

BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Fall 2024



FALL
2024
EDITION

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New facilities creating world-class opportunities for Bronchos.

4 Connecting families

New parent outreach program connecting families with critical resources.

7 Bronchos helping Bronchos

Hope Squad supporting classmates.



Superintendent Scott Roper

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Welcome to the Fall 2024 edition of the Broncho Press!

The new school year is off to an outstanding start, thanks to our amazing Broncho students, teachers, staff and families. I can't wait to update you on all the exciting news that is already making the new school year one for the record books.

This edition of the Broncho Press highlights many new programs and initiatives designed to help prepare our students for success and the careers of tomorrow.

We're particularly proud of our community's continued investment in our Bronchos including several 2022 bond projects that are coming to fruition. In this edition, we celebrate completion of our new Construction Trades Center, which is dedicated to preparing our students for in-demand, good-paying jobs in the skilled trades. We also celebrate completion of major upgrades to Holly Stadium that help provide world-class athletic facilities for our Bronchos.

We also provide an update on construction of the new Holly Middle School, which, when completed, will provide modern, state-of-the-art educational facilities that prepare our students for success in the classroom and beyond.

You'll also read about our continued efforts to support the overall well-being of our students. These include our new parent outreach program that connects families with critical mental health and other resources, and our new Hope Squad, which provides students with tools to help support classmates struggling with mental health issues.

Also in these pages, we acknowledge some of the latest achievements of our exemplary students, staff and families inside and outside the classroom.

As always, it is an honor serving as your superintendent.

#BronchosUnited!

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent



Bronchos in the News

"Holly High School student wins statewide 'I Voted' design contest with whimsical creature"



(Mid-Michigan Now, Nov. 4)

"Holly Marching Band completes 'clean sweep' season on the competition field"



(Lasco Press, Oct. 30)

"Holly schools celebrates upgraded stadium and new construction trades center"



(Oakland County Times, Aug. 27)

"Bronchos repeat MITES statewide title"



(Tri-County Times, May 24)



Bronchos celebrate new Construction Trades Center, Holly Stadium upgrades

In August, the Broncho community celebrated completion of the new 6,500-square-foot **Construction Trades Center** at Holly High School and major upgrades to **Holly Stadium**.

The new Construction Trades Center is home to the district's award-winning skilled trades program. Upgrades to the stadium include a new track and state-of-the-art athletic field turf. State Sen. **Lana Theis** attended ribbon cuttings for both projects, and the **North Oakland Regional Chamber Association** and **Oakland County Board of Commissioners** voiced their support for the new skilled trades and athletic facilities.

"Our Construction Trades Center will provide a hub for our Bronchos to obtain the training they need to succeed in this dynamic industry," said **Jennifer Fettig**, Holly Area Schools director of career programming and business partnerships.

"These new facilities will support our already stellar athletic programs that equip our Bronchos with teamwork, problem solving and other key life skills that help them compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow," said **Casey Lombard**, Holly High School athletic director.



New Holly Middle School construction on track

Construction of the new Holly Middle School is on track for completion in time for the 2025-2026 school year. The project is being funded by the 2022 voter-approved bond.

The new 143,000-square foot facility has been constructed with an astounding 190,000 blocks and 84,000 bricks! It will feature modern classrooms, advanced STEM classrooms and labs, and a multi-purpose gymnasium, along with outdoor features including a new football field and track, baseball diamond, basketball court, and outdoor seating and play areas. A year into construction, some significant milestones have been met:

- The majority of the building's brick veneer and concrete-slab foundation have been completed.
- Work has begun on interior masonry walls, hanging sheet metal duct for the HVAC system, and installing skylights.
- Grading for the football field and baseball field is completed.
- Construction of the middle school drive has been completed, connecting Maple with the Karl Richter Center and the middle school.

Stay tuned for more updates!





Bronchos mark another successful parent camp

The 8th annual Health and Enrollment Fair and Broncho Parent

Camp took place just before the new school year got underway and saw a record-breaking attendance of nearly 800 Broncho community members.

The events took place Aug. 3 and provided a chance for parents to attend sessions on matters critical to life in

school, including the dangers of vaping, mental health, bullying, smartphone use, suicide prevention and study skills. Over 250 backpacks with supplies were distributed, **Springfield Urgent Care** conducted 25 sports physicals, **Holly Vision/Iris Eyecare** conducted 36 vision screenings, and the **Oakland County Health Department** conducted 36 dental screenings.



Parent outreach program promotes student wellness, success

The **Holly Area Schools parent outreach program** helps promote student wellness and success through a series of initiatives to support all Broncho students, parents and guardians. The new district-parent partnership will connect Broncho families with mental health services and provide helpful tools, resources and awareness for families on a variety of topics to best support our youth.

The program is led by **Cheryl Price**, the district's counseling specialist, and **Sydney Sinclair**, the district's family school liaison. One of the first initiatives of the program is a partnership with Care Solace, a mental health care coordination service for K-12 school districts. Care Solace coordinates wraparound support services for students, staff and family members.

"It's important to break down walls that prevent our students and families from accessing mental health care, and this program will help bolster our continued efforts to promote student mental health in our district," Price said.

"Raising awareness about mental health and working with students and families to get help when they need it is part of our commitment to providing our Bronchos with a world-class education that prepares them for bright futures and careers," Sinclair said.



Davisburg teacher recognized for excellence in Hockeytown



A Davisburg Elementary teacher has been named a **Detroit Red Wings Best in Class** winner for her hard work and dedication to preparing her students for success in the classroom and beyond.

Brittany Osmialowski, who has been teaching at the school for eight years, received the award at a dinner at Little Caesars Arena Oct. 10 along with 24 other teachers. The educators also received tickets to the Red Wings home opener, where they were recognized during the game's first intermission. Former Red Wing **Drew Miller** presented the awards.

"It was such a great experience," Osmialowski recalled of her night in Hockeytown. "It was an honor to represent Davisburg Elementary and Holly Area Schools."

LEAD program rewards positive student behavior

Bronchos from elementary school to high school have a new incentive to show what it means to show #BronchoPride, thanks to a new program designed to promote a nurturing and respectful school environment.

The **LEAD program** emphasizes "L" for listening to others, "E" for offering encouragement, "A" for acting responsibly and "D" for displaying kindness and respect. The program establishes principles for students to follow, and empowers staff to reward them. Students can receive "tickets" for demonstrating good behavior that enter them into regular drawings for prizes.

"At Holly Area Schools, we promote each of the LEAD behavioral benchmarks that help promote the behavioral, academic, social, emotional and mental health of all Bronchos," said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. "We look forward to implementing LEAD programs in all of our schools this year as part of our commitment to student wellness and success."



Holly Elementary Students

- L** Listen to others
- E** Encourage everyone
- A** Act responsibly
- D** Display kindness & respect



Broncho Marching Band completes ‘clean sweep’ season on the competition field

The **Broncho Marching Band** has made school history by completing a perfect season of first-place finishes on the competition field, wrapping up on Oct. 26 as they nabbed the top prize at the Brandon Invitational and a “clean sweep” season — the best in school history.

Here is a recap of the Broncho Marching Band’s other wins during the record-breaking season on the field:

Oct. 5: Troy Athens Invitational

- First-place finish
- Caption awards for best music and best color guard

Oct. 15: Swartz Creek Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Marching Band Festival

- Straight 1’s - 11th consecutive year
- All A’s for every category of music, marching and visual effect



Oct. 19: Chippewa Valley Invitational

- First-place finish
- Caption awards for best music, best marching and best percussion

Oct. 25: Brandon Invitational

- First-place finish
- Caption awards for best music, best marching, and best percussion.

“I am so proud of the tireless hard work before, during and after school our students invested in achieving our ‘clean sweep’ season for the Broncho Marching Band,” said **Ben Baldwin**, Holly High School’s band director. “It has been truly rewarding working with this extraordinary group of talented young musicians and seeing them make school history on the competition field.”



Thousands take part in Festival of Races

In September, high school athletes from across Michigan took part in Holly High School’s **56th Annual Holly Duane Raffin Festival of Races** at Springfield Oaks Fairgrounds in Davisburg.

Around 100 high school teams and 40 middle school teams — roughly 3,500 runners — took part in the Sept. 14 event. The Festival of Races began modestly on the second Saturday after Labor Day as an invitational meet with eight teams organized by the late Coach **Duane Raffin**, and it’s grown into one of the signature cross country events in Michigan.

This year’s event was pulled off thanks to the efforts of **Rich Brinker, Gena Houldsworth, Michael Ponkey, Gabe Sanchez** and **Adam Cutsy**.

“It is truly special that Holly Area Schools has the honor of hosting this event, which has become a cornerstone of each year’s cross country schedule in Michigan,” said **Casey Lombard**, Holly High School athletic director.

Hope Squad tackles Broncho mental health

Kindness: Check.
Approachability:
They've got that, too.

Trustworthiness: These young people have got that in spades. These are the qualities of students who've been selected to provide a helping hand to classmates in need on Holly High School's new **Hope Squad**.

Hope Squad is an evidence-based, peer-to-peer youth suicide prevention program dedicated to spreading hope and creating a school culture that promotes connectedness and inclusivity. The program is supported by studies that have found students struggling with mental health issues are more likely to respond to help from their peers than from counselors or teachers.

Hope Squads are encouraged to meet regularly to learn, discuss and collaborate on ways to promote mental wellness.



They do not replace school counselors or other school mental health professionals, but rather provide members with skills needed to spot signs of suicide, intervene when needed, and make sure classmates seek professional help. Learn more at hopesquad.com/.

Elementary Meet and Greets a huge success



Holly Area Schools elementary school students and their families participated in the annual **Teacher Meet and Greet** on Aug. 21. The event provided students and their parents a chance to tour their elementary building, reunite with old friends, and become comfortable in their learning environment ahead of the new school year. There was roughly 80% parent attendance at each elementary school building.

Our parent groups shared how they support our schools and encouraged other parents to get involved. There was also an opportunity for students to learn how to get involved with local youth scouting groups, LEGO® Robotics Teams and sports groups. Parents also learned about district support services and community resources essential to the success of our Bronchos.



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