

# BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Winter 2022 Edition



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Bond proposal would fund enhanced learning environments, districtwide improvements, safety upgrades, and more.

### 4 Calling all LEGO fanatics

Parent volunteers sought to help build FIRST® LEGO® League team for Broncos in grades 3-5.

### 5 Safety enhancements at HAS

HAS continuing safety, security upgrades this school year and beyond.



Superintendent Scott Roper

Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of the Broncho Press!

It's been an amazing school year so far, and I'm excited to provide an update on all our progress to date and exciting learning opportunities in the months ahead. Even in the face of challenges, our entire Broncho community has worked together to help us provide new and innovative learning opportunities in a safe, nurturing learning environment.

You'll notice much of this edition is dedicated to our bond proposal that will be on the May 3, 2022, ballot. If approved by voters, this bond proposal would provide \$97 million for districtwide improvements, with no tax rate increase to property owners over the current millage rate. This proposal would fund the construction of a new middle school to replace our aging building with expanded learning spaces, a career lab, fine arts and athletics facilities and more. The bond would also help us enhance academic, professional trades, performing arts and athletic opportunities districtwide, and include safety and other building upgrades outlined in our master plan. In this edition, you'll learn much more about what's in the bond, steps needed to vote on the May 3 ballot, and more.

In the weeks ahead, we'll be sharing much more information with our entire Broncho community about the bond.

Also in this edition, you'll get a backstage look at our new student-driven theater company and Construction Trades program, and an introduction to two students who made the Michigan All-State Band, each making history in their own way. You'll also read about three outstanding former student athletes who have been inducted into the Broncho Hall of Fame. Each new inductee is a success story in their own right and an inspiration for all Bronchos.

You'll also learn about the latest in our continuing efforts to enhance safety and security across the district, including upgrades and additional safety and security personnel. As always, it is a great honor serving as your superintendent.

#BronchosUnited!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott M. Roper". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

## CONNECT WITH US

> [hask12.org](http://hask12.org)

[fb.me/hollyschools12](https://fb.me/hollyschools12)

[twitter.com/HollySchools](https://twitter.com/HollySchools)

# Holly Area Schools 2022 Bond Proposal: At a Glance

**WHO:** Voters in Groveland Township, Holly Township, Rose Township, Springfield Township, White Lake Township, and the Village of Holly

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**HOW:** Registered voters can cast a ballot at the polling location established by their city, township or village. Voters may also vote from home, using an absentee ballot.



# Holly Area Schools bond proposal to appear on May 3 ballot

New Middle School at Karl Richter Campus



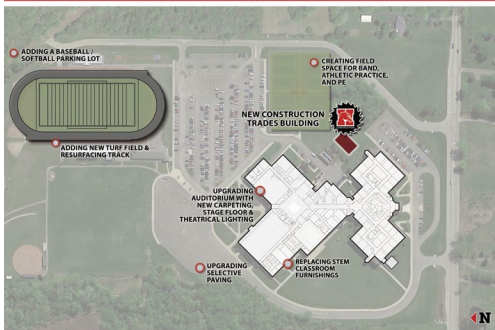
On the May 3, 2022, ballot, voters will have the opportunity to vote on a bond proposal that would finance new and enhanced learning environments, districtwide building and site improvements, and safety upgrades. The ballot proposal represents Phase 2 of the district's Master Plan, and was developed with community and stakeholder input. District buildings, sites and educational programs were evaluated to determine priority projects.

The \$97 million bond proposal would not raise Holly's current bond millage rate, according to projections provided by the school district's financial advisor. If approved by the voters, the bonds would fund:

- A new middle school with increased classroom space, career lab, enhanced fine arts and athletic facilities, and improved ventilation,
- Enhanced learning environments, including for skilled trades, fine arts and athletics, and
- Replacement of worn playground structures and septic systems, new fire protection upgrades and more safety improvements.

"We look forward to sharing additional information and getting the thoughts and feedback of our entire community in the weeks and months ahead," said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent.

Holly High School

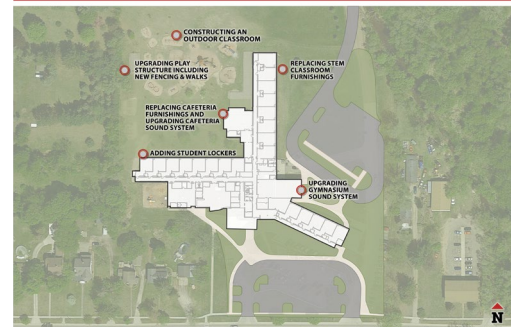


Current Middle School transitions to Sherman Campus

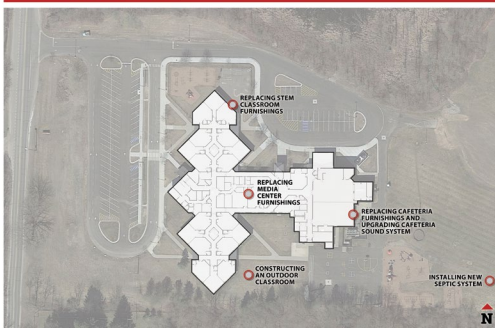


Visit the district website at [hask12.org](http://hask12.org) for an overview of the bond proposal, building-specific project details, a community forum date, and frequently asked questions.

Holly Elementary



Rose Pioneer Elementary



Patterson Elementary



Davisburg Elementary





## Let's go **LEGO!**

Holly Area Schools is seeking parent volunteers to help build a FIRST® LEGO® League team for our Bronchos in grades 3-5. The FIRST® LEGO® League [program](#) introduces Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills to children through fun, hands-on learning.

If you have a passion for technology, building things and working with kids, you can help mentor the engineers, computer programmers and architects of tomorrow!

What's required:

- Commit 4-6 hours per week for 8-12 weeks
- Travel to competition in May
- Mentor 5 to 10 students
- Work with parents and mentor teams

Volunteers receive a stipend for time spent. If you are interested in coaching or being a parent volunteer for a FIRST® LEGO® League robotics team, please fill out the Google form, visit <https://bit.ly/3phGdP7>, or contact **Lisa Tomlinson** at [lisa.tomlinson@hask12.org](mailto:lisa.tomlinson@hask12.org).



## Expanded learning opportunities for Holly Middle School students

**A**fter extensive research, consultation and input from our Broncho community, it was determined that building a new Holly Middle School would provide better building organization and improved learning environments to help prepare our middle school students for the jobs of the future. If approved by voters, the bond proposal would allow Holly Area Schools to construct a new building without increasing the tax rate above the current rate. Highlights of the proposed new middle school include:

- Larger classrooms to make collaboration easier,
- New career lab, providing more Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and professional skilled trades opportunities,
- State-of-the-art ventilation for comfort and safety, and more natural daylight to improve the learning environment,
- New and enhanced fine arts and athletic spaces, and
- Multi-purpose spaces for project-based learning.

The new building would replace the existing building constructed nearly 50 years ago and would be located at the current Karl Richter Campus site.

## Enhanced learning environments

**T**he May 3 bond proposal would, if approved by voters, finance projects intended to enhance learning environments that support academic, career readiness, fine arts and athletic opportunities for all Bronchos.

Proposed improvements include:

- Upgrading Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) instruction,
- Building a new construction and skilled trades center at Holly High School,
- Building outdoor classrooms,
- Upgrading instructional technology,
- Replacing the theater stage floor, lighting and carpet,
- Creating a new marching band practice field,
- Building a new tennis complex, and
- Upgrading track and field facilities.



# Enhanced safety upgrades

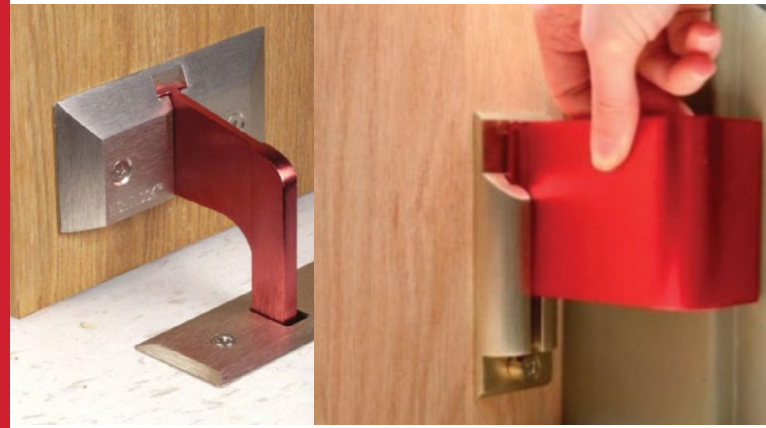
The bond proposal would, if approved by voters, fund additional health and safety projects for our schools, including:

- Upgrading fire protection and public address, sound and clock systems,
- Improving parking lots and sidewalks at Holly High School,
- Replacing worn playground structures, and
- Replacing septic systems at Davisburg and Rose Pioneer elementary schools

## Request an absentee ballot

Absentee ballots for the Tuesday, May 3, ballot can be requested by contacting:

- **Michigan Secretary of State:** Visit [michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote).
- **Holly Township and the Village of Holly:** Visit [hollytownship.org/departments/elections-clerk](https://hollytownship.org/departments/elections-clerk), email [clerk@hollytownship.org](mailto:clerk@hollytownship.org) or call (248) 634-9331, ext. 301.
- **Springfield Township:** Visit [springfield-twp.us](https://springfield-twp.us), email [clerk@springfield-twp.us](mailto:clerk@springfield-twp.us), or call (248) 846-6510.
- **Groveland Township:** Visit [grovelandtownship.net](https://grovelandtownship.net) or call (248) 634-4152.
- **White Lake Township:** Visit [whitelaketwp.com](https://whitelaketwp.com) or call (248) 698-3300.
- **Rose Township:** Visit [www.rosetownship.com](https://www.rosetownship.com), email [clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com), or call (248) 634-8701.



## Enhancing safety, security at Holly Area Schools

Holly Area Schools continually upgrades safety and security measures throughout the district. These efforts will continue throughout this school year and beyond, including:

**Nightlock door barricades:** Nightlock barricades provide a secondary locking device for interior doors, and have been installed in all of our school buildings.

**Armed security guards:** Retired police officers are joining our district's School Resource Officers (SROs) and current police officers in expanding our overall security team.

**Mental health support:** The district has hired a Family School Liaison and District Counseling Specialist, and is reviewing applications for additional social workers.

**COVID-19 isolation and quarantine:** The district continues to work closely with the Oakland County Health Division to stay aligned with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, and will update families on any changes.

**Crisis response plans:** Holly Area Schools continues to review and refine our current crisis response plan, including providing more training to our team that can improve emergency preparedness, response, management and recovery.





Makenzie Barber



Bradlee Coggins

## Broncho musicians named to 2022 Michigan All-State bands

Holly High School trombonist **Makenzie Barber** and Holly Middle School percussionist **Bradlee Coggins** have been named to the prestigious 2022 Michigan All-State bands.

Makenzie, a junior, is the first HHS student named to the Michigan All-State High School Band. She is one of 10 trombonists across Michigan selected from hundreds of high school musicians who auditioned in October.

“Makenzie’s participation with the band is further proof of how music and the fine arts are a key part of a high-quality education at Holly Area Schools that prepares students for success,” said **Ben Baldwin**, Holly High School band director.

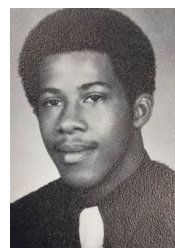
Bradlee, an eighth-grader, was named to the 2022 Michigan All-State Middle School Band, and is one of six middle school percussionists from across Michigan to be named to the All-State Middle School Band.

“Bradlee continues to demonstrate versatility with his musical skills, and now they will be on full display for the entire state of Michigan to enjoy,” said **Brian Smith**, Holly Middle School band director.

## HAS announces 2022 Hall of Fame inductees

Three exemplary former Holly High School athletes have been inducted into the Broncho Hall of Fame for 2022, including:

### Willie Heller, Class of 1972: Track and field



Willie Heller was a two-time individual all-state track athlete in 1971 and

1972. In his senior year, Willie won the Flint Metro League 100-yard and 220-yard sprints. He also set a 220-yard school record that stood for 34 years.

### Keith Perez, Class of 1998: Baseball



During his senior year, Keith Perez was First Team All-Region, First Team

All-District and a Detroit Free Press Top 50 Baseball Player. In 2003, he signed a

free agent contract with the Oakland Athletics and played professional baseball for three years.

### Josh Houldsworth, Class of 2010: Wrestling and football



Josh Houldsworth recorded a high school wrestling record of 235 wins, with only 10 losses, including going 61-0 his senior year, also a school record. Houldsworth was a two-time state champion and four-time Oakland County Champion, and later a two-time NCAA Academic All-American.



## Construction trades program helps prepare Bronchos for careers

Holly High School has launched a new Construction Trades Program for students in grades 9-12. Throughout **Tony Ceccacci’s** course, students interact with top construction industry professionals who help bring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills to life in the classroom.

This year, the class is constructing Adirondack chairs, which will be evaluated

with the top-reviewed pieces advancing to the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society (MITES) competition this spring. As part of the class, students participate with MITES, an organization that collaborates on technology education and workforce programs.

“Our construction trades students see the results of their work in real time, and that’s a great feeling,” Mr. Ceccacci said.



# Running Horse Stage Co. gallops to center stage

This fall, Holly Area Schools brought its successful and highly regarded theater program back to the stage, now called the Running Horse Stage Company.

They got to work right away.

In November, Running Horse staged “Trap,” a play written by Stephen Gregg that is a good-humored swipe at high school plays. Complete with green-eyed “pharanochs” that feed off the fear of their victims, the production established Running Horse as a high school theater program willing to take risks and have a great time in the process.

“Thanks to their hard work and enthusiasm, our students organized and took on roles that helped our theater program establish a new identity that’s truly student-driven and student-led,” said **Lu Harding**, RHSC director. “Our theater program is further proof that theater and the fine arts play a critical role in student success on and off the stage.”

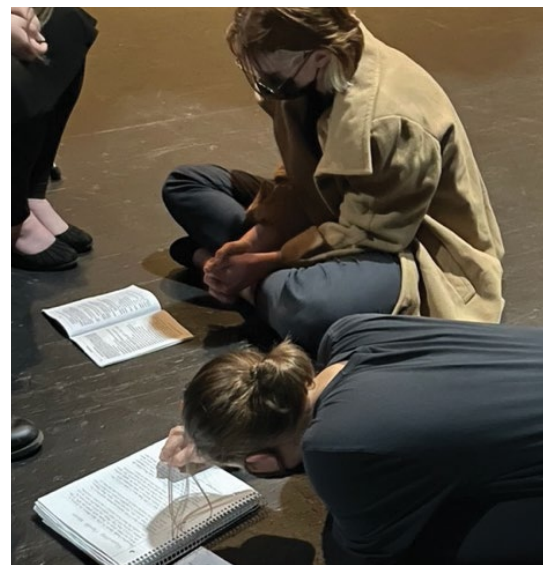
Running Horse is now in rehearsals for a revival of “Footloose: The Musical.” This show will take the stage March 18-19 at 7 p.m. both days. A matinee performance will be held March 20 at 2 p.m. Ticket sale profits from the Sunday matinee will be donated in the name of Adam Connell to the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#).

“We’re all excited to have our theater program back and the opportunity to perform for our community, which has been so supportive of our productions,” said **Rachel Connell**, a Holly High School junior and Running Horse Stage Company member. “We can’t wait to bring these classic stories to life on the stage.”

**Running Horse Stage Company auditions:** New students entering HHS in fall 2022 will be invited to audition for the program’s 2022-23 season. The season will include a fall play, spring musical and spring Cabaret Showcase.

**Choir and theater showcase:** A date is being finalized for a May performing arts showcase that will feature both choir and theater students. The final date will be announced once confirmed.

**National convention:** The theater program plans to renew membership in the National Thespian Society and attend the national convention within the next three years.







Holly Area Schools  
920 Baird St.  
Holly, MI 48442



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