes

Schools have a direct impact on home values. It has been said that finding a home in an area where the kids can go to an exceptionally high-rated school is an important priority for many families, and many are willing to pay more for a home in an area where such schools are located.

We the people of the Twinsburg City School District will determine the quality of our schools. Let's keep our success rate high and our schools and communities strong.



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
- Timothy Sullen**
Supervisor of Personnel Services
- Denise Traphagen**
Director of Pupil Services



The Academy at Twinsburg High School

The Academy at Twinsburg High School is now in its second

year and is growing by leaps and bounds. Close to 300 students have participated in after school opportunities provided by The Academy and logged over 1000 hours of time at these events. All of this is possible with the support of parents and local business partners. Parents are also attending events and talking with students about their future. The 60+ partners provide low cost or no cost to our District various opportunities to allow students to get a glimpse of life after high school.

The opportunities that are provided for our students are wide-ranging. Students have volunteered at medical facilities, participated in summer camps, attended Twin Talks focused on career pathways, shadowed professionals, and worked in internships. Also, through our partners, we have been able

to help students find short-term employment in our community.

Students have also benefited from new courses that have been offered at the high school. The Introduction to Business and the Business Communications courses have been developed and offered after talking with local businesses about what students need to be more effective workers in their companies. These classes are also offering guest speakers and site visits to build on the curriculum the students are engaged in the classroom.

Moving forward, The Academy is looking to improve the internal structure, build a larger base of partners, build internship programs and include as many students as possible. These items will become reality with the continued support of the high school staff and administration, parents and the community. Together our Tigers will receive a high school experience like few others in the country.