



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

11136 Ravenna Road • Twinsburg OH 44087-1022

Phone 330.486.2000 • Fax 330.425.7216

Kathryn M. Powers
Superintendent

Julia Rozsnyai
Treasurer

Matt Strickland
Business Manager

Ryan Bandiera
Director of Pupil Services

Jennifer Farthing
Director of Curriculum & Technology

Michael Sedlak
Director of Human Resources

April 6, 2025

Dear Tiger Family:

Here is this week's news:

An Update Regarding Our Tiger Legacy Project

The Tiger Legacy Project has been an evolving, community engaged plan in the Twinsburg City School District since 2016. Numerous focus groups and community conversations have been held to gather stakeholder input on all aspects of the project. The Twinsburg Board of Education partnered with Cordogan Clark Lesko Architects for pre-bond counsel and services related to the Tiger Legacy Project. During the 2023/2024 school year, the Board also sought the assistance of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). The OFCC completed facility assessments of our schools as well as an enrollment study. Although the District had previously assessed its properties and conducted two (2) other enrollment studies, with a third enrollment study conducted by the City of Twinsburg, the partnership with the OFCC ensured that objective data provided by an experienced State agency would be available for the Board's consideration.

There is no artificial sense of urgency to pass the bond as it relates to OFCC co-funding. If the bond levy is not successful in May, the OFCC cost set for 2025 will increase over the summer as it does every year. The cost of the project would then increase as well. The most cost effective time to address the growing needs of our facilities is now. There is no zero cost option. The Twinsburg City School District receives approximately \$2 million dollars per year in Permanent Improvement Funds. These funds are earmarked and used for capital repairs such as roofing, paving, electrical, plumbing, etc. These funds are also used for purchasing assets with a useful life of over 5 years, i.e. school buses, Chromebooks, computers, interactive flat panels, textbooks, etc. The funds can also be used toward various services such as capital repairs and improvements, architectural and engineering services, etc. While we greatly appreciate the Permanent Improvement Funds we receive, this funding source cannot keep pace with the rising costs of capital repairs and the cost of eligible goods and services.

The data from the OFCC's facilities assessment has been made readily available for anyone who has requested it and continues to be available at: <https://www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us/Downloads/TCSD%20-%20Master%20Plan%20-%20Public%20Record%20Data%202024.pdf>

Other related information can be found on the Tiger Legacy Project page on the District website at: <https://www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us/TigerLegacyProject.aspx>

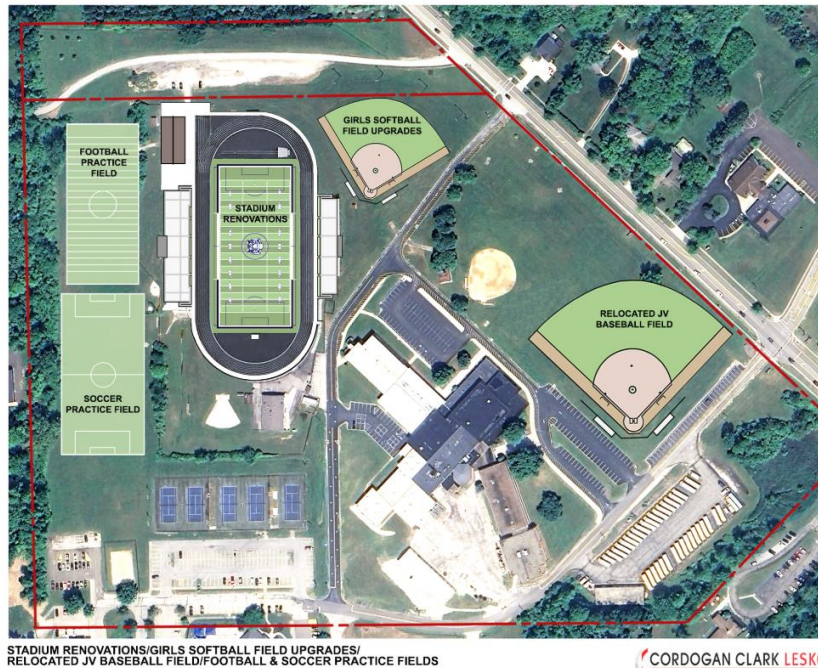
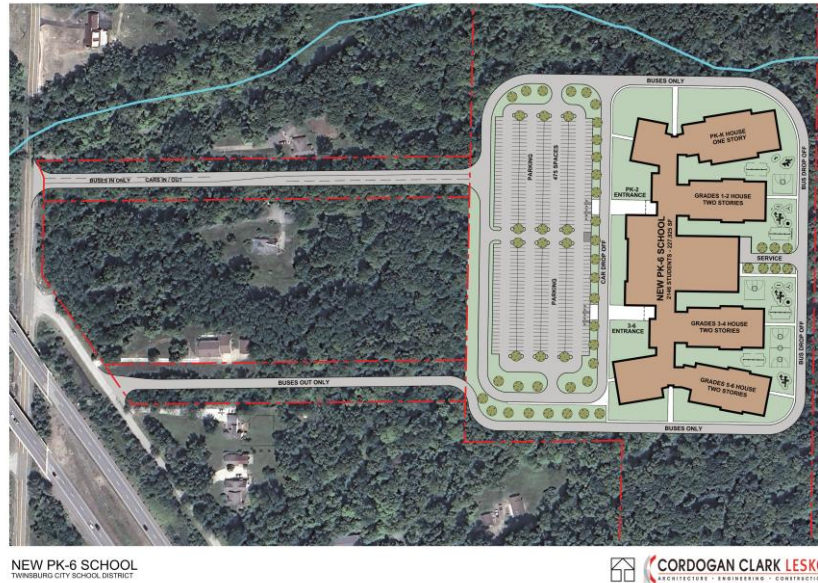
The Board of Education has again partnered with TMS Engineers, Inc. based in Twinsburg, to conduct a traffic study for our updated Tiger Legacy Project. This is the same company the District utilized to conduct the traffic study in the fall. The scope of our proposed new elementary school (PK-6) has not changed from the fall, so TMS Engineers, Inc. can utilize much of the data from that study.

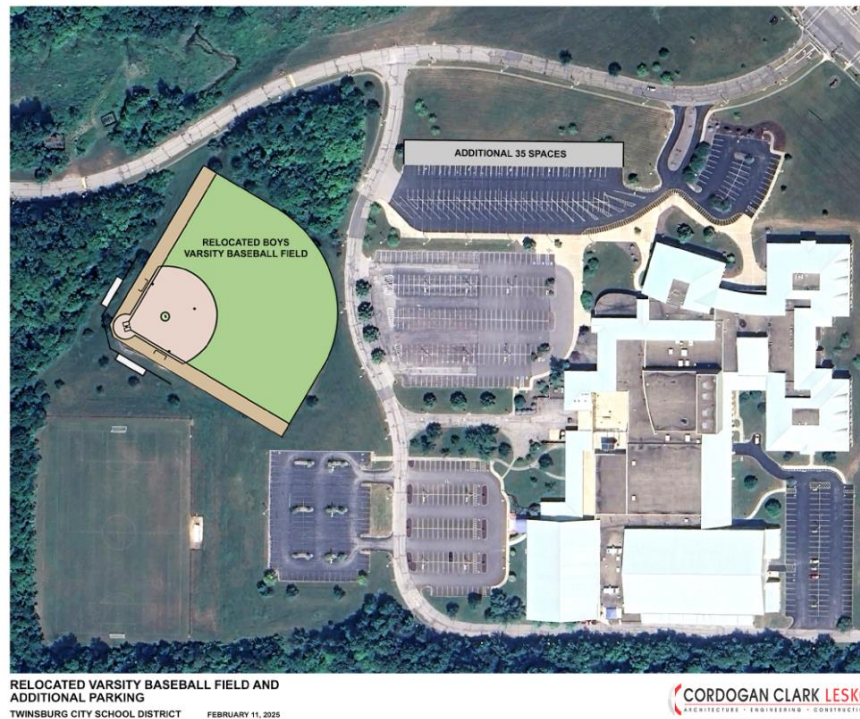
Unwavering Commitment – Unlimited Possibilities



The Board of Education has again partnered with TMS Engineers, Inc. based in Twinsburg, to conduct a traffic study for our updated Tiger Legacy Project. This is the same company the District utilized to conduct the traffic study in the fall. The scope of our proposed new elementary school (PK-6) has not changed from the fall, so TMS Engineers, Inc. can utilize much of the data from that study.

The Board has diligently and successfully worked with property owners to secure ingress and egress to the site of the new elementary school. Although we had hoped to provide ingress and egress via Ravenna Road, we were unable to secure properties there, thus, the driveway into the site of the new school will be connected to Chamberlin Road. Agreements with the property owners are now finalized and were authorized by the Board on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. I am delighted to share with you the final renderings for our Tiger Legacy Project. This project is being made possible through community partnerships:





These plans have been communicated to TMS Engineers, Inc. and they are finalizing the data for us. The data in the traffic study takes into consideration all bus, parent and staff traffic at our current PK-6 schools and imposes those patterns on the site of the new school. It takes into account current bell times, school zones, and other surrounding non-school traffic. Once those items are factored into the proposed location, they make determinations about where to place additional traffic lights, widen roadways, create turning lanes, etc. (if applicable). The traffic study will make key recommendations to the Board to consider when developing the land, and when working with the City to mitigate as many traffic concerns as possible. Now that the ingress and egress points are known and defined, TMS Engineers, Inc. can finish the study and we should have the results soon. The full report will be shared with the Board and with the community in the near future.

Since authorizing the partnership with the OFCC, the Board of Education has clearly explained what the funds can be used for. To recap:

1. The 17% co-funded portion of the project is applicable only toward building new academic square footage and abating and demolishing old square footage;
2. The renovation and relocation of athletic fields is not funded by the OFCC;
3. The Board can utilize the funds to invest in additional capital projects including the renovation of Twinsburg High School and/or RB Chamberlin Middle School;
4. The allocation of funds toward the balance of the bond; and
5. The co-funded portion cannot be applied to wages, benefits, or any other general fund expenditures.

The District has moved into an ELPP (Expedited Local Partnership Program) agreement with the OFCC to secure our place in the funding model. As of today, the exact date that the Board will receive the OFCC contribution, is still unknown. The OFCC is a state-funded entity. The date upon which the District will receive the co-funded amount is controlled by the budget allocated by the State.



Our architect and their engineering partners are exploring all of the best methods to develop the land for our new PK-6 elementary school. The architects have reviewed land surveys and records to ensure that the property can be developed. Once the Board of Education takes possession of the land, more extensive work will be done to determine the best foundation system to use. Every measure will be taken to not only ensure proper water mitigation on the school property but to also be good neighbors to the surrounding residents. District officials have already met with several residents who live in the condominium communities which border the site of our new elementary school along with their Home Owner Association representative to discuss various conversation points the residents raised during our Community Conversations about the Tiger Legacy Project. We have shared those points with our architect and are optimistic that as our project progresses, we can work to address their issues.

In terms of wildlife and other natural resources, numerous species and plants native to the area will be relocated to the Bissell Nature Park site which will be located on the current campus of Samuel Bissell Elementary School. In partnership with the OFCC, every effort will be made to leave as many trees standing as possible and to humanely relocate any wildlife displaced by the project. It is notable that approximately a quarter of the acreage in the site will not be disrupted.

Mortus Park is a small neighborhood park to the south of the proposed building site. The parcel on which the new elementary school will be built is not a designated park nor is it part of Mortus Park. Our architect and engineers have thoroughly reviewed property records and are conducting the necessary environmental studies to properly develop the land. We have also been in contact with officials from the City of Twinsburg to discuss this proposed building site and to secure any and all reports the City has regarding it.

We have consistently sought feedback from our residents regarding the Tiger Legacy Project. These continuing efforts date back to 2016 when the first generation of this project was introduced to our community. As far as site development, every effort will continue to be made to include the community in decisions in terms of lighting, sound, etc. on the new elementary school campus. The direction and timing of traffic, lighting, etc. will be designed to be the least impactful to residents as possible. Site improvement funds have been built into the overall budget for this project. These funds will be used to address soil issues and water mitigation during the site development stage. The District is committed to working in partnership with our surrounding neighbors and greater community.

While the City of Twinsburg and the Twinsburg City School District are two separate entities, they have a shared interest in a Land Swap Agreement. The District did not pivot to a different project. We listened to the concerns that the community and officials shared about the previous version of the Tiger Legacy Project and we revised the project accordingly. The City intends to construct a maintenance facility on the current Dodge campus property. It is our understanding that the City of Twinsburg did not have any plans to develop the parcel of land they offered to the Board for the construction of our new PK-6 elementary school. The land swap between the City of Twinsburg and the Twinsburg Board of Education serves multiple needs for both entities and it will prove to be a transformative project for current and future generations.



Eye of the Tiger, Season 2

I am delighted to present to you *Eye of the Tiger, Season 2*! Under the leadership of Twinsburg High School Broadcast Journalism educator Mr. Casey Kirtley, our Tigers have produced the first episode of this year's series. This first episode features our *Ohio Teacher of the Year* Ms. Danee Pinckney and the Ohio Association for Health, PE, Recreation, & Dance's (OAHPERD) *Dance Teacher of the Year* Ms. Merrin Richardson. Bringing this first episode to life were the following THS students: Nic (Micaiah) Smith, daughter of Josiah Quarles and Michelle Smith of Twinsburg, was the reporter for Ms. Pinckney's feature story. Nic also created the motion graphic introduction and background. Regan Ault, daughter of Amanda & Matthew Bernard of Twinsburg, was the reporter for Ms. Richardson's feature story. Angela Jackson, daughter of Lonny & Alisa Jackson of Twinsburg Township, anchored the introduction and was the videographer for Nic Smith's report. Marlena Riley, daughter of Ken Riley and Nora Suder-Riley of Twinsburg, anchored the introduction and was the videographer for Regan Ault's report. Aiden Bryan, son of Tracy Jones of Twinsburg, edited all the pieces together into the episode. Excellent job, Tigers! You can view this first episode of *Eye of the Tiger, Season 2* at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RNnkEw1LaJEJdsqj6x1-qrnv9RGiuAcX/view>



Twinsburg Schools Today, April Edition

Each year, *Twinsburg Schools Today* features an episode about the innovative programs being implemented in our classrooms, thanks to grant funding from the Twinsburg Schools Foundation. Our April edition features Wilcox Primary School Physical Education educator Mrs. Lauren Wilson as she introduces the "Power of Parkour" to our youngest Tigers. Next, we travel over to RB Chamberlin Middle School where Intervention Specialist Mrs. Laura Smalheer is using unique tools to assist our students in "Making Sense of the Middle School". We sincerely appreciate the Twinsburg Schools Foundation for their continued support of our school family. With special thanks to our friends at Community Focus for producing *Twinsburg Schools Today*! You can catch the April edition at: https://mycommunityfocus.app/programs/tstapril2025?category_id=72706



THS Band & Orchestra Enjoy Trip To the Big Apple

Our Twinsburg High School Band and Orchestra recently completed an outstanding tour of New York City! Over four (4) days, March 20th – 23rd, our students had the opportunity to sightsee, perform, and take in culture in one of the largest and most diverse cities in the world. Our Tiger Band and Orchestra had a great time and were wonderful representatives of our District while touring the city.

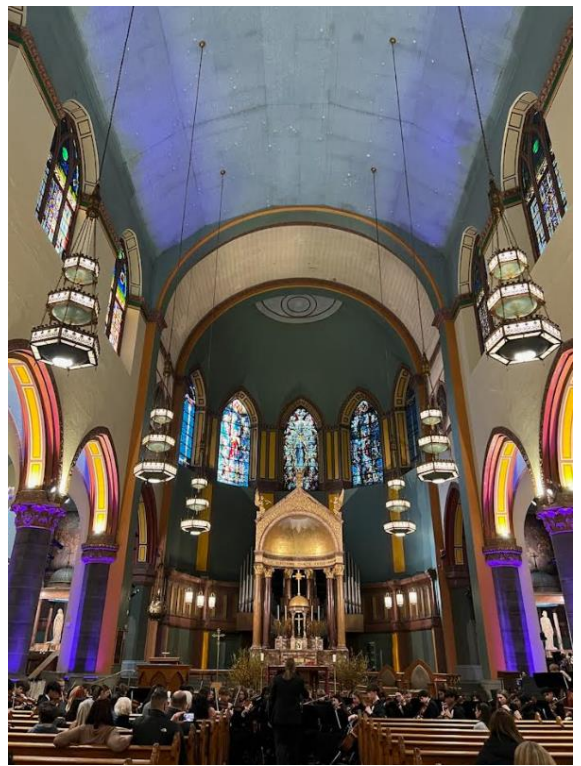
Highlights of the trip included performances in the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Columbus Circle, working and rehearsing with Mr. James Blachly, a Grammy-winning composer and conductor who is also a staff conductor for the New York Philharmonic, and watching some amazing performance on Broadway which included opportunities to see *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, and *Hamilton*.

Students toured popular and historically relevant areas of the city such as Time Square, Rockefeller Center, Central Park, Little Italy, and Chinatown. Our Tigers rode the Staten Island Ferry to see the Statue of Liberty and toured the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They also toured the National September 11th Memorial and Museum, a sobering opportunity that allowed our high school students to empathize and understand the ramifications of the actions taken on that fateful day.

We are sincerely grateful to our Directors and Assistant Directors, Mr. Ryan Bonitz, Ms. Samantha Gossett, Mr. Damon Conn, and Mrs. Claire Jarmusik, along with our Twinsburg Band Boosters and Twinsburg Orchestra Boosters for providing this spectacular experience for our Tigers.





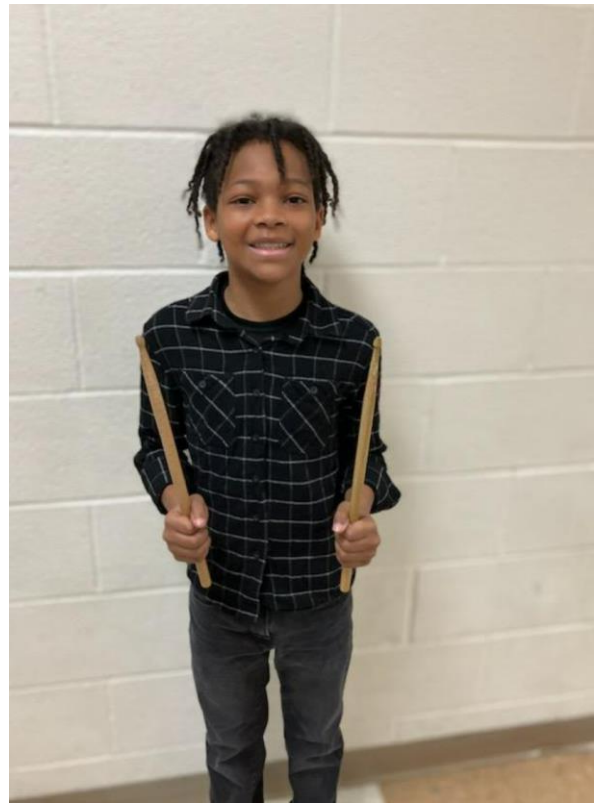




Congratulations to Our RBC Band!

On Saturday, April 5th, our RB Chamberlin Middle School Band traveled to Stanton Middle School in Kent to participate in the OMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest. Our musically talented Tigers finished the day with a historic 31 Superior ratings, 4 excellent ratings, and 3 good ratings! In fact, our RBC Band members participated in the most entries ever registered at the OMEA event in the history of our middle school Band program! We are Tiger Proud of our RBC Band, under the direction of Mr. Tom Resnick with the assistance of Ms. Samantha Gossett and Mr. Ryan Bonitz! Bravo, one and all!







Wilcox Reads Week

During *Wilcox Reads Week*, March 3rd – 7th, every student at Wilcox Primary School received the book, Layla and the Bots' Happy Paws, the first book in a young reader series by Vicki Fang. Ms. Fang is a former product designer for Google. At the end of each book, Ms. Fang includes a STEM challenge for readers. Wilcox students accepted the challenge to create a rollercoaster from recycled materials. After experimenting with different items and testing their rollercoasters, classes chose one to enter a school-wide contest. The creations were AMAZING and it was so interesting to see the development of more intricate rollercoasters from Preschool to Kindergarten to the First Grade. The winning classes in each grade received a popcorn party courtesy of the Wilcox PTA. Winners were: Preschool: Mrs Reiter and Mrs. Tirpak; Kindergarten: Mrs. Hardesty; and First Grade: Mrs. Scolaro and Mrs. Littler. It was a great week for one and all!







Congratulations to Our Students of the Month!

Congratulations to our April *Students of the Month* from Wilcox Primary School, George G. Dodge Intermediate School & Twinsburg High School who were recognized at last Wednesday's Board of Education Meeting. Way to go, one and all!





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.





Congratulations to our National Technical Honor Society Inductees

The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) is an international honor society for outstanding career and technical students of workforce vocational education institutions. It was established in 1984. Its initiates attend secondary and post-secondary schools. Each year, Twinsburg High School students who attend Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) are considered for induction into the NTHS. On Thursday, March 20, 2025, CVCC held this year's NTHS Induction Ceremony. We are Tiger Proud of this year's inductees:

- Olivia Albrecht, Dental Assisting - Olivia is the daughter of Kevin & Melissa Albrecht of Twinsburg
- Mia Benitez, Engineering Technology - Mia is the daughter of Juan & Nancy Benitez of Twinsburg
- Jake Gahagan, Construction - Jake is the son of Kevin & Jennifer Gahagan of Twinsburg
- Bearon Grant, Construction - Bearon is the son of Matthew & Alanna Grant of Twinsburg
- Jackson Philips, Programming & Software Development - Jackson is the son of Brad & Mindy Philips of Twinsburg
- Hannah Porter, Dental Assisting - Hannah is the daughter of Michelle Porter and Steve Van Ness of Twinsburg



Spring sports are underway! Please come out and support our Tigers.

Have a great week,
Kathi Powers, Superintendent

