



Twinsburg

MARCH | 2017
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's Message

Dear Community Members,

Within the past year, the Twinsburg City School District re-established its Business Advisory Council. Through that initiative, we engaged with the Twinsburg Chamber of Commerce along with many business partners in discussions about workforce development. These discussions have led to the creation of an exciting new opportunity: The Twinsburg Academy at Twinsburg High School.

Thanks to the dedication of our Curriculum Supervisor Norm Potter and members of the Twinsburg High School staff along with the interest of our business partners, incoming freshmen will have opportunities to participate in three (3) career pathways: Business & Manufacturing, Health Care & Administration, and Human Performance & Recreational Management.

The career pathways will be flexible and fluid with some overlap in programming. Participants will engage in supplemental seminars, monthly Academy Meetings, volunteer opportunities, workplace visits, potential shadowing experiences, internships and summer opportunities including summer camps. Students will also participate in course sequences at Twinsburg High School which will prepare them for successful transitions to college, a career or the military. All students participating in a career pathway in the Twinsburg Academy will be required to complete the “Introduction to Business” course due to its relevance to all three career pathways.

To date, expected Twinsburg Academy business partners include: University Hospitals/ Ahuja Medical Center, Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, Magnet Group, Mentor Yacht Club, The Mid-American Conference, Ohio Center for Sports Psychology, Rockwell Automation, Twinsburg Parks & Recreation, the Village of Reminderville, and the Twinsburg Chamber of Commerce. We continue to seek additional business partners to support this exciting new initiative and anticipate the cost to the District will be minimal.

The Twinsburg City School District sincerely appreciates our local business partners for their interest in and enthusiasm about the Twinsburg Academy. Thanks to these partnerships, our school district is able to offer these cutting-edge learning opportunities to our students.

Yours in education,

Kathi Powers

Kathi Powers
Superintendent



Chairs, Desks, and *Yoga Balls* at Wilcox Primary School



While the outside of Wilcox Primary School may look the same as it did five years ago, the way that instruction is being delivered is very different. Learning in the primary grades often requires flexibility. Students who are 3-7 years old need to have the option to move around the classroom and interact with other students and instructional materials for “hands-on” learning.

When you visit Wilcox Primary School you will see students sitting on yoga balls or beanbag chairs or standing at their desks. Students create cube trains to develop number sense

for basic addition and subtraction and bend pipe cleaners to form letters. They write on dry erase boards for writing practice and utilize iPads to listen to reading and for supplemental activities in math and problem solving.

Research shows that students learn and retain information better when learning is active and students are given multiple methods to practice. When children use all their senses and their bodies are actively engaged in kinesthetic activities, it helps the brain create pathways that make it easier to learn.



Twinsburg Bicentennial Books *Commemorate 200*



The social studies curriculum in the primary grades introduces the concept of “long ago” and helps children to begin comparing and contrasting life “then and now”. Our youngest students learn about what challenges early settlers faced in Ohio and America. Through non-fiction shared books and guided reading groups students develop an understanding of what life might have been like without electricity, technology, cars, and grocery stores. Students learn about our community, community helpers, and careers. The 2017 Twinsburg Bicentennial celebration is a natural extension of these topics for our youngest learners.

Each class at Wilcox Primary School was invited to contribute to the creation of a Bicentennial Alphabet Book. With the help of their teachers, students collaborated on a topic related to the alphabet letter they were assigned. Students thought of how their letter relates to Twinsburg “then or now”, decided on 1-2 sentences, and agreed to a corresponding illustration. The book will be on display at the Twinsburg Public Library this spring along with Bicentennial Alphabet Books created by students from Samuel Bissell Elementary School and George G. Dodge Intermediate School.

COSI *on Wheels*

Samuel Bissell Elementary School kicked off 2017 with a visit from COSI. COSI On Wheels is the traveling outreach program of COSI Columbus that engages students with a dynamic opening assembly and fun, hands-on science activities aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards and the National Science Education Standards.

Bissell students were treated to two fun-filled educational days exploring ecological concepts and experiments through the COSI on Wheels program. Students learned about pollination, echolocation, animal adaptations and life cycles. A special thank you goes out to the Samuel Bissell Elementary School PTA and our awesome parent volunteers for helping to make the experience fun and educational for our students.



“Wilcox Rocks”

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, otherwise known as PBIS, is woven into the culture at Wilcox Primary School. Each morning, Wilcox students and staff members begin their day with the “Wilcox Pledge”. The Pledge helps to remind and reinforce the concepts for everyone to “*be responsible, respectful, caring, and safe*”.

Wilcox classroom teachers and staff help students to learn these character traits throughout the school day by helping students to recognize and understand the appropriate behaviors that correspond to “be responsible, respectful, caring and safe” across all environments. Our students learn that these behaviors should not only take place in the classroom but everywhere in the school including hallways, cafeteria, playground and on the school bus.

Each month, kindergarten and first grade students are honored for their positive contributions to the school atmosphere by being role models. These “Wilcox Rocks” students are recognized and celebrated at the Board of Education meeting.



Wilcox Honored for Bridging *Early Childhood and Kindergarten*

Wilcox Primary School was honored by the Summit Education Initiative (SEI) at the Akron Civic Theater. SEI is a county organization dedicated to supporting high quality educational experiences for children. At the Summit County TSS Kick-off event, Wilcox Primary School received an award and grant for leadership in opening the lines of communication among early childhood stakeholders in the Twinsburg City School District. SEI highlighted Wilcox Primary School as a model to emulate.

District administrators, Wilcox administrators, along with preschool and kindergarten teachers, have been involved with SEI for the last three years. Along with thousands of children in Summit County, Wilcox preschool students participate

in the Transition Skills Summary (TSS), an assessment that informs kindergarten teachers about each child's readiness for learning.

Wilcox Primary School is recognized as a leader and is often sought out by area preschool directors who want to learn more about the aspects of this high-quality program. In sharing information about kindergarten readiness skills with parents, preschools, and community organizations (Twinsburg Public Library, Head Start, AMHA Social Worker), Wilcox staff has been able to begin a process of collaboration designed to help more children enter kindergarten ready to learn. The grant will be used to assist our staff in taking the next steps in leading a Readiness Coalition in our area.

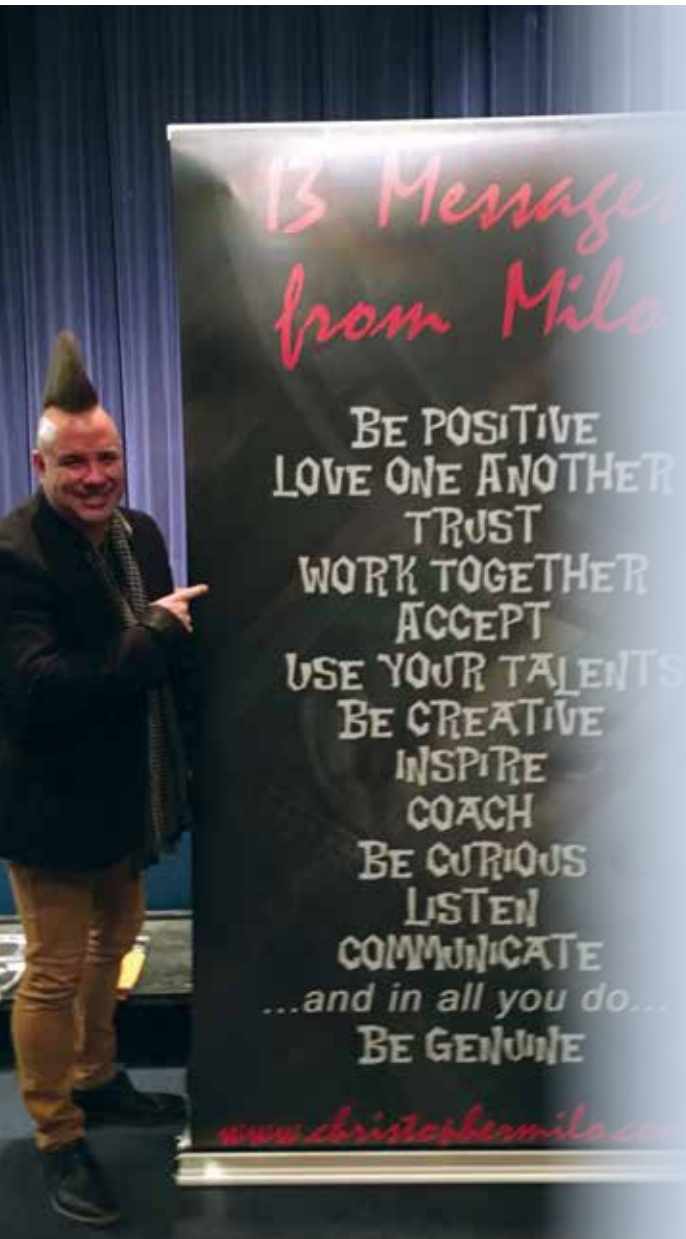
Christopher Milo Visits Twinsburg City School District

Christopher Milo has spoken to over 100,000 students in small and large groups on topics of leadership, anti-bullying, suicide solutions, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, cutting and other forms of self-harm. He embraces students who battle developmental disabilities, autism, cancer and diabetes. Christopher has built relationships with State hospitals and Children's Services and has partnered with many of the State of Ohio Educational Service Centers. He is currently working with the Summit County Educational Service Center in Akron, Ohio and the Summit County ADM Board for local programming in Summit County to launch his "13 Messages from Milo" Professional Mentoring Program. Christopher is trained in "Life Skills" and "Resiliency".

As part of the Twinsburg City School District's Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) initiative, Christopher presented to our staff at R.B. Chamberlin Middle School (RBC) and Twinsburg High School during our Staff Development Day on Jan. 2, 2017. The purpose of this presentation was to share his story and the "13 Messages From Milo." He also presented this same message to our RBC students and parents on Jan. 11, 2017.

The "13 Messages from Milo" are character traits that he teaches to businesses, universities and schools. Inspired by real life experiences, it is his belief that if we all spent more time on the "13 Messages From Milo", we would spend less time on texting horrible messages, posting inappropriate posts on today's social media outlets and we might be less judgmental. Simply speaking, we would have happier places to work, live and go to school. The "13 Messages from Milo" are:

- Be positive
- Be genuine
- Accept
- Love one another
- Listen
- Communicate
- Work together
- Be curious
- Inspire
- Coach
- Use your talents
- Be creative
- Trust





Where the Schools and the Communities *are one...*

In the Twinsburg City School District, students, staff and families support a wide variety of charitable organizations. Our students and staff appreciate the partnerships and relationships that have been fostered and recognize the positive impact they have upon Twinsburg City School District students' educational experience.

Here are a few of the numerous collections that have recently taken place at Samuel Bissell Elementary, George G. Dodge Intermediate and Twinsburg High Schools:

- Many area families are benefiting from the generosity recently shown by Samuel Bissell Elementary School families. During the annual Food Drive at Samuel Bissell Elementary, approximately 900 nonperishable food items and/or toiletries were donated. All donated items were given to The Emergency Assistance Center in Northfield. This exceptional donation was led by the Samuel Bissell Elementary School Student Council, who worked diligently in gathering, counting and packing the items.
- The Samuel Bissell Elementary School Student Council completed an aluminum can donation drive to help support burn victims. The 2nd and 3rd grade Samuel Bissell Student Council members led this collection, setting a goal to collect 100 pounds of aluminum cans. Throughout the month of January, students brought in clean and crushed cans to be placed in a bin outside the office.
- Samuel Bissell Elementary School's "Jump Rope for Heart" campaign to benefit the American Heart Association is in full swing. During the month of February, students are learning new jump roping skills in addition to learning new ways to keep their hearts healthy. Student Council members read a different healthy heart fact each morning to inform our students and staff about the benefits of exercise and healthy eating habits.
- George G. Dodge students, under the direction of the Student Council, collected over 3,631 cans of food for a local food bank. This was 1,000 more cans than collected last year with 100% of Dodge classrooms participating and meeting the goal of collecting at least 100 cans of food.
- The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive was held at George G. Dodge. The drive is sponsored by Scholastic Books and The Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children in need. The Dodge students kicked off the drive with a Pajama Day where everyone at Dodge wore their favorite, cozy PJ's to school. The students collected over 175 pairs/sets of pajamas.
- Twinsburg High School Student Council sponsored the Red Cross Fall Blood Drive and collectively students donated over 35 pints of needed blood for Northeast Ohio - exceeding their goal by 10 pints. During the Blood Drive, THS student leaders needed to start a waiting list - as all time slots were filled. Twinsburg High School Student Council will host another blood drive in February to support the Red Cross. Students and staff greatly appreciate the partnership with the Red Cross as one THS Senior student leader will have the opportunity to be selected for a Red Cross Scholarship in the Spring.
- The Twinsburg High School Foreign Language Club conducted their 7th Annual Food Drive, collecting an astounding 10,776 nonperishable food items all which supported the Thanksgiving food distribution program of Joseph's Kitchen, a local food bank in Twinsburg Township. Students volunteered to help promote the food drive, collect, count, organize, and transport all of the food donations.

Everyone is a V.I.P at R.B.C.

The staff at R.B. Chamberlin Middle School is committed to the success of every student, and to make sure every child succeeds, the V.I.P. program was instituted. The foundation of the program is the commitment by teachers to provide students with quality assignments and quality assessments. This is done through dedication, hard work, and high impact professional development. Lessons and assessments are monitored by administrators, professional learning communities, and instructional coaches.

Equally important is having high expectations for students. R.B. Chamberlin Middle School students are expected to complete with mastery every assignment and every assessment. All of our “Very Important Practice” is completed by our “Very Important People.”

Cited by academic coach Anna Pavkov, “Using V.I.P. to support students has helped them develop a more growth centered mindset. Previously, if a student did not understand a concept and was frustrated with assigned work, they might be inclined to give up, take a zero and try to make-do without ever learning the necessary concept. Now, our students realize that giving up isn’t an option. Students know that all work is required. If they are struggling with concepts they seek help knowing that their work is important, valued and ultimately unavoidable.”

Students who are missing assignments are put on the V.I.P. list and reminded throughout the day of the work that needs to be done. They are also given support during lunch by intervention specialists to help them complete work and relearn concepts. Over the course of time student achievement has gone up, as evidenced by the “A” received on the 2015/2016 value-added report. In addition, retentions and ineligibility have become almost non-existent.

Twinsburg High School Teen Institute

A new student group, Teen Institute was formed for Twinsburg High School students. Through the District’s partnership with Beech Brook and a grant received from the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board, the THS Teen Institute group was started during the month of December.

Over 30 THS students in grades nine through twelve will meet with advisors and leadership counselors to begin serving as peer role models. The goal of Teen Institute is to promote positive drug free healthy living—even with the constant pressures teens may face related to drug use in their daily lives.



Hour of Code

Samuel Bissell Elementary School students explored the field of Computer Science through the Hour of Code program. The Hour of Code initiative is open to students across the globe, where everyone is encouraged to try programming for at least one hour. Code.org organizes the annual Hour of Code campaign which has engaged 10% of all students in the world.

During Hour of Code, Samuel Bissell students further developed their critical thinking and problem solving skills by writing and testing computer programs. As a final challenge, they had the opportunity to design and program their own video game using characters from Minecraft.



District Technology Plan

The Twinsburg City School District began the second half of the school year with the process of redesigning the District's Technology Plan. You may be wondering why now? There were several reasons that led us to begin the process:

- The District has been researching the possibility of implementing a 1:1 initiative for Twinsburg City School District students. A 1:1 initiative would provide a technology device for the students. The exact look of 1:1 in the Twinsburg City School District has not yet been defined.
- Additionally, the Technology Standards the District has been using needed to be updated. Obviously much has changed in the world of technology. The ODE has not released new/updated standards; however, technology has been infused in the standards for each content area.
- Lastly, the District was once required to write a Technology Plan for the Ohio Department of Education as a funding requirement. This was fulfilling a compliance piece, but not necessarily a document that guided our practices.

As we look to the future, the District's plan will be organized in a comprehensive manner. We recognize that with the ever-changing world of technology we must gain input from a variety of people. To do this we invited parents, administrators, technology staff, teaching staff, and classified staff members as stakeholders to help draft the Twinsburg City School District Technology Plan. A future step will be to gather input from the student population.

Mix It Up

Students at George G. Dodge Intermediate School continue their work with the *Start with Hello* program and received support from the George G. Dodge PANDA Club members. PANDA Club (Prevent and Neutralize Drug/Alcohol Abuse) is a student led group that helps our Tigers make good choices to live free of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and is comprised of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students.

PANDA Club helps to create a culture of positive peer pressure, good decision-making and self-esteem building. PANDA Club members will help spread the message of kindness throughout our school. The George G. Dodge PANDA Club's first major event was to lead the student body during *Start with Hello* Mix it Up activity. *Start with Hello* teaches students, grades 2-12, the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization. Social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely or treated like you are invisible. It is a growing epidemic in the United States and within our schools. Excessive feelings of isolation can be associated with violent and suicidal behavior.

The Mix It Up activity was held during the lunch periods and was designed to encourage students to sit with someone new and get to know classmates they would not normally have a chance to meet.

Five subcommittees comprise the Technology Planning Committee:

Procedures

Creation of district level procedures regarding a 1:1 initiative.

Curriculum

Creation of common technology expectations and technology standards.

Implementation plan

Discussion regarding necessary communication and information distribution to families.

Professional Development

Review of professional development offered and additional training opportunities needed for changes in instruction.

Online tools

Discussion of current process for online tools, process needed for extensions, and use of Google sign-on for online programs.

The end goal is to finalize the Twinsburg City School District Technology Plan and provide a detailed report out during the April Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting.

Twinsburg Schools Today

We invite you to view the monthly cable program, *Twinsburg Schools Today*, where Superintendent Kathryn Powers and featured guests share updates and timely information about the many programs and activities happening inside the Twinsburg City School District. The February 2017 *Twinsburg Schools Today* includes Twinsburg City School District Treasurer, Martin Aho who along with Superintendent Powers, share detailed information regarding the District's Financial Future.

To view this program or future shows, please either visit the Twinsburg City School District website for a direct link or to view on air at Cable 9 – use the local Channel 15 or 96.15 – on Wednesdays at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thursdays at 9 p.m. and Fridays at 4 p.m.



Looking Ahead... Upcoming Events

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

March 17	Report Cards
March 27- 31	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
April 3	School Resumes
April 14	NO SCHOOL
April 17	NO SCHOOL – Students



Twinsburg City School District

Board of Education

- Mark Curtis**, President
- Matt Cellura**, Vice President
- Tina Davis**, Member
- Rob Felber**, Member
- Kathy Turle-Waldron**, Member

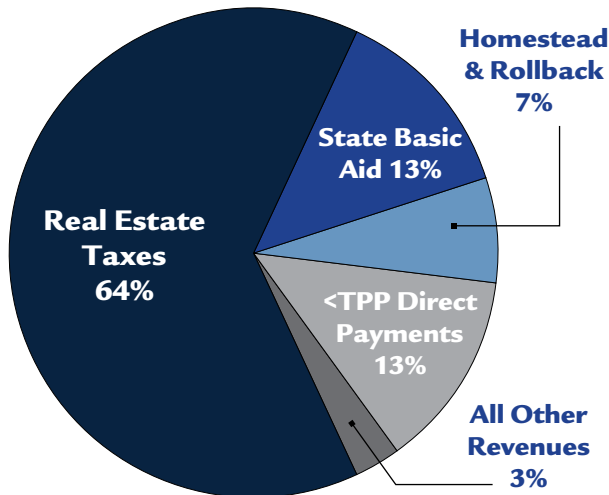
The Twinsburg Board of Education meets in regular session at the Twinsburg Government Center in Council Chambers on the first and third Wednesdays of each month with the exception of June and September when the meetings are on the first and fourth Wednesdays. All Regular and Special Board Meetings are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

Administration

- 330.486.2000**
- Kathryn Powers**, Superintendent
- Martin Aho**, Treasurer/CFO
- Jennifer Farthing**, Director of Curriculum
- Belinda McKinney**, Director of Human Resources
- Denise Traphagen**, Director of Pupil Services
- Chad Welker**, Business Manager

School Finance

We take very seriously the fiduciary duty of managing the tax dollars and other resources entrusted to us by our communities. The efforts of our parents and community members are an important and critical part of the Twinsburg School District's success and I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our students, staff and programs.



We strive daily to do more with less, operate as efficiently as possible and direct scarce resources to the benefit of all students. For many school districts in the State of Ohio, operating levies fund a school district's basic day-to-day expenditures (salaries, benefits, professional services, utilities, and supplies). A large portion, approximately 64%, of funding for the Twinsburg School District is derived from local property taxes. The remaining 36% is derived from the State Foundation to schools, Homestead and Rollback, and miscellaneous receipt.

Over the past ten years the School District has had in essence zero growth in revenues. In 2007 the School District received \$42,833,041 in operating revenue and ten years later in 2016 the School District received \$42,886,438 in operating revenue. An increase of approximately \$53,400 over ten years. Over time, we have consistently worked to reduce and/or contain costs that are within our control. The School District has long participated in shared services realizing lower costs via consortium group programs, cooperative purchasing agreements, and educational service centers, in addition to energy conservation projects. That's living with-in your means.

Tangible Personal Property (TPP) was eliminated when House Bill 66 (HB66) was enacted July 1, 2005. TPP tax was a business tax on machinery, fixtures and furniture and was paid to Summit County. TPP, a locally controlled tax, has been eliminated and replaced by a State controlled Commercial Activity Tax (CAT). As the State eliminates the TPP/CAT reimbursements to school districts, these dollars are used to back fill the State's coffers at the expense of Local Governments. High performing school districts with a large commercial/industrial base like Twinsburg, Solon, Berea and Cuyahoga Heights are experiencing markedly reduced revenues. For the Twinsburg City School District this lost revenue accounted for \$9.8 million annually in 2004.

For the Twinsburg School District, the TPP/CAT phase out is a loss of \$493,226 annually. As of Fiscal Year (FY) 16, there is \$4.6 million remaining to be phased out (out of the original \$9.8 TPP amount). The cumulative loss of TPP/CAT reimbursement from FY16 to FY 24 is equal to \$27,358,552.



Regards, Martin Aho, Treasurer