

...where the schools and the communities are one.

**Twinsburg**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



# TWINSBURG FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



X @TwinsburgSupt

## DEAR TWINSBURG SCHOOLS COMMUNITY,

I hope you are all doing well as we embark on this new school year! I'm eager to share important updates and exciting news about our District.

### 5-Star School District

I am thrilled to announce that the Twinsburg City School District has earned a Five-Star Rating on Ohio's State Report Card. This places us among the top school districts in our local area and across the state. This achievement is a clear reflection of the dedication and

hard work of our students, teachers, and staff and the invaluable support from our community. It emphasizes that investing in our schools is a wise and fruitful endeavor for our students' future and our community's well-being.

### Upgraded School Safety Plan

Safety remains our utmost priority. We've updated and enhanced our safety plan, introducing stronger measures and protocols to make sure our students learn in a secure environment every day. We've added more surveillance cameras and radios to improve security and communication.

### Quality Profile & Rankings

Our Five-Star State Report Card is not our only achievement. Our Quality Profile and rankings in *US News and World Report* contribute to our reputation as a top-notch educational institution and are a source of pride for our community.

### November Ballot Measure

There's a new levy of 5.9 mills on the November 7th ballot. This is aimed at maintaining our daily operations, keeping our amazing teachers and staff, sustaining our high-quality programs, and covering utilities. The cost? It's \$207 per year per \$100,000 of home value.

Even after reducing \$2.9 million in expenses, we're facing a deficit due to decreased state funding and other factors. If the levy is approved, it will help maintain our current quality and offerings. If not, we may have to make significant reductions and deeper budget cuts.

We encourage everyone to stay informed and join the discussions. Together, we can uphold the tradition of excellence in the Twinsburg City School District and keep our District among the best in the state.

We're looking forward to another fantastic year at the Twinsburg City School District. Together, we are shaping a future that is bright for our Tigers!

Sincerely,

*Kathi Powers*

Kathi Powers, Superintendent, Twinsburg City School District

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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This year's Homecoming showcased a parade, football game victory (42-7 against Brush Arcs), and special appearances by Alumni Cheerleaders, Band, and Grand Marshal Mike Sherer. Kudos to our new Athletic Boosters Hall of Fame inductees and the 2023 Homecoming King & Queen, James Ding and Elisa Unangst. The festivities concluded with a magical dance under the stars at Tiger Stadium. Hope everyone cherished the moments!

# New Leadership at Twinsburg High School

This fall brings change to Twinsburg High School (THS). We would like to introduce our dynamic new leaders, Emily Hunt as the new Principal and Michelle Lowden as the Assistant Principal.



## Principal Emily Hunt

Mrs. Hunt is no stranger to THS, having served as an Assistant Principal and exhibiting strong leadership and a passion for student support. Her journey in education includes roles as an English teacher and a Dean of Students at the Euclid City School District. Holding degrees from Case Western Reserve University and Ashland University, she is ready to embrace her new role and expressed, "This is an amazing calling that I look forward to fulfilling together at Twinsburg High School, where the schools and communities are one."



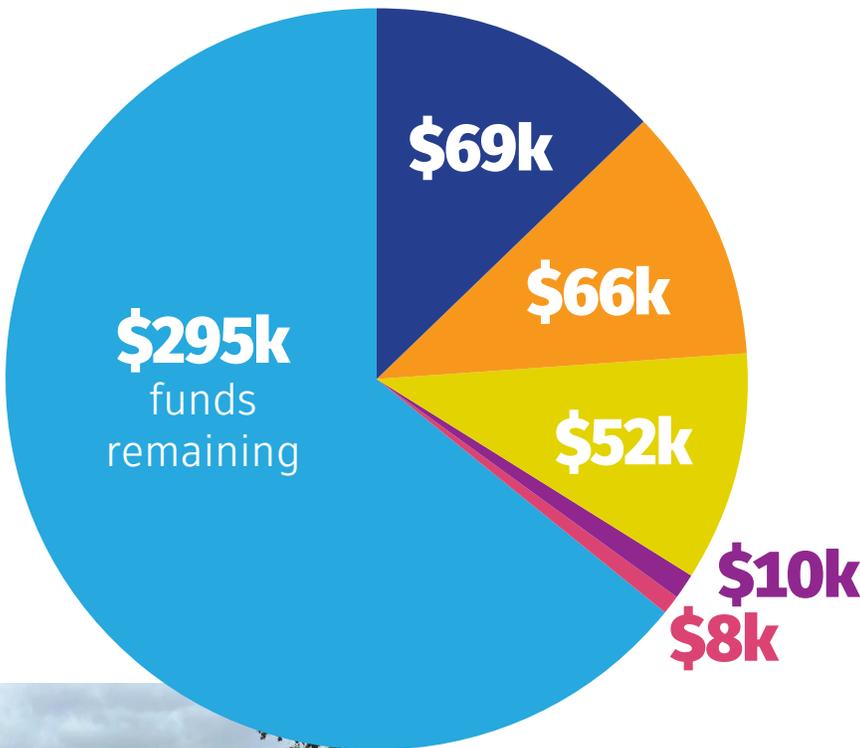
## Assistant Principal Michelle Lowden

Ms. Lowden joins the THS administrative team, bringing a wealth of experience from her roles in the District Administrative Leadership Team and as a science teacher at RB Chamberlin Middle School. Ms. Lowden, an alumna of Kent State University and Ashland University, is eager to strengthen the bonds between students, families, staff, and community members of Twinsburg, stating, "I look forward to joining the leadership team at Twinsburg High School."

# Twinsburg City School District Receives Safety Grants

In the past year, the Twinsburg City School District has applied for and received \$500,000 in Safety & Security Grants.

Thanks to the support and feedback from the community and staff, we have invested in the following technology and items to provide our students and staff with the safest learning environment possible:



## Badge Readers & Security Cameras

We're updating and adding cameras across the District, especially in key outdoor areas. New door access badge readers are being installed.

## Handheld Radios

We're acquiring new handheld radios for better staff communication, essential for emergencies.

## Vape/Shot Detectors

We're installing detectors at Twinsburg High and RB Chamberlin Middle Schools to detect vape usage and loud noises. These are linked to security cameras to provide timely alerts.

## Student ID Badges

New badge readers have been installed at Twinsburg High School's student entrances. Students will have photo IDs, which indicate enrollment status, when scanned.

## Metal Detector Wands

Metal detector wands will be intermittently used as a preventative measure at Twinsburg High School, RB Chamberlin Middle School and at District events in an effort to prevent weapons, paraphernalia, or other potentially harmful items from being brought onto our campuses.



# TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCELS IN

# 2023 STATE REPORT CARD

Twinsburg City School District is proud to announce exemplary results in the 2023 Ohio State Report Card, demonstrating our commitment to fostering educational excellence and providing a well-rounded education to our students.



## Achievement Across Components

The State Report Card, evaluating schools on Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Early Literacy, and Graduation components, highlighted Twinsburg City School District's superior performance in each area, showcasing

our commitment to high standards and student progress. For more information, visit the ODE website with the QR code or online at: [reportcard.education.ohio.gov/district/050070](https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/district/050070)

## Beyond the Report Card

While we are very pleased with our students' accomplishments, we acknowledge that our school district is more than just the information noted on the State Report Card. Our students' many achievements, experiences, and contributions shape our identity. To provide a comprehensive view of our diverse and balanced educational approach, the District mailed a Quality Profile to all households. This Quality Profile takes a deeper look into our educational philosophy, the enriching experiences we offer, and the varied successes of our students and staff.

## A Well-Rounded Education

The Quality Profile illustrates our dedication to offering a well-rounded education, encompassing academic achievements and a plethora of extracurricular activities, fostering holistic development in our students. We believe in cultivating an environment that nurtures varied talents and skills, preparing our students not only academically but also socially and emotionally for the future.



## Fostering Continuous Improvement

Our achievements on the State Report Card and the insights from our Quality Profile fuel our ongoing discussions and efforts aimed at continuous improvement detailed in our District's Strategic Plan.

Let's continue to work together to uphold our tradition of excellence while creating an enriching learning experience for all students!

## Twinsburg City School District Improves Reading Instruction for Students

Twinsburg City School District is committed to helping all students become successful readers by making changes to our reading instruction to align with the Science of Reading. The changes are based on the latest research on how children learn to read, and they are designed to help all students develop the decoding and comprehension skills they need to succeed.

Students will learn to sound out words by focusing on the individual sounds and patterns in words. Teachers will provide explicit and systematic phonics instruction, and early intervention will be a priority for struggling readers. Students will also have opportunities to practice phonemic awareness skills, the foundation of decoding.

By focusing on decoding and comprehension, the new reading instruction approach being implemented in the Twinsburg City School District is designed to help all students develop the skills they need to succeed.

### PARENTS CAN HELP BY:

- Encouraging their children to read every day
- Talking to their children about what they are reading
- Asking their children to sound out words they don't know
- Providing opportunities for phonemic awareness practice
- Working with their children on decodable readers
- Monitoring progress and contacting the teacher with concerns

By working together, we can help all students become successful readers.





Twinsburg City School District  
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**YOU'RE INVITED**

**Twinsburg CSD Update:  
Important Developments  
and the Path Ahead**

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 · 7 pm  
Twinsburg High School LGI  
(Large Group Instruction Room)

Twinsburg City School District is a 5-Star School District!  
Join us for an update celebrating our students' achievements  
and to hear the latest information about the District.

**Property Values and Its Impact on Twinsburg City School District**

Per Ohio Law, the county auditor or fiscal officer is tasked with setting the market value of properties every six years. This was done in Summit County in 2020. Every three years, they perform a property reappraisal update, which in Summit County was done this year (to take effect in January 2024). Reports indicate that property values are expected to have a 31.4% average increase. Similar and in some cases even higher growth is being reported in other areas across the state.

**Does the District Receive More Money as Property Increases in Value?**

No, except for inside millage. Voted school revenue does not increase as property values increase. In October 1976, the Ohio Legislature literally stopped increases in voted tax revenue to schools as a result of the increased valuation of property by approving House Bill 920. As a result, schools are locked into income from the tax valuations in place at the time a levy is passed. As a result, it does not factor in any inflation over the years.

**What is the Difference Between Unvoted and Voted Millage?**

*Unvoted millage*, also known as inside millage, is levied by local governments without a vote of the people. The maximum allocation of inside millage is 10 mills and is divided between county, school district, municipalities, and/or the township of each taxing district. The Twinsburg City School District receives 4.97 mills in this category.

*Voted millage*, also known as outside millage, is approved by a vote of the people. No outside millage can be collected without a majority vote from the voters in that specific community.

**What is a Mill?**

A mill is 1/10 of one penny. For example, 1 mill produces \$1 in tax income for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

**Is it True that the Current Millage is Less than the Total Previously Voted?**

Yes. Because of increased property values, the full-voted levy would raise more money than authorized. Therefore, HB920 requires millages to be lowered to an *effective millage* rate, so taxes do not generate an increase in revenue due to an increase in valuation as a result of reappraisal or triennial update.

**How Will the November Ballot Issue Affect Your Taxes?**

The Twinsburg City School District has a ballot issue coming up this November, for an additional 5.9 mills in property taxes, which will bring the District \$6,210,000 /year during its 10 year term - if passed. This additional funding is critical for maintaining daily operations, including the salaries of teachers and support staff, as well as sustaining educational programs and utilities. The added cost for a household is \$207 per year for every \$100,000 of the home's market value.

Ohio's school funding system is complex and confusing. If you have questions or need further clarification, I can be reached at 330-486-2000 or via email at [jrozsnyai@twinsburgcsd.org](mailto:jrozsnyai@twinsburgcsd.org)

Julia Rozsnyai, Treasurer/CFO

**If property values increase, do schools get more funding from voted levies?**

**NO, THEY DO NOT.**



\*Numbers used are for demonstration purposes only.