



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Piper, Superintendent, Troy City Schools

Trojan Families:

Welcome back to another school year! We are so excited to have our students back in our buildings!

Our students have been back for a few weeks now, and have settled in nicely for the 2022-23 school year. There is definitely a sense of “normalcy” that has been absent at the start of the previous two school years. We are hoping to keep that positive momentum going through the remainder of the school year.

While we are only a few weeks into the school year, we have quite a bit of good news to report, all of which you can read about more in-depth elsewhere in this newsletter. For starters, the Troy City Schools District is among the top 15 percent of the 610 public school districts in Ohio, based on the annual state report cards recently released by the Ohio Department of Education.

Troy City Schools scored highest in Progress and Gap Closing, both of which are measures of how the district is doing compared to prior years. In the Progress category, Troy had the 19th-highest score out of 610 districts across the state of Ohio. Furthermore, Troy High School scored third out of more than 3,000 buildings in the Growth Index category.

We also are very proud to report we have two National Merit Semifinalists and two National Merit Commended Scholars at Troy High School this year.

We are incredibly happy with our progress and thankful for all of our classified and certified staff members who have helped to get us to this point. We know there remains important work to be done in our district, and with the help of our dedicated and hard-working staff members, we will get there.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead. Go Trojans!

Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper will deliver a “State of the Schools” speech at 7 p.m. Nov. 8 in the Troy High School commons. This event is free and open to the public. Also, you can see video updates from the superintendent on our YouTube page, available [HERE](#).



TROY AMONG TOP SCHOOLS IN STATE

TROY – The Troy City Schools District is among the top 15 percent of the 610 public school districts in Ohio, based on the annual state report cards recently released by the Ohio Department of Education.

The ODE gave each district 1-5 stars (1 being the lowest, five being the highest) in each of five categories: Achievement, Gap Closing, Progress, Graduation and Early Literacy. The district scored five stars in both Progress and Gap Closing, four stars in Achievement and Graduation, and three stars in Early Literacy.

“Overall, we were pleased to see how we scored in the latest round of school report cards,” Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper said. “Out of five stars, we had five stars in progress, five stars in gap closing, four stars in achievement and four stars in graduation. Overall that puts us in the top 15 percent of all school districts in the state. This is a testament to the hard work being done each and every day by our staff members.”

Troy City Schools scored highest Progress and Gap Closing, both of which are measures of how the district is doing compared to prior years. According to ODE, “Progress looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past state test performances.

The Progress Component measures the academic performance of students compared to expected growth on Ohio’s State Tests. This calculation uses a ‘value-added’ model of measuring academic growth that compares the change in achievement of a group of students to an expected amount of change in achievement that is based on the students’ prior achievement history.”

In the Progress category, Troy had the 19th-highest score out of 610 districts across the state of Ohio.

“We are particularly proud of the progress we’ve made,” Piper said. “We are focused on improving student learning and it’s good to see that hard work paying off.”

While pleased with the scores, Piper knows there still remains much work to be done in the district.

“We are incredibly proud of the work we have done and are continuing to do, but we also understand we still have a great deal of hard work ahead of us,” he said, “These scores tell us what we are doing works and we are headed in the right direction. We have dedicated professionals on staff who will continue to help our students dream big, work hard and succeed.”

TROY CITY SCHOOLS RECEIVE AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber recently announced the Troy City Schools received the Auditor of State Award for their clean audit report for Fiscal Year 2021. Less than 10 percent of all auditees received this award out of the more than 6,000 audits completed by the Auditor of State for 2021.

“We are very proud to have received this award,” Troy City Schools Treasurer Jeff Price said. “We work very hard to ensure we are being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.”

The Auditor’s office presents the Auditor of State Award to local governments and school districts upon the completion of the financial audit. Entities that receive the award meet the following criteria of a “clean” audit report:

- The entity must file financial reports with the Auditor of State’s office by the statutory due date, without extension, via the Hinkle System and in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles)
- The Audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weakness, significant deficiencies, Uniform Guidance (Single Audit) findings or questioned costs;
- The entity’s management letter contains no comment related to: Ethics referrals, questioned costs less than the threshold per the Uniform Guidance, lack of timely annual financial report submission, bank reconciliation issues, failure to obtain a timely Single Audit in accordance with Uniform Guidance, findings for recovery less than \$500, public meetings or public records issues
- The entity has no other financial or other concerns.



NEW SCHOOLS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Are we still planning to build new buildings?

A: Yes, the Board of Education does plan to bring an issue back to the voters when we receive word from the Ohio Facility Construction Commission that partial funding is available.

Q: What would be the projected cost to local taxpayers?

A: A portion of these buildings would be funded through a grant from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, with the remainder to be funded following the successful passage of a school bond issue. At this point we cannot say what the total cost would be but the last time we checked the state share was 42%.

Q: When will this issue go back on the ballot to be decided by voters?

A: We are waiting until we have received word from the OFCC that our funding is available if the voters of Troy pass the bond issue. We are currently on a waiting list for OFCC funding. While we don’t know an exact date when we will be eligible for funding, we are hopeful that funding will become available to us in the next two years.

Q: What happens to OFCC funding if the bond issue does not pass?

A: Once we become eligible for OFCC funding, we will have two election cycles to successfully pass a bond issue. If the district is unable to pass a bond issue in either of those election cycles, Troy City Schools will not receive OFCC funding and will have to move to the bottom of the waiting list to receive OFCC funding.

Q: Will the district have the same plan for new schools as it did in the spring of 2020?

A: Once funding becomes available, we would then determine what our best plan for new schools would be moving forward.

FIELD TURF FOR TROY MEMORIAL STADIUM, FERGUSON FIELD



Led by a group of private citizens, the Troy City Schools currently are looking at a Troy Memorial Stadium/soccer field turf project that would remove natural grass from both Troy Memorial Stadium and the soccer field, then install field turf at both locations.

Additionally, the new soccer field would be reconfigured to make it a wider playing surface. There also would be permanent lighting installed, as well as upgrades to the press box, bleachers, scoreboard and fencing.

With turf at both locations, football games would be played at Troy Memorial Stadium, while all soccer games would take place on their new field. Currently, both varsity football and varsity boys and girls soccer games are played at Troy Memorial Stadium.

The total estimated cost of this project will be \$3.9 million for both fields. The turf project is being led by a group of volunteers and is being funded through private donations. There will be **NO INCREASE** for taxpayers as a result of this project. To donate, click [HERE](#)

There are a number of advantages to having field turf at both locations vs. having natural grass. Having field turf means the ability to play games and host band competitions will no longer be affected by inclement weather. It would also make it easier to schedule practice time and games for our football teams (varsity, junior varsity, freshman, seventh grade and eighth grade), as well as our soccer teams (varsity and junior varsity boys and girls).

There would also be long-term cost savings as a result of installing field turf, as field turf does not have to be mowed, fertilized, or painted, saving on labor costs and hours on a weekly basis, year after year. The estimated yearly savings in field maintenance would be approximately \$43,000.

With field turf, we will have the ability to host additional events, including playoff games. When selecting sites to host playoff football and soccer games, the Ohio High School Athletic Association gives priority to schools with field turf. Currently, Troy Memorial Stadium does not host neutral site playoff games despite a seating capacity of 10,500. In addition to hosting playoff games at Troy Memorial Stadium, Troy also would have the ability to host club soccer tournaments. The estimated yearly revenue for our athletic program from hosting these events would be approximately \$40,000. Also, when visiting fans attend events they also take advantage of the amenities our community has to offer, including dining, lodging and shopping.

THS SENIORS EARN NATIONAL MERIT AWARDS

TROY – Troy High School seniors Luke Huber and Savannah Swanson have been named National Merit Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program, while fellow seniors Aden Nave and Katie Hansbarger both were named National Merit Commended Scholars.

Huber and Swanson each recorded two of the top scores in the nation on the PSAT test, taken in the fall of 2021 by high school juniors. To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, each must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements explained in the information provided to them by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Both found out they had received the prestigious honor last week with a surprise call to the guidance office.

"I was initially caught off guard a little bit, because I wasn't really expecting it," Huber. "I knew the results were coming out soon, but I didn't realize it was going to be that very day. It was really just a little crazy. They called me down to guidance, and I looked in and just about every important person in the building was in that room. I was confused when I walked in, and then happy when I walked out."

Like Huber, Swanson was surprised, yet happy, to find out she had been named a semifinalist.

"It was crazy. I think walking into that room after Luke, I was not super worried, because I was like, 'This probably is good,'" Swanson said. "But I've been watching and I've been thinking maybe this could be something I could have received, but I wasn't sure. I have been keeping up with it. I just felt incredibly honored to walk into that room and have those people award me with this. It's very exciting."

Both said working hard in school and maintaining good grades is a top priority.

"Obviously for me, it's been the No. 1 thing and No. 1 focus in my life is trying to get the grade and get the A and stay at this level," Swanson said. "It's an amazing feeling to see your hard work pay off in this way. I'm just very thankful."

Huber agreed.



"It's been very important to me just trying to keep the As in classes. Some classes that's easier said than done. Just constantly working away, and looking back, it's all been worth it. I don't have any regrets doing what I did."

In addition to excelling in the classroom, both are involved in a number of extracurricular activities and both volunteer their time outside of school, as well.

Huber is a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Business Club, the Patriot Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He's on both the golf and basketball teams for the Trojans. Huber also is active in his church youth group at Christian Life Center in Dayton.

Swanson is a member of ASTRA, Latin Club, Culture Club, National Honor Society, Math Club and Drama Club. She's a member of the Troy High School tennis and softball teams, as well as the Trojan Thunder traveling softball team. She enjoys the theater, and has appeared in "Shakespeare in Love" and "High School Musical" at the Troy Civic Theater. She also has volunteered with Reading Buddies, Lunch Buddies, Hayner Art Camps and at the park district.

Swanson plans to major in communications or a related field, while minoring in graphic design, with the intent of becoming a creative director. She's looking at Northwestern University, Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati.

Huber plans to attend Liberty University in Virginia and major in engineering.

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