



Twinsburg

DECEMBER | 2017
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's Message

Dear Community Members,

It has been a very busy autumn in the Twinsburg City School District where our focus has been providing excellent educational opportunities for our students. Annually, the Twinsburg Board of Education establishes the District Goals. This year's goals focus upon four distinct yet related areas which are student-centered: Student Growth, Financial, Community Relations, and Facilities & Grounds:

This edition of our District newsletter highlights some of the exciting and unique ways our Tigers are engaged in learning. From the *Back-to-School Bicentennial Celebration* which was held in August, to the implementation of *The Academy at Twinsburg High School*, to the innovative *Project Lead the Way* curriculum at RB Chamberlin Middle School, to STREAMing activities at Samuel Bissell Elementary School, our students are engaged in activities which challenge, excite and motivate them to learn!

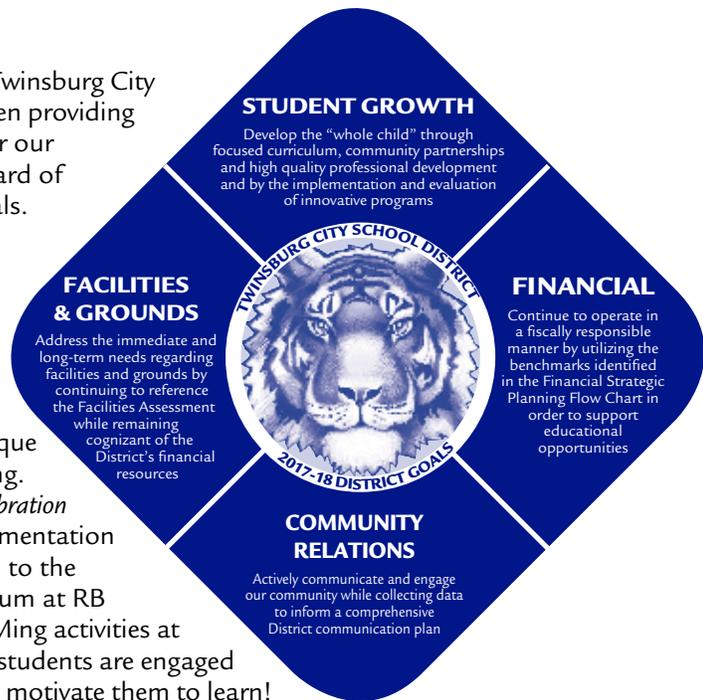
I hope you enjoy reading about the many ways our students are not only learning, but giving back to our wonderful community as exemplified by our recent Veterans' Day programs at Wilcox Primary School and Samuel Bissell Elementary School and the special focus on the arts at George G. Dodge Intermediate School. Thanks to your support, our Tigers continue to excel academically, athletically, in the arts and through community service.

Recently, I have been in discussions with representatives from Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority (RTA) regarding the possibility of extending transit services through areas that are not currently being serviced in our school community, such as north and west of Twinsburg Township Square and along Glenwood Drive. Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is interested in collecting feedback from our parents and residents regarding this matter. Please take a few minutes to complete the online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DrivingMetro>. You can also access a copy of the survey on our Flyer Central link via the District website at www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us. Thanks for your assistance regarding this important matter.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank Board of Education member Mrs. Kathy Turle-Waldron for her four (4) years of service to the Twinsburg City School District. Likewise, we congratulate Mr. Rob Felber and Mrs. Tina Davis upon their re-election and we welcome Mrs. Angela DeFabio to the Board of Education. Thank you for your dedication to our students and our school community.

Yours in education,

Kathi Powers
Superintendent



Setting Goals and Exploring Options for Life Beyond High School



This fall, Twinsburg High School launched a clear vision for its students involving life after graduation. With the launch of *The Academy at Twinsburg High School*, that vision involves the three “E’s”—Employment, Enlistment or Enrollment.

The Academy at Twinsburg High School is providing new opportunities for students (starting with the Class of 2021) to explore possibilities which prepare them for life after graduation from Twinsburg High School. Partnering with local and regional businesses, organizations and community members, *The Academy* is able to offer a four-year, diverse program to help guide students in this pursuit. There are three identified pathways students can explore: Business and Manufacturing, Healthcare and Administration, and Human Performance/Recreational Management. Partners include Akron Metro, Reminderville Athletic Club, Wrightside Consulting, the Ohio Department of Education, SSP, Visual Marking Systems, the Twinsburg Chamber of Commerce, the Twinsburg Bulletin, the Ohio Senate and more.

The program kicked off this fall with keynote speaker Will Waller (pictured), Vice President of Human Resources for Goodyear Corp. and a two-time Paralympic medalist in wheelchair basketball. Now, *The Academy* is offering Twin Talks. During the Twin Talks students and parents have the

opportunity to listen to one of our partners talk about their career, their pathway on how they got there, their business and what other roles are part of their business. Twin Talks are also open to upperclassmen not in the Class of 2021. In conjunction with the Twin Talks at Twinsburg High School, students with a deep interest in the medical field are able to attend talks with business partner Ahuja Medical Center in Beachwood. These talks revolve around various aspects of the medical community.

“To date, we have had our Opening Night Kickoff event and four Twin Talks,” said Norm Potter, Curriculum Supervisor. “We have also hosted one medical talk at Ahuja Medical Center. So far, our students have logged 264 hours of time in *Academy* events and volunteering, and we are seeing parents involved as they are also attending our Twin Talks.”

Much of this program is voluntary and is designed to instill within students what employers are demanding in employability. When students are in attendance at *Academy* events they are expected to present themselves as an employable person to business and industry partners. Students are also responsible for recording all events they attend and checking in and out of each event with the school representative or designated employee of the business they are involved with for that event.

“Our goal as a District is clearly to prepare our students for life beyond high school. The goals we set for *The Academy* initially were to have 20 students actively involved and five solid business/organizational partners. At this point, we have far exceeded that number as we have 49 students involved in events and 47 business partners involved. Our community, our partners, our students and their families all recognize the workforce is changing and to be prepared for the three E’s, it takes a collaborative effort from everyone in our region,” stated Potter.

For more information on *The Academy*, contact Norm Potter at npotter@twinsburgcsd.org or visit www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us.

- JAN 11** Mentor Yacht Club
Jaime Cordova (*General Manager*)
- FEB 14** Ahuja Non-Medical Careers
@ Ahuja -7pm
- MAR 14** TBD
- APR 11** Mid-American Conference
Jeff Bacon (*Sr. Associate Commissioner*)
- MAY 09** Violet Orthodontics
Violet Barbosa (*Orthodontist*) and
Peter DeSouza (*Business Manager*)

All talks are held at Twinsburg High School (unless otherwise indicated) and start @ 7 p.m.

Twinsburg Receives \$30,000 Grant to Support *Student Mental Health*

The Twinsburg City School District received \$30,000 in grant funding from the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services to expand the District's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. The District's goal is to improve safety and positive school climate, enhance social-emotional competence, and provide multiple systems of support for all students.

The District began implementing PBIS within its schools during the 2013-2014 school year and continues to expand elements of the program. While proud of its efforts, the current goal is to strengthen the PBIS program to promote continuity from building-to-building, as well as teaching students positive decision-making and problem-solving skills to enhance readiness for college and career. The District plans to use the funds from this grant to achieve this goal.

In addition to improving students' academic and behavioral outcomes, the District also recognizes the impact of the current opioid epidemic within the state of Ohio and local community. During the 2016-2017 school year, Twinsburg implemented several initiatives to increase awareness regarding opioids, including community outreach and prevention education. The Twinsburg City School District is increasing its prevention education curriculum and community outreach by offering "Movie and Parent Education Nights". These drug and alcohol prevention sessions are being offered through a partnership with Beech Brook. Three sessions have already been offered and two remaining sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, and Thursday, February 15, from 5:30-7 p.m. at George G. Dodge Intermediate School.



Scholars at THS

In September, Twinsburg High School was notified that there were six students who qualified for National Merit Semi-Finalist status and four additional students were denoted as Commended Scholars.

Students named National Merit Semi-Finalist Scholars:

- Jared Bray
- Justin Clement
- Nithya Kasibhatla
- Nathan Moeliono
- Jeremy Nemec
- Danielle Pitlor



Students named National Merit Commended Scholars:

- McKenna Backo
- Zachary Dobrski
- Soumil Jain
- Aaryan Singh

National Merit Semi-Finalists scores were among the top 1% nationally (Top 16,000) of the millions of eleventh graders who took the PSAT in October 2016.

Mindfulness Comes to *Wilcox Primary School*



This Fall Wilcox Primary School students and staff started a whole-school morning ritual. Every day at 8:40 am the entire school stops to experience a few minutes of world class music and deep breathing to get the day started in a calm, centered way.

Last June, Principal Lynn Villa participated in a workshop at the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators (OAESA) Conference in Columbus and learned how an organization called City Silence (www.citysilence.org) has brought classical music and mindful breathing to schools in the Cincinnati area and how it has impacted brain development, students being able to regulate their emotions, and reduction in negative behavior incidents.

In September, Wilcox staff learned more about Mindful Music Moments from City Silence founder, Stacy Sims, who visited Wilcox Primary School for professional development. Teachers learned how just a few minutes of quiet reflection each day can help people regulate their emotions.

Mindful Music Moments has become a part of the culture at Wilcox. Students listen to incredible music from composers like Beethoven, Mozart, Mahler, and Haydn performed by the Cleveland Orchestra. Each piece is repeated daily for five days with a voiceover that gives history about the musical composition and teaches a different type of breathing technique, a way to focus, or offers something to think about when listening to the music.

This four-minute mindfulness ritual has created a sense of community at Wilcox Primary School where everyone experiences the same thing at the same time. Many students have shared that it is their favorite time of the day.

Practice makes *Perfect*

Approximately 150 eleventh grade students participated in a Practice ACT on November 21, 2017. The free practice test was provided by the Summit Education Initiative to all Summit County high schools. This was an excellent opportunity for the eleventh grade students to prepare for the February 2018 District administration of the free ACT provided by the Ohio Department of Education.



Celebrating Those Who Served

Patriotic performances at Samuel Bissell

Samuel Bissell Elementary School recognized the sacrifices our Veterans have made for our country on November 20, 2017. Nearly 120 veterans were treated to two patriotic performances under the direction of music teachers Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Petite.

Veterans and their families also had the opportunity to spend time together before or after the programs to talk and eat snacks provided by the Samuel Bissell Elementary School PTA.

Second and third grade students dressed in patriotic red, white and blue as they performed patriotic songs for their families. The students incorporated hand movements and the use of American Flags into their energetic and lively concerts.



“Bring a Veteran to Lunch” at Wilcox

November 10th was a special day at Wilcox Primary School when the school transformed to welcome and honor over 150 active and retired military personnel. The day began with a flag raising and the “Pledge of Allegiance” led by the Twinsburg VFW as the entire school surrounded the flagpole in the front of the school building. Students created art to decorate the halls, the gymnasium was designated as the “canteen” for military guests to have coffee and visit, and the cafeteria became the “mess hall” when it was time for students to eat lunch with their guests.

One of the most moving parts of this annual program is when the music for each branch of the military is played and those who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are invited to stand and be recognized. Many veterans will wear or bring parts of their uniforms and show their medals to the children.

Veterans’ Day continues to be a very important tradition at Wilcox Primary School that makes the service of our nation’s military personnel concrete for Twinsburg’s youngest students, helping them begin to develop respect for those who have served.



New Scoreboards Provide Students with Real-World Learning Experience

When the Twinsburg City Schools Board of Education approved over \$400,000 in corporate sponsorships for a multimedia project at Tiger Stadium and Twinsburg High School, they didn't just approve state-of-the-art scoreboards. The Board also approved the opportunity for students to gain practical, hands-on multimedia experiences.

In March, the Board approved sponsorship agreements with Cardinal Health, Carpet Country, American Bottle Company–Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, and University Hospitals. This agreement helped fully fund the Multimedia Project, which includes a new full video scoreboard at Tiger Stadium, a full video scoreboard at Twinsburg High School Gymnasium, a stat scoreboard at Twinsburg High School Gymnasium and four large LCD screens outside the Twinsburg High School Auditorium that will allow for events hosted in the auditorium to be simulcast into the Commons.

This upgrade in technology has given students the unique opportunity of managing the digital platforms and gaining practical experiences.

“21 students were selected via an interview process. The selected students were chosen from the THS Interactive Media course at the advanced level, THS students in Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's Media Technology program, and/or THS students who worked on the documentary 'Voices of the Hill,’” stated Casey Kirtley, who oversees the interactive media and news programs at Twinsburg High School.

Kirtley says that students are involved in all levels of production using professional cameras, the Tricaster for video selection and replays, the Daktronics scoreboard control, creating motion graphics for display on the screens, and directing cameras, all while interconnected via wireless intercom.

“I am most appreciative of our corporate partners and their interest in supporting our students,” said Twinsburg Superintendent Kathryn Powers. “Our school community will benefit from the generosity of these sponsorships for years to come.”

Chad Welker, who serves as Business Manager for the District, anticipates that over the lifetime of this project the District will generate over \$1 million in additional revenue.

“We continuously look for ways to reduce District expenditures while enhancing our facilities through alternative funding sources such as these sponsorships,” said Welker.

As for the students involved in projects related to these multimedia platforms, they are staying busy. According to Kirtley, they are scheduled to simulcast 38 events from the THS Auditorium to the THS Commons this school year. They have been and will be, operating the video scoreboard in the gym for more than 30 sports in the gym (volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball, and wrestling). This past fall they covered close to 20 events at the Tiger Stadium (football, boys soccer, girls soccer, Homecoming parade, and playoff games).

Getting Involved

Students were active in the community and in various extracurricular activities throughout the Fall.

- The Foreign Language Club held its annual canned-food drive in mid-November and collected over 10,000 items to donate to SS. Cosmas and Damian Parish Food Bank.
- THS students produced the Fall drama, “The Desk Set,” over a weekend in late November. Senior citizens were treated to an afternoon matinee performance and refreshments with the cast and crew.
- Spearheaded by Jean DiMatteo, a 3D printer was installed in the THS Media Center. Students have been using this device all semester to create 3D objects in what is now known as the THS MakerSpace.



A Thrilling Fall for Twinsburg Athletics

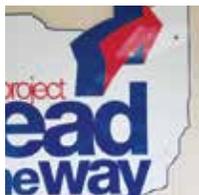


After an exciting and successful Fall sports season, Twinsburg High School celebrated an outstanding team achievement as well as some individual performances. The Girls Soccer Team advanced to the OHSAA District Championship for the first time in school history after defeating Hudson 1-0 in district semi-finals. THS also sent cross country runners Ryan Adkins and Emily O'Connor to compete at the OHSAA State Meet at National Trail Raceway in Hebron in November.

RBC Prepares Future Engineers

RB Chamberlin Middle School has a new academic offering this school year with the addition of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program. PLTW Engineering engages students in collaborative, real-life activities like working with a client to design a home, using a flight simulator to learn basic pilot skills, or exploring algae as a biofuel source. As students work together to imagine and design solutions to local and global challenges, they test their limits and question what's possible. By pushing themselves to rework and refine their projects, PLTW Engineering students learn that both failure and perseverance are key to learning and innovation.

"PLTW has a long history of successfully engaging students in relevant ways," said RBC Principal Jim Ries. "RBC is proud to offer PLTW to our students, giving them an advantage over their peers when it comes to high school, college, and career readiness."



Samuel Bissell Elementary School students and staff recently took a trip back in time to the year of 1992. That's the year when a time capsule was buried in the school's courtyard with a plaque that read "Do Not Open Until 2017". On November 3, 2017, the contents of the time capsule were unveiled during a whole-school assembly. Among the artifacts recovered were Sesame Street figures, a Troll doll, a Polly Pocket, a .45 record, a VHS cassette, a New Kids on the Block Quiz Book, a floppy disk, and an audio cassette. Current second grade teacher Ms. Conrad was also surprised to see a Polaroid picture she put in the time capsule of her class 25 years ago!

RBC practices Social Responsibility

During the week of October 16 – 20, 2017, thousands of schools and youth organizations from across the United States participated in *Say Something Week*, which raised awareness and educated students and the community through training, advertising, public proclamations, media events and contests and school awards. RBC participated with classroom lessons, assemblies, and a school safety drill.

RBC also participated in *Red Ribbon Week*, the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program celebrated annually. A poster contest, morning trivia, and dress up days highlighted Red Ribbon Week activities. Students also attended an assembly on social media safety, hosted our annual Veterans Day Concert and Art Show, and completed art projects with our senior citizens.



Bissell Starts STREAMing



Samuel Bissell Elementary School has started a new and exciting opportunity for students to engage, explore, and experiment with the principal and assistant principal. Through STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math), students use innovative ideas to investigate and problem solve through experimentation. This idea supports the mission of fostering innovation through GRIT, (Give it your all, Respond with a positive attitude, Independent thinkers, and Totally engaged), positive thinking, and a creative mindset.

Sign-Up to Receive Weekly Electronic District Newsletter

The Twinsburg City School District provides a weekly electronic newsletter which includes current news articles and upcoming events. To sign up to receive weekly electronic newsletters, go to the District website at <http://www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us/eCommunications.aspx>

Create your account, select which types of information you are interested in receiving: District news and/or building news from any combination of schools. By choosing the Online Dashboard Weekly Updates option, you will receive

weekly updates on any new content added to the sections you select. You may choose to receive your selected information via e-mail or as a text message. If your contact information changes or you wish to change the type of information you receive, you can update your account at any time.

Privacy Policy

Your email and/or phone number will only be used for purposes of sending you information about the Twinsburg City School District. Your contact information will not be shared with other organizations or groups.

Chromebooks Create World of Possibility *for Students, Teachers*



Fall semester found Twinsburg High School embarking on the first phase of the District's Chromebook Initiative. Teachers, counselors, and District administrators received their Chromebooks and have begun setting the course for the future of learning within the Twinsburg City School District.

"Technology is helping to shape what is possible within schools," offered Beth Mariola, Supervisor of Innovative Programs. "Twinsburg High School teachers are utilizing technology to transform their instruction by encouraging students to collaborate and communicate via the G Suite for Education platform, Chrome extensions, and apps that help to make teaching and learning more accessible, efficient, and compelling."

The rollout began in early September and included a small group of staff members. To meet the individualized needs and interests of each teacher, ongoing professional development has been the primary focus in order to prepare for the student rollout in January 2018.

"The goal is to offer instructional support for each teacher's unique needs, interests, and comfort level with technology," Mariola stated. "This support is not only offered during planning periods and after school, but also during instructional blocks as technology-enhanced strategies may be employed for the first time."

The next phase in the initiative is to roll out Chromebooks for this year's freshmen and sophomores on January 8, 2018, from 12-5 p.m. & January 9, 2018, from 2-7 p.m. in the Twinsburg High School Commons. A parent information meeting was hosted in November with the purpose of providing information related to the instructional benefits of Chromebooks, device care, student/parent responsibilities, and safeguards for students. For those who missed the session, a video featuring the information is available on the District's website at www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us.

"Twinsburg High School teachers continue to work hard at improving their craft—one that is immersed in 21st-century skills which provide students with opportunities to create, collaborate, communicate, think critically, and problem solve," Mariola offered. "Technology will certainly help support this endeavor."



200 Years of Working Together *Twinsburg Bicentennial*

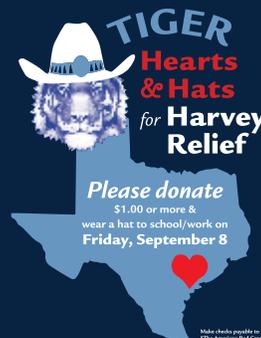


The community, comprised of the city of Twinsburg, the Village of Reminderville and Twinsburg Township, founded in 1817, recently celebrated its 200th birthday. On August 30, 2017, many Twinsburg City School District staff, students, and their families joined this celebration with a Back-to-School Bicentennial Celebration evening of fun-filled events held on the Township's historic town square.

There was no shortage of events. Music was provided by Twinsburg High School Band, the Orchestra Ensemble group, and Great Expectations. A variety of games were stationed throughout the square and Church Street was cordoned off to allow for tattoo and face painting, a Kindness Rocks booth, and a "photo op" selfie station. The Twinsburg Historical Society displayed an array of interesting artifacts, kettle corn was available for purchase to support the THS Band, and the PTA, incentivized students who visited three activities with free snow cones and prizes.

This event rounded out months of preparation and prior programs and activities eight months in the making. In January, students and teachers from Wilcox Primary School, Samuel Bissell Elementary School, and George G. Dodge Intermediate School created "We Are Twinsburg A-Z" books. The laminated, spiral-bound books were on display in the Twinsburg Public Library. A Tiger Spirit Fun Run logo contest was started and the winning design was announced in March and t-shirts were available for participants during the Fun Run. In February, bookmarks were designed and created by students in grades K-6 and made available to the public in April with the help of Twinsburg Public Library. The Kindness Rocks were distributed around our three communities during the month of October.

One Bicentennial attendee summed up the celebration by saying that "200 years of working together has made Twinsburg a great city to live in!"



**Our Tigers raised
\$11,283.60
in hurricane relief
efforts this fall.**

School Finance

Upcoming Events

To view all building/district events please visit www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us

As state legislators continue to wrestle with issues of funding public education, we know there are no quick fixes or easy solutions coming from the state or federal government. Numerous State funding models, legislative bills, charter schools, and expanding voucher programs are constantly eroding public education funding and negatively impacting our educational programming. In spite of legislative activities, local taxpayers will continue to shoulder the responsibility of providing quality education for the children in our community. Children with diverse needs, abilities, backgrounds, cultures, and requirements continue to come through the doors of our schools each day asking and deserving to be educated. *Our Schools – Our Kids.*

The property tax levy is often times the only mechanism available to school districts to increase revenue. Most revenues available to schools are fixed and inflexible due to various laws. Did you know that Twinsburg City School District's (TCSD) revenues have increased only \$288,937 over the last ten years? *Our Schools – Our Kids.*

While proceeds from an operating levy can be used by a board of education for any legal expenditure, the cost of education continually rises. Many of the rising costs cannot be controlled by the local school boards. School districts encounter inflation in most goods and services. In addition to unfunded mandates and legal requirements, expanded services expected by communities add to increased operating costs. The funds derived from operating levies are used



85% for salaries and benefits for personnel—we are a service organization. The remaining 15% is used for items such as classroom supplies, insurance, utilities, software, busing and maintenance and repairs. *Our Schools – Our Kids.*

Most people do not know the state's formula for funding schools reduces the amount of funding it sends to Twinsburg City School District to \$1,388 per pupil. However, the state deducts \$6,634 from TCSD for each student enrolled in a charter school. This is almost five times what TCSD receives per student that is being deducted and redirected to charter schools ($\$1,388 \times 4.78 = \$6,634$). *Our Schools – Our Kids.*

In May 2017, U.S. News and World Report ranked Twinsburg High School number 46 in Ohio out of 886 and number 1152 in the U.S. out of more than 22,000 high schools. This means Twinsburg High School ranks in the top 5% of all high schools nationally. Because of conservative fiscal policy this has been accomplished while containing costs. According to the Ohio Department of Education's 2016 Cupp Report, Twinsburg City School District spends almost \$500 less per pupil than state average and \$2,000 to \$4,000 less per pupil than some of our neighboring school districts. *Our Schools – Our Kids.*

When you think about it, what else but their responsibility to the education of the children of our community would cause a local board of education to choose to suffer the slings and arrows which local levies commonly cause? *Our Schools – Our Kids.*

The public will ultimately determine the quality of the Twinsburg City School District.

Your Schools – Your Kids.



Twinsburg City School District

Board of Education

Mark Curtis, President

Matthew Cellura, Vice President

Tina Davis, Member

Rob Felber, Member

Kathy Turle-Waldron, 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

Dodge Doodle Club creates art advocates

For the 2016-2017 school year, George G. Dodge Intermediate School students had the opportunity to join "Doodle Club," the school's art club. Here, once-a-week during recess and lunch, students would brainstorm and create ways to advocate for the arts within the school and our community.

To start the year off with an exciting project, individual students in the club submitted their own electrical box design that was their representation of our community. The club got together, critiqued each artwork, and singled out parts of their favorite designs. Groups formed and final revisions with teacher help were submitted and judged.

The official design selected was created by fifth grade students Ben Windover Noble (original designer), Anthony Karasik, Zachary Annichine, Logan Novak, and Erin Hrach. Through the work of both students and teachers, the first layer of colors was painted on the electrical box. The box was then completed by Emily Yambor and Dawn Lurette, art educators at Dodge.

Teachers and students are excited to see colorful and playful artwork on the way to school everyday. Doodle Club hopes to engage with the community in the future to advocate for the arts and share the wonderful talents of George G. Dodge Intermediate School students.