

BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Spring 2025



**SPRING
2025
EDITION**



#BRONCHOPRIDE



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Superintendent Scott Roper

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Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Broncho Press!

We have reached the end of another amazing school year made possible by our exemplary Broncho students, teachers, staff and families. I am thrilled to share several year-end updates with you in this edition of the Broncho Press.

This has truly been a one-of-a-kind school year, with seemingly countless achievements by our students, staff and families, and new programs and services to help prepare our Bronchos for success and the careers of tomorrow.

I am particularly excited to share our progress on the new, state-of-the-art Holly Middle School set to open next school year. In this edition, you'll learn about the final stages of the project and view some beautiful photos from the construction site. The new middle school, along with our Construction Trades Center, new Holly Stadium and much more, was made possible by our generous community who approved our 2022 Bond.

Also in this edition, you'll read about our continued efforts to provide a well-rounded education to our Bronchos inside and outside the classroom. This includes career exploration through field trips to skilled trades and other work sites, our inaugural Women in Construction event, Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America recognitions, and much more.

You'll learn about the Broncho Marching Band's once-in-a-lifetime trip to Italy over Christmas break. Our Main Street Show Choir continues to rack up accolades, including at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Musical Theatre Solo and Ensemble Festival and Central Michigan University's Choral/Vocal Day.

We also take time to acknowledge our outstanding teachers, staff, administrators and school board members committed to the success of our Bronchos.

And, we provide an update on our highly successful parent outreach program, which in its first year has made significant progress in connecting our families with mental health and other critical services.

As always, it is an honor serving as your superintendent

#BronchosUnited!

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

Bronchos in the News

"Holly High School Marching Band honored to play in front of Pope Francis at the Vatican"



(WWJ, Feb. 19)

"Field Trips Provide Holly HS Graduates a Glimpse of Career Paths"



(Lasco Press, Jan. 23)

"Holly Students and Staff Win Big at Statewide Family and Consumer Sciences Conference"



(Oakland County Times, March 25)

"Holly Area Schools earns straight 'As' for fiscal responsibility"



(Tri-County Times, Feb. 14)



New Holly Middle School on track for fall '25 opening

The much-anticipated, state-of-the-art **Holly Middle School** is on track to open for the 2025-26 school year. The project was made possible by the generosity of our Broncho community who approved the 2022 Bond.

The new facility will feature modern classrooms, advanced STEM classrooms and labs, a multi-purpose gymnasium, and outdoor features including a new football field and track, baseball diamond, basketball court, and outdoor seating and play areas.

The latest project updates include:

- Most of the window installation, masonry and metal stud framing have been completed.
- In-wall electrical and mechanical work is completed, and light fixtures have been installed.
- Wall and floor tile installation has begun in the server and locker room areas.
- Work continues in the office area and classroom wings.
- Metal panel installation around the exterior of the building and roofing work have been completed.



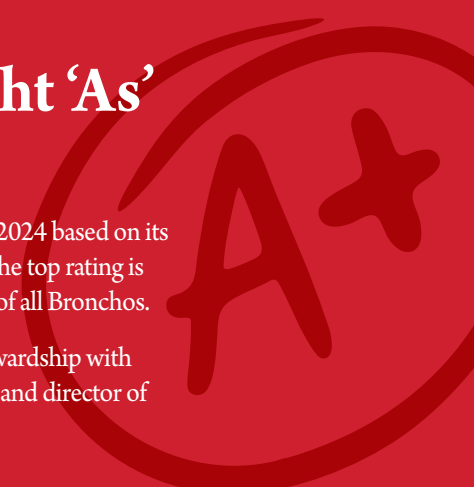
The 2022 Bond also includes the new, state-of-the-art Holly High School Construction Trades Center, the new Tennis and Pickleball Complex, and the new Holly Stadium.

District's fiscal responsibility earns straight 'As'

For the second year in a row, **Holly Area Schools** earned an "A+" bond rating from S&P Global Ratings.

The district maintained a long-term rating of "AA" and an underlying rating of "A+" with a stable outlook in 2024 based on its proactive budget practices and consistent student enrollment, S&P Global Ratings reviewers determined. The top rating is recognition of the district's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and its investment in the success of all Bronchos.

Superintendent **Scott Roper** said the rating demonstrates the district's continued commitment to fiscal stewardship with the community's tax dollars. Roper thanked the district's assistant superintendent of business, **Steve Lenar**, and director of business and finance, **Linda Earl**, for their critical help in achieving the top bond rating.



Broncho parent outreach program success in first year

The **Broncho parent outreach program** reached numerous milestones in promoting student wellness and success in its first year.

The districtwide effort has been led by **Cheryl Price**, the district's counseling specialist, and **Sydney Sinclair**, family school liaison.

Programs this school year included:

- **Care Solace**, a mental health care coordination service for school districts. Through this partnership, we helped over 100 families access mental health care.
- **Parenting with Love and Logic Series**, a video series helping parents support their children, with a focus on empathy, setting boundaries, and promoting responsibility.
- **Mental Health Resource Fair**, featuring 15 local organizations, including counseling centers, family support agencies, and wellness services.
- **Anti-Vaping Parent Presentation**, a partnership with Holly Area Youth Assistance that included a presentation by a board-certified physician specializing in adolescent addiction and recovery.
- **Family Yoga Wellness Event**, in which families participated in gentle movement, deep breathing, and mindfulness activities.



- **Holly High School HOPE Squad**, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention and mental health awareness program at Holly High School.

Our district's Early Childhood program also welcomed **Trisha Crotteau**, a new member to their team, who is supporting parent outreach for our youngest Bronchos and their families.



Holly students get glimpse into jobs of the future

The work of preparing our Bronchos for success and in-demand careers doesn't end in the classroom. Our students also learn about potential career paths through field trips to job sites, including those in the skilled trades, as well as visits to colleges and universities.

Jennifer Fettig, the district's director of career programming and business partnerships, said the field trips give students an up-close-and-personal view of the jobs of today and tomorrow.

This school year, Bronchos learned about construction trades on a tour of **Shannon Precision Fastener** in Holly, toured **Michigan State University** during Leadership Day, visited the **Clarkston Family Farm**, toured **Mott Community College** and the **University of Michigan-Flint** campus, and attended a sports marketing conference at **Little Caesars Arena** in Detroit. Students also attended **Careers in Construction Days at Operating Engineers 324** in Howell and a marketing presentation in Frankenmuth.



"These outside-the-classroom experiences introduce our Bronchos to a wide range of diverse career paths, including in the skilled trades, as they begin to plan the next phases of their lives," Fettig said.

Women in Construction Day provides new perspective on in-demand careers

Holly High School Bronchos and students from throughout Southeast Michigan learned about in-demand, rewarding careers in the skilled trades during **Women in Construction Day** at Holly High School in March.

The event, a partnership with **Northern Michigan University**, allowed students to discover and experience career options that are traditionally viewed as male-oriented.

Women in Construction Day included presentations from female professionals in construction and other trades. During the event, students had the opportunity to participate in three hands-on construction exhibits.

“We are proud to continually introduce all Bronchos to new and exciting career paths, and that includes introducing young women to traditionally male-dominated careers in the construction trades and sciences,” said **Jennifer Fettig**, the district’s director of career programming and business partnerships, who helped organize the event.



Bronchos shine at statewide family conference

Holly High School students and staff racked up nearly 20 wins at the **Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference** this February in Southfield

The organization promotes Family and Consumer Sciences education, which prepares students for careers in fields like financial services, human services, public service, and education. Students **Cecelia Goff**, **Payton Fleishans** and **Adrianna Thisse** earned the “Power of One” award. Students **Gabby Feres** and **Jenna St. Marie** won the “Dare to Dream” award along with a set of professional chef knives. **Feres**, **Thisse**, **Lyndsey Tibbs** and **Hailey Herman** qualified for the **FCCLA National Leadership Conference**, and they will represent Michigan in Orlando in July.



Students also took many individual awards in interior design, early childhood education, food innovation and fashion construction. They include **Claudia Klempf**, **Sophie Tobias**, **Madison Bolton**, **Briley Bowman**, **Rubie Robinette** and **Dakota Teddy**. **Jennifer Fettig**, director of career programming and business partnerships, won “Outstanding Administrator of the Year.” **Miranda Barth**, Holly High School’s FCCLA advisor, was honored for her 20 years of service to the FCCLA.

“Congratulations to our outstanding students who continue to excel as they demonstrate their leadership skills and prepare for rewarding careers that support our families and community,” Barth said.



Performance for Pope caps off band's trip of a lifetime

The **Broncho Marching Band's** trip to Italy over Christmas break proved to be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure for the student musicians, who toured some of the country's most significant historic sites and performed for the late **Pope Francis** in St. Peter's Square.

The highlight of the trip was a New Year's Day performance at the Vatican before a crowd of thousands, where Pope Francis personally acknowledged the band and thanked them for their performance in his address.

The 70 marching band members, who were accompanied by 100 adults, also explored Pompeii, the Tuscany region, the historic town of Siena and Rome. In Rome, the band explored museums, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and the Sistine Chapel, home of the famous ceiling painted by Michelangelo.

"Our amazing adventure in Italy opened our students up to new experiences and cultures outside the band room and strengthened the bond between our students, their families and our Broncho community," said **Ben Baldwin**, Broncho Marching Band director.



Broncho musical theater students win big in statewide competition

The growing Broncho musical theater program is part of our district's ongoing commitment to the fine arts and preparing our students for success and careers. In November, the program won some impressive recognition.

The Holly High School

Main Street Show Choir and two soloists celebrated wins at the **Michigan Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Festival** at Oxford High School. The full choir earned a "1" rating, solo vocalist **Lyndsey Tibbs** earned a perfect score of 30, and solo vocalist **Marie Halligan** earned an outstanding score of 29 out of 30.



Halligan, a senior, has been accepted to Alma College where she will be studying vocal performance. **Tibbs**, a junior, also performed at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Musical Theatre Gala on May 8 in Lansing as a soloist and one of five sopranos selected from across the state to participate.

Lu Harding, the high school's director of choir and theater, said the choir's continued

success is attracting younger students to the program.

"Our entire choir and soloists put in the hard work, discipline and drive to excel it takes to compete at Solo & Ensemble, and it was truly exciting to witness," Harding said.



Broncho athletic director wins prestigious national, statewide honors

Holly High School Athletic Director **Casey Lombard**'s dedication to expanding opportunities for all Bronchos to participate in athletics recently garnered both national and statewide attention.

Lombard has been recognized as a **Certified Master Athletic Administrator** by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) and was recently named **Region 9 Athletic Administrator of the Year** by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) for the 2024-25 school year.

He was presented with the Region 9 Athletic Administrator of the Year award at the MIAAA Mid-Winter Conference in March in Traverse City.

"Casey exemplifies the qualities of both an outstanding athletic director and an exceptional human being — one who genuinely cares about student success, leads with integrity, and sets an inspiring example for others," said **Eric Curl**, Holly High School principal.

Broncho educators inspire teachers of tomorrow at U-M Flint event



Holly Area Schools teachers, administrators and staff provided their expertise in the education field to the teachers of tomorrow at the **University of Michigan-Flint Future Teacher Academy** in April.

Principal **Jake Haynes** and Rose Pioneer Elementary Principal **Michael Beattie** shared their expertise on school safety and security in their presentation "Securing Our Schools: Holly Area Schools Approach to Safety and Security."

Patterson Elementary



Jennifer Fettig, the district's director of career programming and business partnerships, STEM teacher **Tracey Smith**, and Davisburg Elementary teacher **Andrea Swalwell** spoke about career readiness in their presentation, "K-12 Career Readiness Activities and Implementation."

Michelle Szczechowicz, Holly's executive director of educational services, and instructional coaches **Carrie Keech** and **Erica Muehlhauser** shared their expertise on classroom management.

Dr. Liz Cunningham, a member of our school board and associate professor of mathematics at U-M Flint, provided the welcoming message.



Holly Area Schools board committed to success of all Bronchos

The **Holly Area Schools Board of Education** continues to go above and beyond to help prepare all Bronchos for success and careers. Board members sacrifice hours of their time, including nights and weekends, to serving our students and schools.

The district's board consists of President **Leigh Jackson**, Vice President **Jennifer Young**, Treasurer **Peter Deahl**, Secretary **Lisa Oaks** and trustees **Linda Blair**, **Sean Creger** and **Dr. Liz Cunningham**.

This school year, Holly school board members were recognized for their dedication to leadership and professional development by the **Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)** and **Oakland County School Boards Association (OCSBA)**.

Deahl earned the Level 1 - Certified Board Member Award and Level 2 - Award of Merit, Jackson earned the Level 3 - Award of Distinction, and Blair the Level 4 - Master Board Member Award from the MASB. The awards recognize their commitment to improving leadership skills to better serve our students, district and families.

Deahl and Blair also won OCSBA Length of Service Awards. Deahl was honored with the **Apple Award** for 12 years of service on the Holly school board, and Blair for her 16 years of outstanding board service.





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