



Twinsburg

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CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's *Message*

Dear Community Members,

Spring is a time when the warmer weather and increased daylight hours can bring about a sense of hope and renewal. This is perfect as we enter the final stretch of yet another school year. With everything that goes into a successful school year, from students engaged in deep learning and staff growing their skills through professional development, to the excitement of sporting events, concerts and performances and the joy of seeing the creativity of our student artists, I am always amazed at how fast time goes.

The past few months have been no exception to the speed of the school year as winter sports have ended, classrooms have been bustling with engaged students, and milestones have been etched in our school's rich history. In this edition of our newsletter, you will find stories that highlight just a few of these events that have marked the winter months in our school district.

You will also find important information in this issue. First, we are proud of our stakeholders' work in shaping a vision for our students through the development of the Twinsburg City School District *Portrait of a Graduate*. The *Portrait of a Graduate* serves as a North Star for system transformation, and we were happy to partner with Battelle for Kids in helping us design this shared aspiration for our students. Next, we are excited about the opportunity we have to secure the future of our school district with the *Tiger Legacy Project*. We have launched a listening and informational tour with the community to share the latest update of the plan and to gather your feedback. You can read more about this project on page three.

I hope you enjoy the highlights of our students and staff in this issue. As always, I want to thank you for participating and being engaged with the Twinsburg City School District.

Please feel free to reach out to me at kpowers@twinsburgcsd.org or 330.486.2000 with any questions or concerns.

Yours in education,

Kathi Powers
Superintendent

Vision

“Unwavering Commitment – Unlimited Possibilities”

Mission

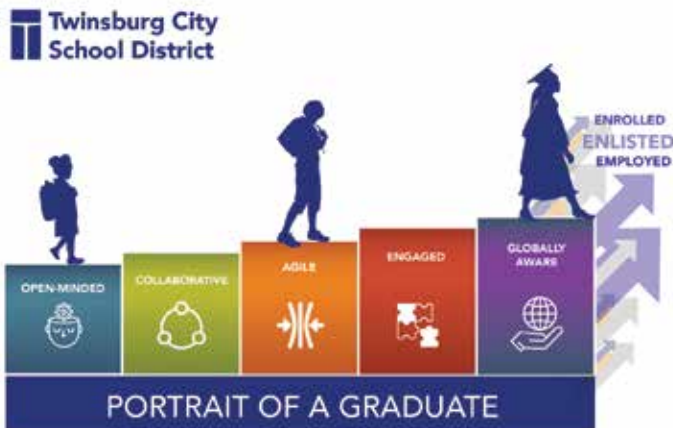
“Partnering with the community...
Providing excellent educational programs...
Preparing future-ready students.”



Portrait of a Graduate

Establishes Vision for TCSD Students

In the Spring of 2021, the Twinsburg City School District began a journey to create a Portrait of a Graduate, a visioning device for schools. It establishes the purpose for schools because graduates represent the culmination of the K-12 learning experience. District stakeholders were invited to participate in this journey by partnering with Battelle for Kids who facilitated the process. The groups included students, teachers, parents, administrators, residents and community leaders.



The Portrait Design Team began by studying a variety of societal changes over the last several decades that helped the team understand the extent to which our schools are preparing students for success amidst these shifts. Some examples of the shifts included those in the workforce, environmental concerns, and the information explosion. These landscape shifts may impact students' current and future success.

The next step was to conceive all District students' hopes, dreams, and aspirations. After this, team members submitted individual competencies that they wanted the Design Team to consider, including empathy, problem-solving and critical thinking, adaptability, global citizenship, equity and communication/collaboration. These were then further refined into the final Portrait of a Graduate.

Community Closet Benefits Well-Being of Students



The Twinsburg City School District seeks to expand its reach and venture into an innovative concept that benefits the well-being of students. The Community Closet helps maximize learning potential by providing students in need with basic necessities, including limited clothing, school supplies and personal care items. In addition, through a referral system, staff members can discreetly recommend students in need. Currently, the District is using funding from a generous donor to help stock two closets, one for Preschool-grade 6 and one for grades 7-12.

The Department of Student Wellness manages the Community Closets by working closely with the staff to determine the needs of students within the schools. Upon processing a referral, school personnel discreetly assist students. Parents/guardians are notified.

The generous hearts of others often shine to support those in need in our school community. Donations are not currently being accepted, but the items must be new when the opportunity arises for future contributions to be collected. A special thanks to the anonymous donor who helped make this vision a reality.

Tiger Legacy Project: Building Our Future Now

The Twinsburg City School District has relaunched its work to update its facilities, known as the Tiger Legacy Project. With labor and resource costs on the rise, the time to move forward is now. The District is thankful for the community's support. It will continue to be mindful of the taxpayers' investment while ensuring that the students have access to the 21st-century education they deserve.

With the assistance of the Facilities Action Team, made up of parents, former board members, staff and community members, the District determined a path forward to address its most urgent needs. The project is centered around the replacement of George G. Dodge Intermediate School, an aging building with poor infrastructure and small classrooms.

The plan is based upon the 2016 and 2019 Facilities Assessments, updated for current pricing and completed by Lesko Architecture, a specialist in K-12 school architecture located in Westlake, and Karpinski Engineering.

Over the past several months, the Twinsburg City School District launched a listening and informational tour with the community to share the latest update to the plan and gather feedback. The District has already met with many community groups, including Twinsburg Rotary, Twinsburg Public Library, the City of Twinsburg, the City of Reminderville and Twinsburg Township. District leaders will continue to gather feedback through the Spring. Once this information is collected, Twinsburg Superintendent Kathi Powers will present findings and recommendations to our Board of Education on what next steps need to be taken.

For more information, visit twinsburg.k12.oh.us/TigerLegacyProject.aspx.



Energy Conservation Project Yields Efficiencies, Cost Savings

In Spring 2021, the Twinsburg City School District Board of Education approved a \$2.2 million energy conservation project through Gardiner Service Company. This project financed necessary HVAC and lighting systems through a guaranteed reduction in energy expenditures over 15 years. The project has made significant progress with improvements to indoor and outdoor lighting, control systems and wiring and an Applied Intelligence System. In addition, the data already gathered from the District's new control system is helping to further identify and address other issues with the District's heating and cooling systems.

The District has already experienced preliminary improvements in its energy expenditures. Beyond these savings, HVAC and lighting systems have improved, providing staff and students a better environment and comfort level. Over time, the District will experience lower maintenance and operation costs. These benefits are occurring without any impact on the permanent improvement budget, as these updated systems are paid for using the guaranteed reduction in energy expenditures.

A heartwarming visit for Wilcox students



In February, students in Mrs. Fariello's first-grade class teamed up with Ms. Lipnos' "Bee Room" friends to learn about producers and consumers through a hands-on project. The students made no-sew fleece pillow hearts in their classrooms at Wilcox Primary School. When each student had created one pillow of their own, the teachers made an arrangement with parents for a special visit to share their love and kindness with some of Twinsburg's senior citizens. On February 28, students and their parents visited the residents of Maplewood Senior Living Community. Each student was paired with a resident from the facility's memory care unit. The children read their senior partner their favorite book and presented them with a unique heart pillow.



The Coolest Date of the Decade



Did you notice that February 22 was a really cool date on the calendar? When you write it as 2/22/22, it is a palindrome - the same forward and backward. It also fell on a Tuesday, making this date the coolest date in the decade! Many schools in the Twinsburg City School District couldn't miss an opportunity to take advantage of this date. At Wilcox Primary School, staff and students dressed up as twins or wore tutus, classes practiced counting by twos, wrote lists of things that come in pairs (like socks and ears), and many more learning activities designed with the memorable day in mind. Samuel Bissell Elementary School students and staff celebrated "Twosday" and also wore tutus, dressed alike, wore two ties, and styled their hair with pigtails to recognize the day. Students also highlighted two kind acts they did throughout the day, which were incorporated into a whole-school bulletin board. At RB Chamberlin Middle School, the math teachers were really excited about Twos Day (or 2/2/22). They celebrated by wearing commemorative shirts for the unique date. The next time a date like this will happen is 3/3/33 - 11 years from now!



E.L.L. Population Grows in the TCSD

English Language Learners, students whose primary language is other than English, are a part of a growing student population in the State of Ohio. The Twinsburg City School District reflects this ever-increasing student population of diverse learners. Currently, more than 100 students are enrolled from more than 15 various countries and represent over 26 different home languages spoken.

Meeting the needs of our diverse learners begins with identifying students whose primary language is other than English, assessing their needs and determining what special language assistance is needed for the students to participate effectively in the District's instructional programming. Breaking down barriers to support our families includes our District website being available in over 75 languages and using electronic communication resources such as Talking Points. This translation app allows for increased communication between home and school and translation services. Twinsburg City School District is proud of its diverse community and is always excited to welcome new families from various countries who call our community home.

Principals for the Day at Bissell

Samuel Bissell Elementary School administrators were recently joined in their offices by three “Principals for the Day.” The students, Mr. Owens, Miss Weber, and Miss Jones, spent the day learning what it was like to be a principal and assisted in completing several different tasks, including proposed changes to the lunch menu and identifying characteristics of a principal. The students chose to be “Principals for the Day” from one of the prizes awarded from Bissell’s Read-a-Thon.



Bissell Staff Engage in Restorative Practices

The staff at Samuel Bissell Elementary School have been busy in various learning and professional development activities over the past few months. Principal Misty Johnson and a team of teachers made up of Katie Glavic, Alyssa King, and Rachel Miller, all trained on the topic, presented information about Restorative Practices during a recent staff professional development. Restorative Practices is an approach that seeks to strengthen relationships through affective statements and Community Circles. Staff had the opportunity to participate in a Community Circle during the presentation.



RBC Students Excel in the Arts and More

RB Chamberlin Middle School students have been busy the past couple of months. The choir, band, and orchestra students have all provided our school family with wonderful performances. In addition, the RBC Singers participated in their competition season, beginning with the Solon Invitational. The RBC Band and RBC Orchestra will compete in the OMEA adjudicated Solo and Ensemble events. Finally, RB Chamberlin winter athletes wrapped up their competitive seasons in February.

The RB Chamberlin Power of the Pen team competed in the District Tournament. Four seventh graders and five eighth graders advanced to the regional tournament. A big congratulations to eighth-grader Maryam Atarchi on her recognition in Visual Arts during the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.



Lots happening at Dodge!

Students at George G. Dodge Intermediate School are connecting with one another and building stronger relationships. Students recently joined schools from around the world in the Global Day of Play. The goal for 2022 was to reach over 1,000,000 students since its start in 2015.

George G. Dodge Intermediate School joined schools across the District in a Black History Month Door Decorating contest. This year’s theme was “Doors to the Past; Doors to the Future.” This was a focused way to highlight important African American figures throughout history. At Dodge, students and staff worked together to express a shared representation of this theme on their individual classroom doors.

Dodge Wellness Center Provides Safe Space for Students

The Wellness Center at George G. Dodge Intermediate School is a powerful investment in the social and emotional well-being of students. The dedicated area is designed to provide supportive services to students in small groups, clubs, and working one-on-one with a school counselor. It provides a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment for students and is intended to provide them with an opportunity to reduce stress and anxiety and develop healthy coping strategies and self-care. George G. Dodge school counselors use the Wellness Center to provide classroom teachers with resources they need to support the social and emotional well-being of the students in their individual classrooms.

Charles Saulter Picked to Lead Football Program



The Twinsburg City School District Board of Education has hired Charles Saulter as the next leader of the Twinsburg High School Varsity Football Program.

“Coach Saulter brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and leadership to the Twinsburg Football Program,” said Brian Fantone, Twinsburg Athletic Director and K-12 Coordinator of Student Activities. “It was clear throughout the interview process that his vision for where he wants the program to be aligned with our goals as a school district and community. I’m excited to work with Coach Saulter and am looking forward to all of the great things ahead for the Twinsburg Football Program.”

Saulter will replace Mike Bell, who resigned in December after seven seasons at the helm of the football program.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to become the Head Football Coach at Twinsburg High School, Saulter said. “Twinsburg has a rich football history, and I look forward to bringing Tiger Pride back to the community. I can’t wait to get started, form relationships with our players at all levels, get to know the faculty and staff, and become a part of this program. Go Tigers!”

Saulter, who teaches social studies at Orange High School in Pepper Pike, brings a wealth of experience to Twinsburg Football, having coached at both the high school and collegiate levels. After serving as an assistant coach at Chippewa, Glen Oak, Brush and Revere High Schools, Saulter took his coaching skills to Case Western Reserve University in 2018, serving as the wide receivers coach.

In 2019, Saulter became the head coach at Bedford High School. Saulter led the team to the postseason twice during his three years there and went undefeated in the Lake Erie League in 2021. He was named a nominee for the Cleveland Browns Coach of the Year and was runner-up for the Lake Erie League Coach of the Year, both in 2021. In addition, he coached ten players who signed national letters of intent to continue their playing careers at the collegiate level.

Project-Based Learning at T.H.S.

The Twinsburg High School *Social Justice in Literature* course completes a quarterly project-based learning project that correlates with their current topic of study. For quarter two, students learned about various issues that impact women and students decided to conduct a project specifically related to violence against women and the meaning of the word feminism. The class sold a student-designed t-shirt that shows the significance of feminism, with a portion of the funds collected being donated to the Violence Assistance Program. The class also held a drive collecting needed items to donate to Laura’s Home Women’s Crisis Center, a local women’s shelter in Cleveland. By the end of the campaign, students collected over 200 items and donated \$218 to the Violence Assistance Program.

Tiger Staff *Spotlight*

In this edition we proudly feature...

Name: Jennifer Pinkney

Position/School: District Nurse for Twinsburg Schools

I Grew Up In: Ontario, OH, near Mansfield Ohio.

My Family: I have been married to my husband, Geoff, for 11 years, and we have two children. My daughter Addison is nine years old, and my son Lucas is eight years old. We also have a dog named Harley and a cat named Lucy.

Education: I graduated from Walsh University with my Bachelor's degree in Science of Nursing and a minor in Psychology.

What do you love about working at Twinsburg City School District? I mostly enjoy the kids. Talking to the kids, teaching them, and bringing smiles to their faces make my day.

How many years have you worked for the Twinsburg City School District? This is my 3rd year in the District.

How did you choose your current profession? I spent a lot of time with my great grandfather growing up, and in my senior year of high school, he was ill and in and out of the hospital. I spent a lot of time there with him and loved the idea of being there for someone during their time of need.

What was your first job? Working for the City of Ontario. I had many odds and ends jobs, such as painting fire hydrants, cleaning up the local parks, and lining baseball fields.

Teacher who inspired me? Many teachers have influenced my life, but I cannot think of one who stood out more. I believe all teachers leave some influence on you when you have them.

Do you have a favorite quote? My mom always used to say, "What's the golden rule?" and the golden rule was "Treat others how you would want to be treated."

Who is the most inspirational person to you? My mom is the most inspirational person to me. She taught me many things, including patience, kindness, and hard work. She is always there for me no matter what; I do not know what I would do without her.

If there were 25 hours in a day, how would you spend your extra hour? I would say I would spend it reading. I try to read every night as this is "my" time, and it is something I enjoy and helps me take my mind off of life.

Tigers Soar!

Success follows our Twinsburg Tigers in many ways throughout the school year. Here are just a few highlights of that success in sports and extracurricular activities this winter.



Boys Basketball

Finished the season 18-6 and were Sectional Champions.



Gymnastics

Finished fourth in sectionals and set a new school record for team score at the District Meet.



Symphonic Band

Received a Superior Rating in Class A at the OMEA District Large Group Event, receiving the top rating from all three judges.



Wrestling

Four Tiger wrestlers advanced to the District Tournament, including Isaac Cantor, Collin Grady, Major Grant and Aiden Stuczynski.



Twinsburg City School District

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Twinsburg City School District Treasurer/C.F.O. Announces Retirement



Twinsburg City School District Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Martin Aho announced his retirement effective July 31, 2022.

“Marty has been a dedicated treasurer and stalwart employee of the District for 20 years. Throughout his tenure, he has maintained our finances with the utmost integrity,” said Twinsburg City School District Board of Education President Mark Curtis.

Aho, who holds a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting and an M.B.A., both from The University of Akron, joined the Twinsburg City School District in 2002. His two-decade tenure as the school district’s Chief Financial Officer has been marked by strong fiscal stewardship. Some notable highlights include:

- Since 2002, Aho has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. He has also received multiple Ohio Auditor of State Awards with Distinction for excellence in financial reporting and consistently received unmodified (unqualified) audit reports, which is the best that a school district treasurer can obtain;
- Oversaw efforts to twice refund the Twinsburg High School bonds at lower interest rates saving the community over two million dollars;
- Helped secure financing for the 2004 Capital Improvement project that built out the high school addition, turfed the field at Tiger Stadium, and paved and upgraded the bus parking lot;
- Helped secure financing for multiple energy conservation projects, substantially reducing energy consumption by replacing boilers, HVAC controls and installing high-efficiency lighting.

“His stewardship of the community’s tax dollars has helped our school district provide an outstanding educational experience for our students. We will miss Marty tremendously but wish him all the best on his retirement,” offered Twinsburg City School District Superintendent Kathi Powers.

Aho will continue to serve as Treasurer/C.F.O. through July 31, 2022. The Twinsburg City School District School Board is currently searching for qualified candidates with plans for a new Treasurer to begin August 1, 2022.

Board of Education

- Mark Curtis**, *President*
- Tina Davis**, *Vice President*
- Rhonda Crawford**, *Member*
- Rob Felber**, *Member*
- Lea Travis**, *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
- Tajuana Hunnicutt**
Director of Pupil Services
- Andrea C. Walker**
Director of Student Wellness

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

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