



# TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 13, 2025

Dear Tiger Family:

Here is this week's news...

### **Thank You, Tigers!**

The Twinsburg City School District, along with our TCSD Educational Opportunity Committee, proudly hosted *Rock Your Socks Spirit Week*, March 17 – 21, 2025, in support of students with disabilities and most especially, students diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Here are the results from that week:

- \* Wilcox Primary School - \$496.50
- \* Samuel Bissell Elementary School - \$568.00
- \* George G. Dodge Intermediate School - \$663.50
- \* RB Chamberlin Middle School - \$553.00
- \* Twinsburg High School - \$294.00 (donations submitted through the THS PTA are pending)
- \* Board of Education Office - \$180.00
- \* **Grand Total: \$2,755.00!!!**

This fantastic donation will be split evenly between the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio and our TCSD Special Olympics Team. Thank you, one and all!



### **Blue Diamonds Perform at University of Akron**

On Sunday, April 6th, our Twinsburg High School Blue Diamonds performed at the University of Akron. This performance was a special invitation by the Zips as their Zips Cheer Team prepared to head to the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Collegiate National Championships. Our Blue Diamonds was the only high school team to be invited to perform and have already been invited to perform at the University of Akron next year! With special thanks to our Blue Diamonds Advisors Ms. Tania Johnson, Mrs. Alyce Jones, and Ms. Melony Spencer for their inspiration. We are Tiger Proud of our Blue Diamonds!

*Unwavering Commitment – Unlimited Possibilities*









### **One More Chance to Tour BBH Elementary School**

If you have not already done so, it is not too late to RSVP to join us for a tour of Brecksville-Broadview Heights Elementary School! Our friends at Brecksville-Broadview Heights Elementary School have invited you to tour their PK-grade 5 new elementary school. This school is similar to what we hope to build in our school community as part of our Tiger Legacy Project.

Last Thursday, several of our Tiger Moms and Dads toured Brecksville-Broadview Heights Elementary School with Board of Education members Mrs. Beth Egan and Ms. Maria Hamilton, Business Manager Mr. Matt Strickland and me. It was interesting to hear our parents' feedback. I appreciated hearing their thoughts and suggestions about our proposed PK-6 elementary school. I am very grateful for the time our Tiger Moms and Dads spent with us for that tour.

One (1) remaining date is available, Thursday, April 17th at 6:00 p.m. If you can join us, please RSVP using the survey found at the following link: <https://forms.gle/7gvHKT8WRLmrv2FL7>



### **Mark Your Calendars for Our Next Community Conversation About the Tiger Legacy Project**

Our next *Community Conversation About the Tiger Legacy Project* is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Large Group Instruction Room at Twinsburg High School. During this session, we will update you about the project and answer your questions. If you need babysitting services for your child or children so that you can attend this important meeting, please RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/qQshyKnEvorLSq7T9>

### **Ohio Department of Education Directive Regarding Title VI**

You may have heard about the attached Dear Colleague Letter which was issued on February 14, 2025 by the Office of Civil Rights. In part, it reads,

*"Educational institutions have toxically indoctrinated students with the false premise that the United States is built upon "systemic and structural racism" and advanced discriminatory policies and practices. Proponents of these discriminatory practices have attempted to further justify them—particularly during the last four years—under the banner of "diversity, equity, and inclusion" ("DEI"), smuggling racial stereotypes and explicit race-consciousness into everyday training, programming, and discipline. But under any banner, discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin is, has been, and will continue to be illegal.*



***This letter provides notice of the Department's existing interpretation of federal law. Additional legal guidance will follow in due course. The Department will vigorously enforce the law on equal terms as to all preschool, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions, as well as state educational agencies, that receive financial assistance.***

***The Department intends to take appropriate measures to assess compliance with the applicable statutes and regulations based on the understanding embodied in this letter beginning no later than 14 days from today's date, including anti-discrimination requirements that are a condition of receiving federal funding.***

***All educational institutions are advised to: (1) ensure that their policies and actions comply with existing civil rights law; (2) cease all efforts to circumvent prohibitions on the use of race by relying on proxies or other indirect means to accomplish such ends; and (3) cease all reliance on third-party contractors, clearinghouses, or aggregators that are being used by institutions in an effort to circumvent prohibited uses of race.***

***Institutions that fail to comply with federal civil rights law may, consistent with applicable law, face potential loss of federal funding."***

In FY 2025, the Twinsburg City School District received the following Title funds (federal funding):

Title I-A Improving Basic Programs - \$335,647.16  
Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction - \$99,483.65  
Title III - Language Instruction for English Learners - \$38,477.26  
Title III - Immigrant - \$3,163.08  
Title IV-A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment - \$32,719.23  
IDEA - B - Special Education - \$808,544.14  
IDEA Early Childhood Special Education - \$22,012.51  
Totalling - \$1,340,047.00

Since receiving the February 14, 2025 Dear Colleague letter, we have been reviewing Board of Education Policies and Administrative Guidelines, Courses of Study, information on the District website, extracurricular programming, as well as other resources used in our school district to ensure compliance.

According to the US Department of Education, "Schools may not operate policies or programs under any name that treat students differently based on race, engage in racial stereotyping, or create hostile environments for students of particular races. For example, schools with programs focused on interests in particular cultures, heritages, and areas of the world would not in and of themselves violate Title VI, assuming they are open to all students regardless of race."

On April 3, 2025, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) received notification from the U.S. Department of Education that State Education Agencies are required to collect certification responses from Local Education Agencies (otherwise known as public school districts) to verify their compliance with U.S. Civil Rights laws. These laws aim to restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in public education - with the risk of losing federal funding for noncompliance. The deadline to submit signed certification responses to the DEW is Friday, April 18, 2025. I have been told repeatedly that failure to comply with this deadline may jeopardize access to federal funding.



We are closely monitoring this situation and will continue to follow guidance from legal experts and professional organizations, including the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Our goal remains the same: to ensure compliance with all federal laws while continuing to support students and staff in a safe and respectful learning environment.

I will keep our school community informed as we learn more.



### **Ohio House of Representatives Passes Its Version of Biennial Budget**

If you are like me, you have been monitoring the activity in Columbus regarding the State's Biennial Budget. Public education, once again, is under fire in the Budget Bill. Last Wednesday, the House passed its version of House Bill (HB) 96, the Biennial Budget and it now heads to the Senate for further review. One of the points of concern is a modification that will require the county budget commission to reduce school district property tax rates based on the District's carryover balance of 30% of the previous fiscal year's (FY) General Fund expenditures. In our case, our Five-Year Forecast indicates that the TCSD was at 30.9% at the end of FY24. If this language remains in the final version of the Biennial Budget, it would mean that our District would lose 0.9% or approximately \$531,000. This, along with other proposed modifications to the Biennial Budget, is very troubling.

To that end, I respectfully request that you reach out to our State legislators and advocate for a Biennial Budget that supports public education. Here are some talking points you may want to consider using:

- The modification to reduce school district property tax rates based on the District's carryover balance of 30% of the previous fiscal year General Fund expenditures overlooks the unique circumstances of each District and the reasons for their cash balances;
- The cyclical nature of levy approvals results in an increase of reserves in the early years of a Five-Year Forecast. This ensures that funding covers expenses through the life of a levy without making additional funding requests; and
- Cash reserves reflect the need to prepare for uncertainties through conservative budgeting practices.



Here is the contact information for our State legislators:

Senator Kristina Roegner  
1 Capitol Square  
First Floor, Room 142  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[Roegner@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Roegner@ohiosenate.gov)

Representative Steve Demetriou  
77 South High Street  
12th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[Rep35@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep35@ohiohouse.gov)

Thank you for taking action to support our students, our schools, our community, and public education.



#### **Wilcox Tigers Celebrate "Start With Hello" Week**

Last week, Wilcox Primary School recognized "Start With Hello" week. First graders who are part of Principal Lynn Turner's Principal's Advisory Council, led the school with a daily announcement that included a kindness quote and challenge. Students were asked to do things like give a compliment and invite someone new to play with them at recess. They also arrived at school early all week to welcome their peers as part of the school's "Smile Patrol".

Throughout the week, the whole school participated in collecting new toothbrushes, toothpaste, and kids' socks. These donations were sorted by students and will be delivered to a homeless shelter and the Emergency Assistance Center later this month. We are super proud of our kind Wilcox Tigers who are learning to be good citizens.







### **Congratulations to Our RBC Orchestra**

On Saturday, April 5th, our R.B. Chamberlin Middle School Orchestra students, under the direction of Mr. Damon Conn and Mrs. Claire Jarmusik, participated in the District Six OMEA Solo and Ensemble adjudicated event at Stanton Middle School in Kent. In total, out of thirty (30) events, our RBC Orchestra came home with 28 Superior ratings and 2 Excellent ratings. All 17 Orchestra soloists received the top rating of Superior! Solo and Ensemble provides each student the opportunity to perform before a judge and receive comments with a rating of I – Superior, II – Excellent, III – Good, IV, V).





The following students received **Superior** ratings on solos:

Benjamin Heim, violin  
Aditya Tang, violin  
Matthew Derillac, violin  
Chenuli Rupasinghe, violin  
Nora Maslo, violin  
Akira Stephens, violin  
Beatrice Jeffers, violin  
Gabriella Basta, violin  
Patrick Costigan, violin and piano  
Victoria Brandt, violin  
Thesath Wickramasinghe, viola  
Noah Sigg, viola  
Amelia Marquis, cello  
Genevieve Curry, cello  
Mila Rivas, string bass  
Benjamin Danzig, string bass  
Aadi Shah, piano

The following students received **Superior** ratings on ensembles:

Aditya Tang and Benjamin Heim, violin duet  
Chenuli Rupasinghe and Akira Stephens, violin duet  
Valeria Mendoza and Nora Maslo, violin duet  
Devlin Siau and James Myers, violin duet  
Genevieve Curry and Amelia Marquis, cello duet  
Chenuli Rupasinghe, Akira Stephens, Brinley Martinez, violin trio  
Imani Barton, Lehar Arya, Aisha Chakkarwar violin trio  
Victoria Brandt, James Myers, Macy Rein, string trio  
Aditya Tang, Benjamin Heim, Thesath Wickramasinghe, Genevieve Curry, Mila Rivas string quintet  
Beatrice Jeffers, Gabriella Basta, Sydney Thomas, Aadi Shah, Benjamin Danzig string quintet

The following students received **Excellent** ratings on ensembles:

Daniel Gibson and Caleb Epele, cello duet  
Taylor Rascon, Brielle Townsend, Noah Sigg, Aubrey Austin, Connor Edmondson, string quintet

We are Tiger Proud of our musically talented Tigers and we appreciate the leadership of Mr. Conn and Mrs. Jarmusik. Bravo to one and all!







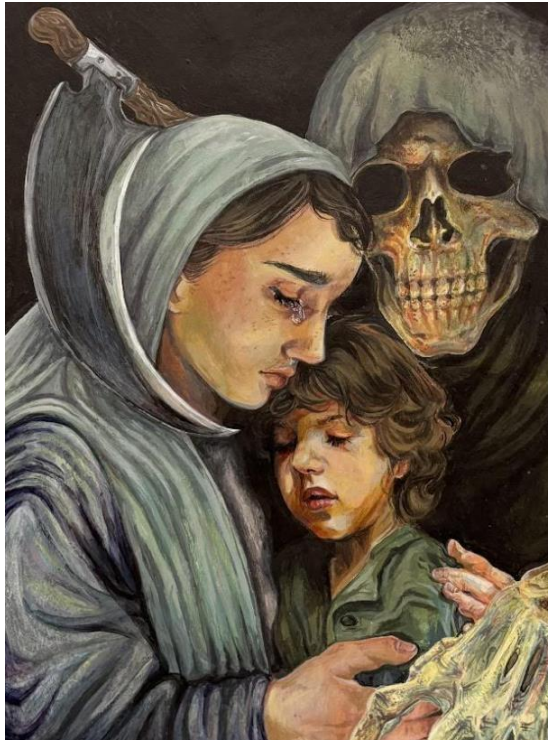




### **THS Tiger Carmella Faini Qualifier in Governor's Youth Art Exhibition**

Congratulations to Twinsburg High School junior Carmella Faini, who is a qualifier for the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition 2025! Carmella's artwork, Perseverance, is one of sixteen entries moving out of our region (Region 6 – Northeast Ohio) and heading to the State competition out of hundreds of submissions. The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition 2025 Award Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 4th at noon at the Verne Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in Columbus.

We are very Tiger proud of Carmella and her commitment to her craft. Only a junior, Carmella has perspective and talent beyond her years! Carmella is the daughter of Scott and Laura Faini of Twinsburg. With special thanks to THS Art educator Mrs. Ashley Tornow for her inspiration!



### **Twinsburg Vocal Music Boosters News**

Our Twinsburg Vocal Music Boosters (TVMB), under the leadership of Ms. Marcie Becker, support our vocal music program in the District, and most specifically, our Show Choirs. There are a number of fundraisers coming this Spring that will provide funds for our very musically talented Tigers:

April 26th - *Tag Day and Voucher Sale.* 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students from RBC Singers, Blue Harmony and Great Expectations will happily accept donations to support next year's competition season! In addition, they are selling hanging basket, flower flat and vegetable flat vouchers redeemable until May 26th at Kollman's Greenhouse on Ravenna Road in Twinsburg.

April 30th - *THS Spring Choir Concert* @ 7:00 p.m. TVMB will run a 50/50 raffle and have concessions at this concert.

May 3 - *Breakfast with the Princesses and Princes*, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Twinsburg High School Commons. See the attached flyer for more details.





### Hopping Along to Easter Weekend...

The Twinsburg City School District will be closed on Friday, April 18th. I wish all of our Tigers who are celebrating Easter next weekend much joy! Our TCSD Weekly Update will be on hiatus due to the holiday and will return on Sunday, April 27th.



Have a great week!  
Kathi Powers, Superintendent

