

# BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Spring 2023



SPRING  
2023  
EDITION

#BRONCHOPRIDE



### 3 Bronchos giving back

Bronchos of all ages support community through donations, projects and more.

### 4 Competition, friendship unite Bronchos

Students of all abilities compete in Unified Basketball.

### 5 Dr. Laura Legant's legacy celebrated

Scholarship honors Dr. Legant's commitment to students, community, arts.



Superintendent Scott Roper

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Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of the Broncho Press!

This has been a stellar school year so far, and I'm excited to update you on all the amazing things happening at Holly Area Schools. Our students, staff and families continue to demonstrate what #BronchoPride is all about, including supporting one another through challenging times.

It's never been more important to provide a safe, welcoming and nurturing learning environment that helps prepare our students for success, careers and the real world. That's why I'm so proud of our ongoing efforts to promote a culture of civility, kindness, compassion and mutual respect before, during and after school.

We remain focused on providing all Bronchos with a world-class education that helps them grow, achieve and prepare for bright futures. At the same time, I marvel at their commitment to giving back to their community. Our students and staff routinely share their time, energy and creativity to help each other, our neighbors and those in need. In these pages, you'll learn about some of the most recent efforts by our students and staff to support their community.

Also in this edition, we pay tribute to the late Dr. Laura Legant, a beloved longtime Holly Area Schools educator and community theater director. Dr. Legant set the bar for serving our kids, and has left an indelible mark on our community.

You'll also get an update on upcoming construction projects made possible by the voter-approved 2022 bond. Our bond projects are helping us prepare Bronchos for success now and into the future, and it was all made possible by the generosity of our community.

And, you'll learn about our Unified Basketball team, which welcomes students of all learning abilities, and our Student Athlete Advisory Council. Both programs are part of our commitment to making athletics part of a well-rounded education in our schools.

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

#BronchosUnited!

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

BRONCHOS IN THE NEWS



"Live interview with Steve DeHart"

(ABC 12, Feb. 28)

"Local schools receive state funds for school officers"

(Tri-County Times, Feb. 7)

"Michigan to hire nearly 200 new school resource officers"

(NBC 25 TV, Jan. 17)

"Holly students selected for prestigious Michigan All-State Band"

(Oakland County Times, Jan. 12)

"Davisburg Elementary students travel to Lansing"

(Tri-County Times, Dec. 22)

Stay up to date on all the latest exciting Broncho news at [hask12.org/district/news-superintendent/press-releases](http://hask12.org/district/news-superintendent/press-releases).



# Bronchos giving back

Our Bronchos continue finding new ways to give back to their community, whether it's hosting blood drives, helping stock local food pantries, supporting our veterans, or just bringing a little joy to our seniors. Here are just a few examples from this school year:

- **Davisburg Elementary Grade Level Teams** held food drives for the Neighbor for Neighbor program and local veterans. The students also collected mittens and hats for students without winter gear, held a Valentine's Day Sucker Sale supporting cancer awareness, and raised more than \$1,200 to sponsor two leader dogs for the blind. Davisburg staff and students also raised \$2,200 for Jump Rope for Heart, and \$1,345 for Down Syndrome awareness.
- The **Rose Pioneer Elementary Student Leadership Team** donated hats, mittens and socks to the Women's and Children's Shelter of Pontiac. In February, the team organized a Valentine's Day Candy Gram sale that raised more than \$400 for the Rose Pioneer library book collection. The team also held a food drive in November for the Neighbor for Neighbor program.
- The **Holly High School National Honor Society** held their second blood drive of the year Jan. 24 with Versiti Blood Center of Michigan. With 44 donations this blood drive and 51 donations from a drive last fall, the Honors Society and HHS donors have donated enough blood to save nearly 300 lives.

- **Holly High School** and **Holly Middle School** students teamed up in December to raise money and collect hundreds of nonperishable food items and hygiene products to help restock the HHS Food and Clothes Closet. The effort also raised \$1,000 for Blessings in a Backpack.



- The **Holly Middle School National Junior Honor Society** filled an "Angel Tree" at St. Rita Catholic Church by purchasing and wrapping gifts for families in need.
- **Patterson Elementary's fifth grade SCAPE team** organized a food drive and wreath fundraiser in December, collecting 2,554 food items donated to First Baptist Church. Proceeds from a Pajama Day fundraiser were used to purchase 184 wreaths for Wreaths Across America. The wreaths were donated to Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

- Each November, all **Holly elementary school students** honor veterans with letters, songs and the Presentation of Colors, with veterans in the community attending the events organized and led by students.
- The Holly High School **National Honor Society** raised \$1,000 at its annual talent show for the district's Blessings in a Backpack program.
- **Holly High School Leadership** hosted its first Hometown Heroes Football Game in October, and raised \$1,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project, which supports wounded veterans in the Holly community and beyond.
- The **Holly Middle School Talent Show** raised over \$400 for local charities, and the National Junior Honor Society Dodgeball Tournament raised over \$500 for local charitable programs.
- **Mrs. Pinch's homeroom class** collected socks and toiletries for St. Rita's Holly Community Pantry and Welcome Inn Day Center. The class also decorated cookies three times this school year for local seniors at the Village of Holly Woodlands near Patterson Elementary School.



- **Mr. Gillespie's ecology class** worked with former Holly Area Schools Board of Education Trustee **Sue Julian** to raise awareness and \$135 in donations for programs dedicated to saving the Poweshiek Skipperling butterfly, which is on the verge of extinction.
- The **Holly Elementary Student Lighthouse Team** collected and donated over 1,400 items and birthday kits to the food pantry located at the Village of Holly Police Department. Third graders raised money for Holly Area Youth Assistance as their community service project. Broncho Young Fives and kindergarteners also collected donations for animal shelters.
- Holly Area Schools teachers and staff support the annual **Back to School Health and Enrollment Fair**. The fair provides students with school supplies and backpacks, dental and vision screenings, sports physicals and haircuts, and connects families with local wellness and service agencies.
- At Holly Area Schools, we firmly believe well-informed students and parents promote a positive school environment. As part of that mission, the annual **Broncho Parent Camp** informs families about student mental health resources, special education services, career readiness and more.



## Unified Basketball a slam dunk in Holly

Holly High School's Unified Basketball team launched this winter, and welcomes student-athletes with and without developmental disabilities to learn and grow together through the power of sport.

Holly Area Schools Athletic Director **Casey Lombard** and Director of Special Services **Jennifer Lauria** were instrumental in bringing Unified Sports to the district. In planning the program, Lombard tapped the knowledge of other districts with Unified Basketball teams to help ensure the program's success in Holly.

"All Bronchos, regardless of their ability or skill level, deserve the opportunity to experience the comradery, teamwork and personal growth that comes with athletic competition," Lombard said. "Athletics plays an integral role in preparing our students for success, and this program allows us to extend that benefit to students of all learning abilities."

Holly's Unified Basketball team, coached by special education teachers **Leah Martin** and **Hanna Spickard**, has grown to 10 students. The students quickly grasped the fundamentals of the game and improved their skills on the court throughout the season.



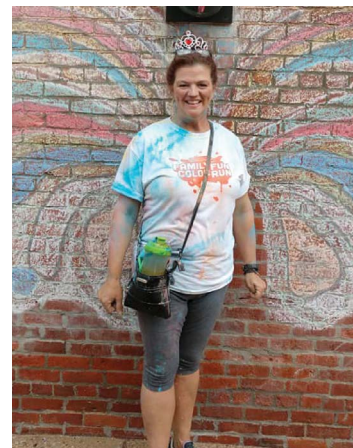
## Fine arts scholarship honors **Dr. Laura Legant**

For nearly 20 years, **Dr. Laura Legant** helped prepare generations of Bronchos for success while bringing a steady stream of student theatrical productions to the stage. Dr. Legant, who passed away in January following a battle with cancer, had a passion for the arts, theater and teaching that was widely recognized throughout the Holly community.

To honor her memory, we are proud to announce the **Dr. Legant Fine Arts Scholarship**. The scholarship will be awarded to students in Broncho Young Fives through eighth grade to attend a summer fine arts camp. A committee is being formed to review applications for the scholarship.

“Dr. Legant was a dedicated teacher and active member of the Holly community who spent her career developing youth talent in the classroom, the community theater, Dickens festivals, historical acting tours, painting, arts and crafts, and much more,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. “Our scholarship celebrates her legacy, and will help encourage a love of the arts for generations of Bronchos.”

More information will soon be shared by building leaders regarding the application process for the Dr. Legant Fine Arts Scholarship.



## DECA students support local causes



The Holly High School DECA Team recently raised \$1,000 to support research of muscular dystrophy, ALS and other degenerative diseases affecting muscles and mobility. DECA teams submit business-based projects in competitions across the country.

District Council Representative **Kendall Stilwell** took the lead organizing the fundraising campaign at the high school. Stilwell said the group met this year’s funding goal and aims to raise \$1,500 next school year.

“Our DECA team continues to excel in competition that will help create the business leaders of tomorrow,” said **David Golec**, Holly High School marketing teacher. “Part of success in the real world is learning the importance of giving back to those in need in our community, and we’re proud to support research to hopefully one day find a cure for these debilitating illnesses.”


# Holly school board members recognized for service

Holly Area Schools Board of Education President **Leigh Jackson** and Board Trustee **Linda Blair** recently received several recognitions for their service to the district by the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Jackson received the Certified Board Member Award and the Award of Merit. Blair received the Certified Board Member Award, Award of Merit and Award of Distinction. The awards celebrate their service to the Holly community and commitment to student achievement.

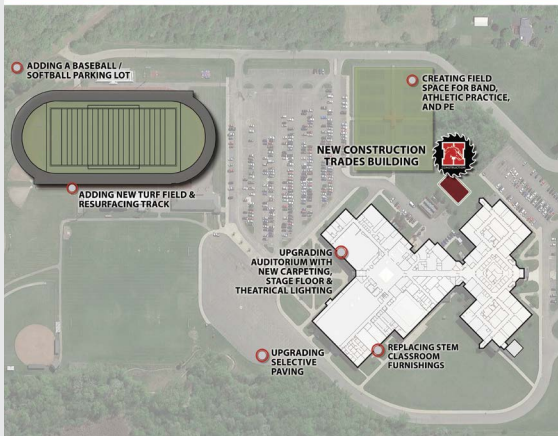
Jackson and Blair received their awards for completing MASB's leadership training program, and based on their years of service and leadership activities.

"Holly Area Schools is extremely fortunate to have the leadership and commitment to education and excellence that President Jackson and Trustee Blair bring to the board table and beyond," said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent.

"On behalf of Holly Area Schools, we congratulate them on their MASB recognitions and thank them for their years of service to our students and Broncho community." 



Holly High School



## Major bond projects ahead

Holly Area Schools is starting work on a four-year plan to complete enhanced learning environments, districtwide building and site improvements and safety upgrades, all made possible by the \$97 million bond approved by voters last year.

Standout projects include a new Holly Middle School, new high school construction trades center, and replacement of aging infrastructure including septic systems at Rose Pioneer Elementary and Davisburg Elementary.

Bidding and approval for the new middle school will take place this summer, with work scheduled to begin in Fall 2023 and the building opening in Fall 2025. Work on the new construction trades center will get underway in Fall 2023, with completion expected in Spring 2024.

With planning, design and foundational work done, construction projects this spring and summer include:

- New tennis courts at Karl Richter Campus
- West side parking lot re-pavement at Holly High School
- Septic system replacements at Davisburg and Rose Pioneer elementary schools

"It is exciting to see these projects, both big and small, taking shape across our district as part of our plan to provide enhanced learning opportunities that help prepare our Bronchos for the jobs of tomorrow," said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. "All of these projects are made possible by the generosity of our community and its continued investment in the success of our students."

## Congratulations to **Broncho Hall of Fame** inductees

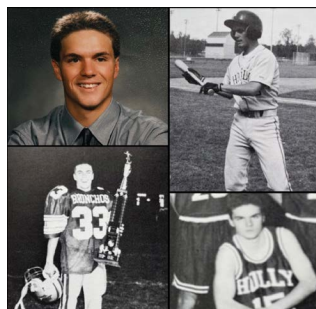
Holly Area Schools has inducted three outstanding athletes to the Broncho Hall of Fame. Former Coach **Matt Wilson** and varsity athletes **Steve Taylor** (Class of 1993) and **Jacob Hyde** (Class of 2009) were inducted during halftime of the Jan. 27 boys varsity basketball game against Swartz Creek.

Coach Wilson came to Holly High School in 1997 as a physics teacher, and coached boys golf and freshman baseball. His legacy includes creating the school's girls varsity golf team. During his tenure, Coach Wilson's teams won two Flint Metro League championships and two Oakland County championships.

Taylor was a varsity athlete with varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. In his senior year, he set the school's single-game rushing record of 339 yards on 14 carries and four touchdowns. That same year, he was captain of the school's basketball and baseball teams, leading the basketball team in assists and steals, and batting .488 with two home runs, 61 RBI, 46 runs scored, and 51 stolen bases.

Hyde overcame early struggles as a first-year wrestler to become a champion on the mat his senior year. His motivation inspired creation of the Jacob Hyde Award, which recognizes the most improved wrestler on a Holly High School team. Today, Hyde is an assistant coach for the Broncho wrestling team.

Congrats to our 2023 inductees!



Steve Taylor



Matt Wilson



Jacob Hyde

## **Broncho athletic director receives national certification**

Holly Area Schools Athletic Director **Casey Lombard** in March was recognized as a Certified Athletic Administrator by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

The prestigious national certification is awarded to athletic directors across the country who demonstrate the highest level of knowledge and expertise in interscholastic athletic administration.

"I am proud to receive this certification, which recognizes our continued work at Holly Area Schools to encourage participation in athletics for students of all abilities as part of a well-rounded education," Lombard said. "This experience will help me continue to lead our athletic program and help prepare our Bronchos for careers and success."



Casey Lombard

## **Broncho student-athlete council back on track**

Holly Area Schools student-athletes are going above and beyond to make a difference in their community through the recently reformed **Broncho Student Athlete Advisory Council**.

The group of about 24 Broncho student-athletes regrouped in fall of 2022 following a pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The students have met consistently since then to fulfill the council's mission "to give students a place to grow as athletes, scholars and human beings so they can promote a positive image of Holly Area Schools' athletic department and programs."

Since reforming, the students helped organize the Holly athletic program's partnership with Blessings in a Backpack. The community service collaboration has included placing 400 notes of encouragement in student backpacks before the holiday season and unloading the delivery of Blessings in a Backpack food that is packed each weekend for students and families in need.

All Broncho student-athletes are welcome to join the council.





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