

BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Fall 2022



FALL
2022
EDITION

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Back to business

Bronchos learn to build successful businesses from the ground up.



Superintendent Scott Roper

Welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of the Broncho Press!

For Holly Area Schools, the past several months have been truly exciting.

I'd like to start by thanking our entire Broncho community for supporting our May bond request that will help Holly Area Schools continue to grow and improve by providing our students the resources they need to learn and succeed. Work is already underway to enhance learning and safety and build a new middle school, among numerous upgrades districtwide. You'll read about some of the projects in the following pages, and I'll be providing regular updates on our progress in the months ahead.

You may also recognize some familiar faces in this edition of the Broncho Press. We recently completed a districtwide photoshoot to capture all the exciting things happening in our schools and our amazing students, teachers, administrators and staff.

In this edition, you'll read about our FIRST robotics program, now covering third through 12th grades, as well as the progress and success of our teams to date. The continued commitment to and enthusiasm for our robotics teams build upon our solid foundation in STEM learning. I'm grateful to everyone involved for helping drive Holly Area Schools robotics forward.

I'm also proud of the students, staff and teachers in our Construction Trades program. At recent county and statewide competitions, our Bronchos excelled

against some of the best students across Michigan. Our Construction Trades program provides an excellent introduction to a rewarding and lucrative career in the high-demand skilled trades. Students and families can learn more about the program in this edition.

We're also excited to share the strides Holly High School's theater company, Running Horse Stage Company, has made in just one year. In the coming months, students will stage three productions that will entertain audiences. Read about them in this newsletter — and mark your calendars!

Congratulations to Coach Don Pluta for his recent induction into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. This is Coach Don's latest Hall of Fame induction, adding to the Michigan Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Michigan Wrestling Association Hall of Fame. Learn more about his latest accomplishment in this edition.

There has never been a better time to be a Broncho.

As always, I am honored to serve as your superintendent.

Go #BronchosUnited!

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

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BRONCHOS IN THE NEWS



“Holly football team starts 2-0 for first time in five years”

(NBC Channel 25, Sept. 8)

“Holly Area Schools hosts First-Ever Broncho Parent Camp”

(Lasco Press, Sept. 8)

“Holly High School Band Serenades Hawaii During Summer Trip”

(Lasco Press, June 16)

“\$97 million bond approved for Holly schools; new middle school to come” (MLive, May 4)

Stay up to date on all the latest exciting Broncho news at hask12.org/district/news-superintendent/press-releases.

Every day counts, every Broncho matters

Daily attendance at school is the first and most important step in preparing all Bronchos for success and the jobs of tomorrow.

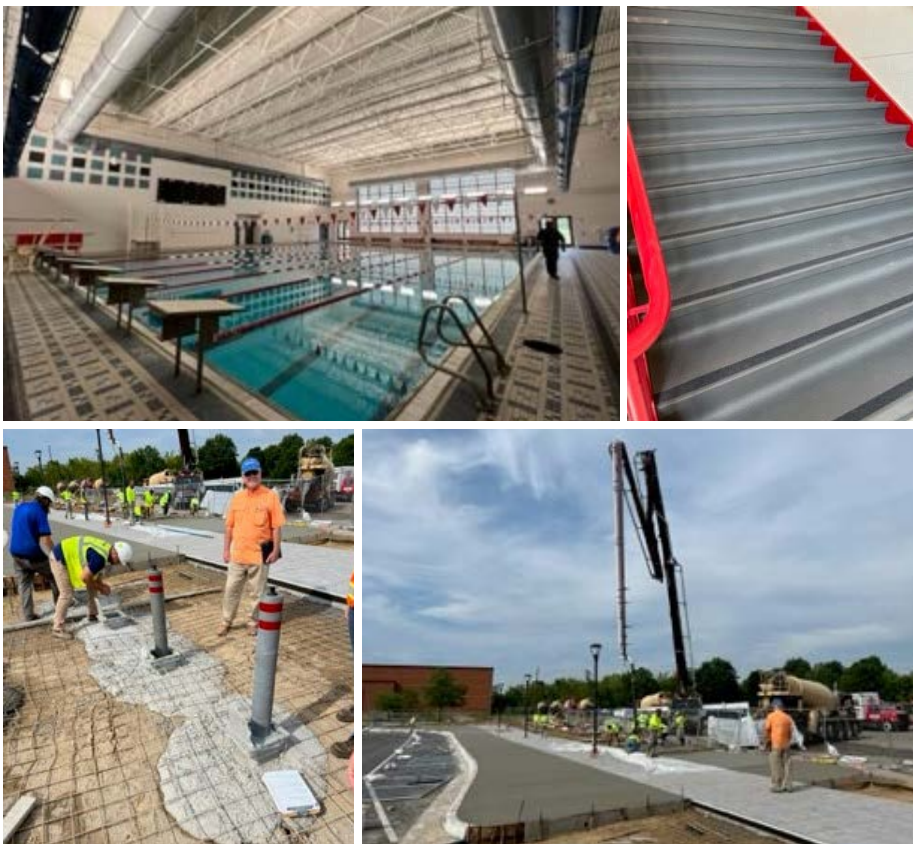
That's why we're asking our parents to help us ensure positive, daily attendance this school year and beyond. Parents can help by encouraging daily routines, avoiding scheduling medical appointments during school hours, and insisting their child attends school unless they are truly sick.

Parents should also track their child's academic

progress, speak to teachers and counselors if they notice sudden changes in behavior, and ensure absences don't pile up.

Research shows that when students are absent just two days a month — regardless of the reason — they can fall behind academically. Studies also show students are more likely to achieve academically and thrive socially by simply attending school.

“Every day counts, and every Broncho matters,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. “Let's work together to help ensure our students attend school every day possible this school year as we provide new and innovative opportunities for all Bronchos to achieve and succeed.”




Building for the future

Holly Area Schools is excited to build for the future, thanks to a bond issue overwhelmingly approved by voters in May. The bond approval paves the way for major districtwide construction and technology and safety upgrades that will help all Bronchos achieve and succeed.

We have begun the planning and design phases for:

- New Holly Middle School
- New Construction Trades Building at the High School
- New tennis courts
- New septic field projects at Davisburg and Rose Pioneer elementary schools



This summer, construction crews finished work on parking lots, sidewalks and improved lighting at Holly High School. The High School also got an interior upgrade: Carpet and restroom fixtures were replaced, interior signs were put up, and the pool got a new translucent panel. This is all part of ongoing work from the 2018 bond approval. 

Broncho Homecoming celebration



Broncho Nation celebrated Homecoming with a host of festivities that demonstrated what Broncho Pride is all about. The events kicked off Sept. 27 with the annual powderpuff game between the juniors and seniors, which raised funds for the student leadership program. Bronchos showed their school spirit at the Sept. 30 pep assembly, which was followed by the Homecoming parade.



About 3,000 people attended the Homecoming game, which culminated in a victory against the Flushing Raiders, 21-14. The Homecoming dance followed on Saturday evening at the high school.

Additional Broncho athletics highlights:

Hometown Heroes game: Bronchos honored active service military members and veterans during the Hometown Heroes game on Oct. 14.

Raffin Festival of Races: The Holly Cross Country team hosted one of the nation's largest high school cross country invitationals on Sept. 17. More than 3,400 high school and middle school runners participated from 100 high schools and 45 middle schools.

Construction Trades program's strong first year

In Spring, Holly High School students received top scores at the Michigan Industrial and Technical Education Society (MITES) Region 7 Oakland County competition in just the first year of the Construction Trades program.



The Broncho students and their projects finished first, second and third. Those students then went on to the MITES statewide competition in Lansing, where they finished fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and ninth. This year, students in the Holly High School

Construction Trades program will work on some exciting and useful projects:

- Students will build 10 new math book carts, with Level 2 students working with the math department.
- Students will build a children's playhouse that's 4 feet by 4 feet, with three windows and a doorway.

This year, students in Advanced Construction will also prepare for and take the OSHA-30 test, which focuses on safety at work sites.

"This program has made enormous strides in such a short period of time, and it is so exciting to see the continued progress of our students in our shop and in competition," said Construction Trades teacher **Tony Ceccacci**.



Business savvy starts early

Holly High School's marketing and business Career and Technical Education program is providing students a taste of building a business from the ground up and entrepreneurship in the real world.

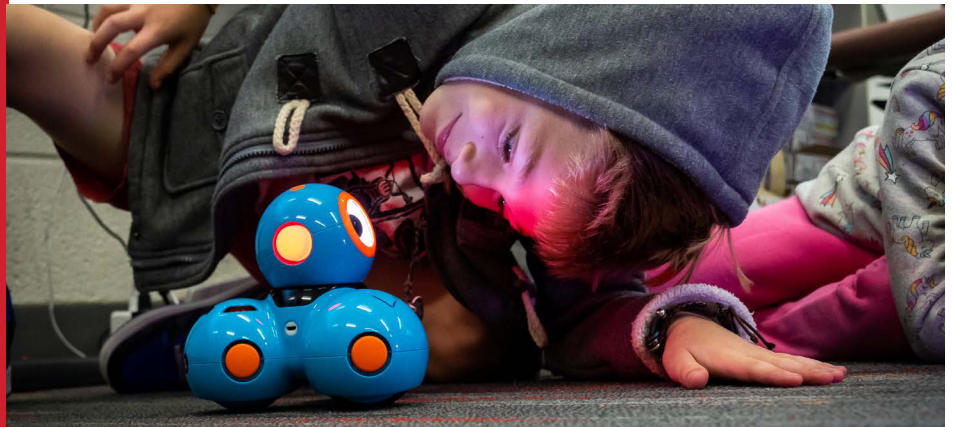


Second-year students are applying fundamental business, marketing and management skills in the

student school store, The Redzone, which sells a large selection of Holly spirit wear, among a host of other items. Students apply and interview for positions at The Redzone, including department employees, department managers and executive positions.

"It's rewarding to see our students show such passion for the critical elements of starting and running a business of any kind in today's competitive marketplace," said business education teacher **David Golec**. "Our program provides real-world skills our students will utilize one day as the entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow."

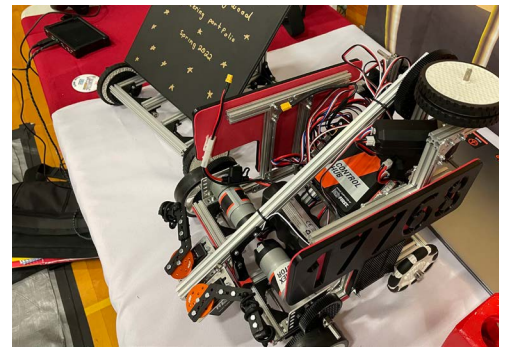
Holly's business-marketing students are also encouraged to participate in DECA, an international organization for emerging leaders and entrepreneurs interested in careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.



Great strides in robotics

Holly Area Schools FIRST robotics teams, now offered for third through 12th-grade students, successfully completed competition this past spring and achieved several milestones in the process.

Patterson Elementary, also known as "Mini-Hollywood," took First Place in the Innovation Project. The award is given to the team that makes the best use of diverse resources to solve problems. Patterson Elementary students took the top innovation prize for their creativity and teamwork. They were consistent throughout competition, scoring 145 points on each run.



The Rose Pioneer Elementary team scored 180 points, nearly double their mark at the start of competition, and finished tied for fourth place.

The Holly Elementary "Frog Monsters" showed determination and progress, finishing the contest with 100 points after starting with 20 points.



Holly Middle School students made the semis in their first-ever competition, placing seventh out of 25 teams.

To help prepare for upcoming competitions, the middle school team will work in the high school robotics room. By being closer to the high school robotics team, middle schoolers have the opportunity to learn, partner and collaborate with high school students, who can also serve as mentors.

Go Broncho robotics! 

Stage set for three Running Horse productions

In just one year, Holly High School's Running Horse Stage Company is already off to a fast start.

The student-run theater group has three productions in the works this school year, with casting completed for the company's first stage performance. Nearly 30 students make up the cast of "**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**," which takes the stage at Holly High School 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18. About another 10 students make up the production's tech team, which is responsible for set designing and running lights, sound and set changes.

Running Horse Stage Company's second production is "**Fidget**," a one-act play about teens who grapple with challenges at home, negative self-image and ill-timed

sugar highs. The third production is Stephen Sondheim's hit musical, "**Into the Woods**," about the unintended consequences of having wishes fulfilled. "Fidget" is slated for December, and "Into the Woods" is scheduled for April 2023. Specific dates for the two productions will soon be announced.

"We are excited to build on our program this school year with three challenging and diverse stage productions," said **Lu Harding**, Holly High School's director of choir and theater. "Our students can't wait to bring these highly engaging productions to life for our entire Broncho community to enjoy. Our program is an example of the key role the fine arts play in preparing our students for success."

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" takes the stage at Holly High School 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.



Holly High School Band serenades Hawaii

In May, the Holly High School Band serenaded the shores of Hawaii with a unique Broncho musical aloha. The award-winning band graced the island of Oahu, Hawaii, May 22-27.

The students performed twice on the island, first with a 30-minute concert at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial on May 23. On May 25, the band performed at the Ala Moana shopping center, the largest outdoor mall in the United States.

On the final day of the trip, the band visited U.S. Marine Corps Base Hawaii to witness the Marine Corps Band perform as part of the 1st Battalion, 12th Marines Artillery Unit change of command. The Marine Band later performed for the Broncho band members.

"I want to congratulate our student musicians, who embraced this unique opportunity to display their talents in such a beautiful and scenic backdrop that has provided memories to last a lifetime," said **Ben Baldwin**, Holly High School Band director. "Our Hawaii trip was the latest example of the ability of fine arts to provide key life skills that help prepare our Bronchos for the real world."



Coach Pluta Honored



Even in retirement, **Don Pluta** keeps racking up accolades and recognition for his impact on generations of Holly High School athletes and students. His latest honor: induction into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

On Sept. 25, the longtime Holly High School wrestling coach joined 13 other coaches from across Michigan to be recognized as 2022 Hall of Fame inductees for their achievements on the

field, in the arena and in the classroom at an induction ceremony at Central Michigan University.

The MHSCA Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding individuals who have coached or directed a secondary school athletics (sixth- to 12th-grade) program for 20 years or more and actively coached in Michigan for a minimum of 10 years. About 800 people have been inducted into the MHSCA Hall of Fame, which is located in a hallway of the Student Activities Center on the campus of Central Michigan University.

“Throughout his life and career, Don inspired everyone around him to strive for excellence and served as a mentor to countless students and athletes,” said **Casey Lombard**, Holly High School athletic director. “Coach Pluta continues to serve as an ambassador and role model for our Broncho students, teachers, staff, administrators and community. His induction into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame is just the latest in a long line of well-deserved awards and accolades, and all of us at Holly High are proud of his achievement and grateful for his continued positive impact on our community.”

During his four-decade career as a wrestling coach, Pluta led the Broncho wrestling team to 660 wins, eight league titles and 12 district championships. Under his guidance, the team qualified for the State Team Tournament three times and earned four Academic All-State Awards, with nine wrestlers winning state championships and 51 becoming state-placers. Pluta retired as coach in 2019. He dedicated most of his 41-year teaching career to the district’s alternative education program, which he helped launch, and taught high school language arts and physical education.



Courtesy of Tri-County Times.

Congrats, Coach Pluta! 



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