



Twinsburg City School District
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National Merit Semi-Finalists Announced

Congratulations to Twinsburg High School students **Jaren Jenyk**, **Norah Kremer**, and **Aria Gebby** for being named **National Merit Semi-Finalists**. These outstanding seniors were recognized for their exceptional academic performance and achievements.

They were joined by **Mrs. Karen Graves**, their 12th-grade counselor, in celebrating this significant accomplishment. We are proud of their hard work and dedication.

BUILDING UPDATE:

Tiger Legacy Project and Next Steps

The **Bond Levy for the Tiger Legacy Project** did not pass during the recent election. With a voter turnout of 78.05%, the levy failed by a margin of just 431 votes (7,249 to 7,608). Without the necessary funding for new construction, the District will continue to face challenges related to aging facilities and rising maintenance costs.

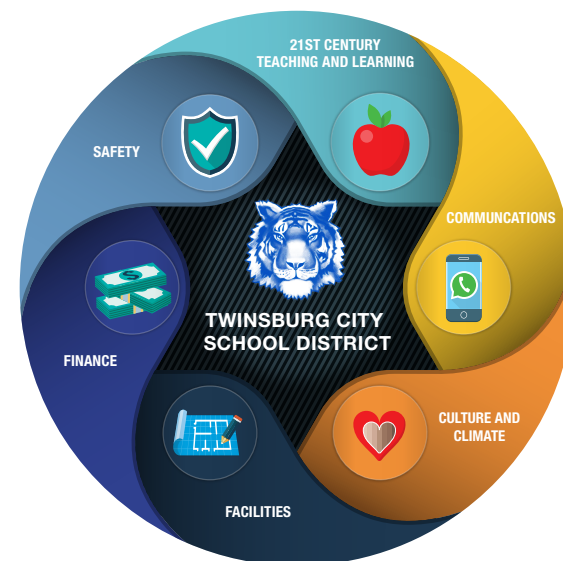
Our immediate focus is on making essential repairs to maintain safe and functional environments, with a priority on our elementary schools and athletic facilities. The Twinsburg Board of Education is reviewing the next steps for the Tiger Legacy Project, and we will keep the community updated as plans evolve. In the meantime, the District will continue to monitor and adjust its 5-Year Maintenance Forecast to address critical needs.

IMMEDIATE REPAIR NEEDS

- **RBC Gym Roof:** Estimated repair costs exceed \$1.2 million
- **Stadium Track Surface Repair:** Estimated cost exceeds \$10,000

While the outcome of the November election is a setback, the District remains committed to serving students and ensuring safe and supportive learning environments. Thank you for your continued engagement as we address these challenges.

TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Strategic Plan/Goal Areas 2024/2025



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

Twinsburg
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER



X @TwinsburgSupt

MID-YEAR REFLECTION:

Progress, Challenges, and Gratitude

DEAR RESIDENTS,

As we look back on the school year thus far, I want to thank our students, staff, and families for their continued dedication. We are Tiger Proud of our school district's 5-Star Rating as designated by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. From academic achievements to athletic success, our Tigers continue to learn, grow, and thrive, thanks to the support of our community members.

While the Tiger Legacy Project Bond Levy did not pass, our focus on maintaining safe and functional facilities remains. Current projects include repairs to the RBC gym roof and to the track surface at Tiger Stadium. We will continue to keep you updated as the Board of Education plans next steps.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a safe and enriching experience for all students.

Sincerely,

Kathi Powers

Kathi Powers
Superintendent, Twinsburg City School District

Science of Reading Update

The Twinsburg City School District has adopted **Benchmark Advance** as its curriculum for grades K-6. This program uses a structured, research-based approach to teaching reading, aligning with the *Science of Reading* principles. Lessons systematically build on foundational skills such as phonics, phonemic awareness, and vocabulary development to support student growth.

Benchmark Advance is designed to meet diverse learning needs by offering built-in scaffolding and spiraling throughout each unit. It also provides formative and summative assessments, as well as differentiated resources, allowing teachers to tailor instruction to individual students.

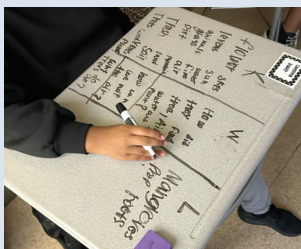
To further strengthen reading instruction, all Preschool-12 staff will participate in *Science of Reading* professional development sessions on January 6th, 7th, and 8th. These training sessions aim to deepen educators' understanding of best practices in literacy instruction.



Sixth-grade students
building background
knowledge



Fifth-grade teachers
working on Unit 1:
Cultivating Natural
Resources



Kindergarten
Benchmark Advance
assessment

Esports Club Launches at Twinsburg High School

This year, Esports has joined the lineup of extracurricular opportunities at Twinsburg High School, bringing an exciting new way for students to connect and collaborate. The THS Esports Club focuses on building relationships and fostering teamwork through gaming.

The club plays popular games such as Rocket League, Mario Kart, and Madden NFL, offering competitive opportunities for players of all skill levels. Both beginners and experienced gamers are encouraged to participate. Students in the club lead the way, managing practice environments in-person and online, communicating with teams from other schools, and gearing up for competitions on game days.

This student-led initiative has quickly become a positive addition to the high school, providing a supportive environment that emphasizes respect, teamwork, and good sportsmanship.



Students during gameplay



Team practice sessions



A student-led competition

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NEW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) INITIATIVE

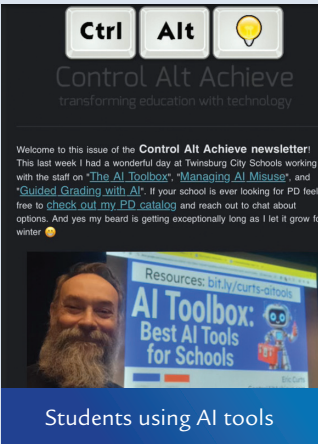
The Twinsburg City School District is embarking on an exciting new initiative, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. During the 2024-2025 school year, the District will convene a District AI Committee tasked with developing a comprehensive implementation plan for AI adoption. This initiative aims to enhance District operations, prepare students for future readiness, and improve service delivery and student achievement.

The District AI Committee has formed subcommittees to explore:

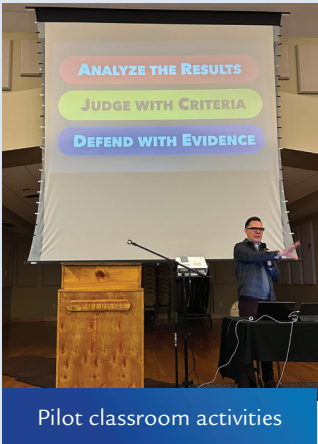
- AI integration in teaching and learning
- Administrative task efficiency
- Policy, safety, and security measures
- Ethical considerations

Key priorities include ensuring staff and student data privacy, equitable practices, and addressing ethical concerns surrounding AI use. Pilot programs will test AI tools in select classes and departments, with feedback collected from students and staff members. The committee will monitor, evaluate, and refine these pilots to shape AI policies and practices that align with District goals and community values.

This initiative represents a forward-thinking step in preparing students and staff for a technology-driven future.



Students using AI tools



Pilot classroom activities

Congratulations to Daneé Pinckney for being named Ohio Teacher of the Year!

Ms. Pinckney teaches English at Twinsburg High School. This prestigious honor reflects her exceptional dedication, passion, and commitment to our students and our Tiger family. Thank you, Ms. Pinckney, for making a difference every day!

2025 OHIO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Daneé Pinckney
Twinsburg High School

Congratulations!

FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS: Celebrating Our Tigers’ Achievements

The fall sports season in the Twinsburg City School District brought incredible performances, historic milestones, and moments of great pride. Here’s a recap of our Tigers’ outstanding achievements:



CROSS COUNTRY

- The **Girls’ Cross Country Team** placed 4th in the District Meet, advancing to the **OHSAA Regional Cross Country Meet**. Two athletes moved on to compete at the **OHSAA State Cross Country Meet** in Division 1:
- **Autumn Besett**: Finished 56th out of 182 runners
 - **Sam Hopp**: Finished 13th out of 178 runners



GIRLS’ SOCCER

- The **Varsity Girls’ Soccer Team** won the **OHSAA Division 2 District Championship**, defeating Nordonia, 3-0. The team advanced to the Regional Semifinal Game but lost to Avon.
- Coach Garber and the team were honored with the **Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award** during the **OHSAA State Championship Game**, recognizing their conduct throughout the season.



BOYS’ SOCCER

- The Varsity Boys’ Soccer Team had a historic season, reaching the Division 3 State Championship Game for the first time in school history. Highlights included:
- A **District Championship** win over Rocky River, 2-0
 - A **Regional Championship** victory against Revere, 3-0
 - A **State Semifinal Game** win over Columbus St. Francis DeSales, 1-0
- In the **State Championship Game**, the Tigers lost to Indian Hill, 1-0. During the season, **Head Coach Mike Lally** earned his **300th career victory**, marking a significant achievement in his 32 years of coaching the program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR athletes and coaches for their effort and dedication this season.

DISTRICT SAFETY MEASURES: Protecting Our Schools

The safety and security of students, staff, and visitors are top priorities for the Twinsburg City School District. In our ongoing efforts to enhance safety, the District has implemented several new measures and continues to explore innovative technologies to ensure a secure environment.



Walk Through Portable Metal Detectors

To prevent weapons, paraphernalia, or other potentially harmful items from being brought into our facilities or events, the District has invested in **walk-through metal detector units** from CEIA. These state-of-the-art detectors are portable enough to be utilized at our school buildings and District events, including stadium activities.

Our Administrative and Security staff have completed specialized training on these units, which will be used alongside metal detector wands. This initiative was made possible through an investment of approximately \$87,000 in **Safety & Security Grant funds**.

School Safe ID Visitor Management System

To ensure the safe entry of visitors and volunteers into our schools, we have partnered with **School Safe ID**. This cloud-based system uses advanced technology to verify and manage visitor access, adding another layer of security to our facilities.

School Resource Officers

We are proud to continue our partnership with the **City of Twinsburg Police Department** and the **Summit County Sheriff’s Office**. Through this collaboration, the District maintains daily **School Resource Officer (SRO)** coverage at our school buildings, ensuring a consistent and proactive presence to enhance safety.

Upgraded Bus Radio Communications

Over the summer, the District upgraded its **bus fleet radio communications system**. This included the installation of a new frequency repeater at Twinsburg High School, enabling clear communication across the District and with administrators inside school buildings. These improvements enhance coordination and ensure student safety during transit.

Looking to the Future

- The District is actively exploring cutting-edge technologies to further strengthen our safety measures:
- **Automated Optical AI Firearm Detection**: This system uses security camera feeds to detect firearms and immediately alert administration and first responders.
 - **Wearable Mobile Panic Buttons**: These devices provide rapid incident response capabilities for staff members.
- Both initiatives aim to enhance the safety of our facilities and could be funded through **Safety & Security Grant funds**.

These measures reflect our commitment to providing the safest learning and work environment possible for all members of the community.

FINANCIAL FORECAST UPDATE

Twinsburg City School District’s five-year financial forecast reflects our commitment to stability, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. While the forecast highlights challenges ahead, the District is taking proactive steps to maintain financial health and provide for student success. **Key points include:**

Stable Cash Balances

- The passage of the November 2023 levy was crucial in supporting the District’s finances, allowing us to maintain positive cash balances through 2027.
- ### Revenue Highlights
- Over 80% of the District’s revenue comes from local sources, including real estate and tangible property taxes, emphasizing the importance of community support.
 - State funding represents 17.98% of revenue, with projections remaining stable under current assumptions.

Expenditure Trends

- Salaries and benefits account for 83.8% of total expenditures, reflecting our investment in quality staff and education.
 - Costs are expected to grow by approximately 4% annually due to inflation and contractual obligations.
- ### Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility
- The District continues the intent of the Expenditure Reduction Plan of May 2023, to manage costs effectively.
 - Regular updates to the financial forecast ensure transparency and informed decision-making.

Twinsburg City School District remains dedicated to responsible financial management and ongoing communication with our community. These efforts are vital as we plan for the future and support educational excellence.