

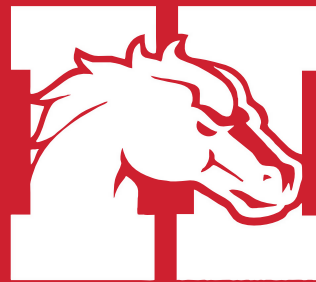
# BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Winter 2020



WINTER  
2020



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Lady Bronchos second in school history to claim title



Superintendent Scott Roper

Happy New Year, Bronchos!

The start of the new year is the perfect time to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year as we look ahead to new and exciting challenges in 2020.

We do just that in this Winter Edition of the Broncho Press.

In this edition, we reflect on a stellar start to the 2019-2020 school year with a growing roster of achievements by our students, teachers and staff. Highlights include a review of our districtwide events honoring local veterans, a standout STEM presentation at the Student Technology Showcase, Middle School Career Day, the Marching Band's upcoming trip to Ireland and much, much more.

The new year will usher in a wide range of new and diverse learning opportunities at Holly Area Schools as we continue providing a 21<sup>st</sup> century education that helps all Bronchos achieve and succeed.

This includes our Holly Construction Trades program, which will offer our high school students the opportunity to earn professional certifications that lay the groundwork for successful careers in the skilled trades. Plans are underway to launch the program as early as next school year.

Also in 2020, we will expand our Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) instruction into our middle school, and offer new college-credit courses that give students a head start on college and careers.

In 2020 and beyond, we will continue promoting a culture of kindness, compassion and respect that encourages #BronchoPride before, during and after school.

There's truly never been a better time to be a Broncho.

Go #BronchosUnited!

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

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## Students weigh in on key issues on Superintendent's Advisory Board

**H**olly High School students are making their voices heard on the Superintendent's Advisory Board, a group formed this fall to weigh in on key issues, programs and initiatives in our district.

Working with Superintendent **Scott Roper**, these Bronchos are helping Holly Area Schools continue to provide new and diverse learning opportunities that help all students achieve and succeed. The group meets six times each school year, and is open to students in grades 9-12.

"The Superintendent's Advisory Board gives us the opportunity to provide feedback to Superintendent Roper from a student perspective while using our ideas to address problems and plan new and creative programs," said **Morgan Dudley**. "It's an exciting time to be a Broncho, and it feels good to make a difference."

"We need the input of our Bronchos to continue providing a culture of kindness, compassion and respect that helps all students achieve and succeed before, during and after school," Roper said. "The Advisory Board is yet another opportunity to provide our students with problem-solving, leadership and teamwork skills outside the classroom that will serve them throughout their lives."



## Bronchos explore professional trades careers

In November, about 300 Broncho ninth-graders learned firsthand what it takes to succeed in advanced manufacturing, health sciences, construction and information technology careers at MiCareerQuest Southeast in Novi.

The students met with industry representatives and attended carpentry, heavy machinery, ambulance and other professional trades demonstrations, and participated in hands-on activities including interactive health laboratories.

“MiCareerQuest gave our students a hands-on, outside-the-classroom learning experience that provided a glimpse into well-paying careers in the professional trades,” said **Samantha Burns**, Holly Area Schools career coordinator. “Students learned directly from industry experts what it takes to succeed in the professional trades.”

MiCareerQuest is only the latest opportunity for Bronchos to explore the professional trades.

On March 25, the **Second Annual Professional Trades Open House** will be held from 6-8 p.m. at Holly High School. Bronchos will have the opportunity to meet with union representatives and apprenticeship coordinators, and learn about training programs in the professional trades.

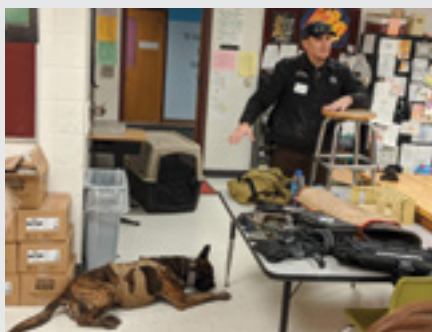


## Holly Middle School students learn about in-demand careers

Holly Middle School students learned about careers ranging from image coding and robotics engineering, to fashion design and tattoo artistry, to careers in the armed forces during Career Day on Dec. 6.

The students learned about these and other careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields, skilled trades and more from 40 presenters throughout the day. New featured careers included flight attendant, mortgage officer, pharmacist, photographer and wedding planner. Presenters included both Broncho parents and community members.

Representatives from General Motors Co. and Baker College were also on hand to discuss a wide range of career paths.



## Holly elementary students display STEM skills at Student Technology Showcase

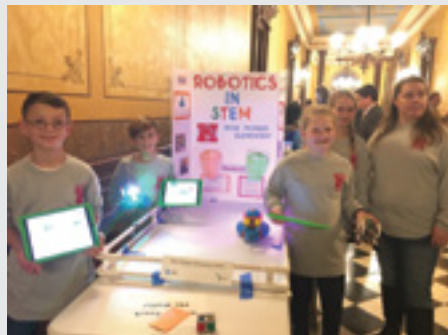
In December, Holly Area Schools elementary students displayed their robotics projects to lawmakers and business leaders at the **Student Technology Showcase** at the State Capitol in Lansing.

Patterson and Rose Pioneer students demonstrated their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills they have developed in the district's elementary STEM program.

“The Student Technology Showcase provided a unique opportunity outside the classroom for our students to exhibit the STEM skills they learn at school every day,” said **Tracey Smith**, Holly Area Schools STEM instructor. “This unique event also allowed us to shine a light on our elementary STEM program that continues to provide the building blocks for student success.”

Patterson students showcased their Ozobots, or small, hand-held robots, and Rose Pioneer students explained how they programmed their larger robots. The daylong event, held in the Capitol Rotunda, provided a firsthand glimpse of how STEM principles are applied in the classroom to enhance learning at Holly Area Schools.

“It’s exciting to see our students show in real-time how our STEM program is helping our youngest learners develop skills that will one day prepare them for jobs in a broad range of challenging and in-demand careers,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent.



## Award recognizes #BronchoPride

This fall, we launched the **#BronchoPride** Award, a monthly award recognizing Broncho students, parents, staff and community members who go above and beyond to exhibit one or more of the five Pride characteristics — perseverance, responsibility, integrity, dedication and excellence.

Each month, winners and their accomplishments are recognized at [hask12.org/district/broncho-pride](http://hask12.org/district/broncho-pride). The website includes a form to nominate outstanding Bronchos.

Holly Area Schools will announce additional initiatives to encourage #BronchoPride throughout the school year.



## Bronchos in the HEADLINES

### Fifth Grader Raises Money for 111 Wreaths for Great Lakes National Cemetery

— (Oakland County Times, Dec. 14)

### Holly Area Schools students showcase STEM skills at state event

— (Oakland Press, Dec. 12)

### Rhonda’s Brag Book: Gavin Palm

— (WDIV Channel 4, Dec. 9)

### Bronchos end season on high note

— (Tri-County Times, Nov. 29)

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).





The Broncho girls volleyball team poses after winning a share of the Flint Metro League title.

## Broncho girls volleyball team wins first title since 1994, second in school history

In October, the Broncho girls volleyball team captured a share of the Flint Metro League title — the team’s first league title since 1994 and second in school history. The lady Bronchos finished the season 9-1, tying with Flushing High School.

“I am proud of our team’s hard work and dedication all season that resulted in this historic victory for our Bronchos,” said **Deena Maher**, Holly High School girls volleyball coach. “Each and every member of our team exemplifies what Broncho Pride is all about — perseverance, responsibility, integrity, dedication and excellence.”

The Broncho girls volleyball team rounded out a successful season on Oct. 24 with a victory against Swartz Creek, capturing a share of the Flint Metro League title with Flushing. The Bronchos earlier defeated Flushing 3-0 on Oct. 17.

*“I am proud of our team’s hard work and dedication all season that resulted in this historic victory for our Bronchos.”*



## Legendary Broncho wrestling coach inducted into Hall of Fame



**Don Pluta, Michigan Wrestling Association Hall of Fame Class of 2019.**

Legendary Broncho wrestling coach **Don Pluta** was inducted into the **Michigan Wrestling Association Hall of Fame** in November. Pluta led Holly wrestling teams to numerous league titles and district championships, and several individual wrestlers to state championships over four decades.

“We are proud to have Coach Pluta represented

in the Michigan Wrestling Association Hall of Fame after 40 years dedicated to Broncho wrestling, our kids and the entire Broncho community,” said **Casey Lombard**, Holly High School athletic director. “Coach Pluta helped lay the groundwork for incorporating athletics into a well-rounded education here at Holly Area Schools that prepares students for success.”

The Hall of Fame recognizes high school wrestling coaches who have shown “extraordinary, exemplary and exceptional work compared to others within the sport of wrestling.” During his career, Pluta led the Broncho wrestling team to 660 wins, eight league titles and 12 district championships.

“Coach Pluta exemplifies what Broncho Pride is all about, and continues to be an inspiration to our students, teachers, staff and our community,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent.



## Marching band prepares for historic Ireland trip

Final preparations are underway for the Holly High School Marching Band's historic trip to Ireland to perform in the 89<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Parade in March. The Bronchos will be among only a few high school bands from the United States performing in the parade.

"I am proud of our Broncho marching band for demonstrating the hard work, dedication and determination it takes to achieve success on and off the field as we prepare for our performance on the world stage in Ireland," said **Ben Baldwin**, Holly Area Schools band director. "It's exciting to see our program continue to provide students with real-world skills that will serve them throughout their lives."

The Ireland trip will follow the band's performance at the Nov. 25 Detroit Pistons game against the Orlando Magic at Little Caesars Arena, and a record season on the competition field.

The marching band scored a season high 93.3 at the Brandon Invitational on Oct. 19.



## Bronchos honor local veterans at Veterans Day events

In November, Bronchos at every grade level honored local veterans during assemblies and special presentations, and heard firsthand accounts of the sacrifice and dedication of our men and women in uniform.

Holly area veterans visited Davisburg Elementary students and viewed the school's Veteran Honor Wall honoring active duty and veteran military members from our community. Students also wrote letters of thanks to local veterans and current service men and women.

"This was a unique opportunity for our students to thank our veterans and active duty military and meet one-on-one with those who have protected our most sacred liberties," said teacher **Aimee Schwartz**, who organized Davisburg's Veteran Honor Wall. "Our events also made clear the importance of giving back to community and country."

Patterson and Holly elementary schools students presented slideshows of local active duty military and veterans.

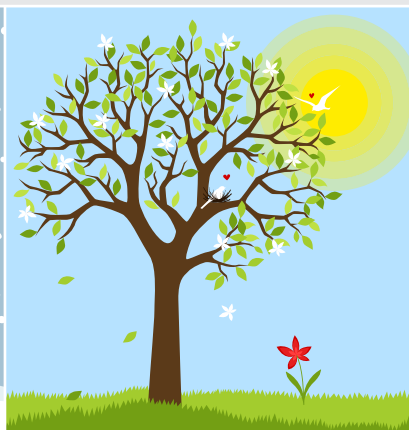
"During music class, our students learned about the dedication and sacrifice our military men and women continue to make for us every day to preserve our democracy and freedoms. We then created a musical program to honor all veterans and active personnel on Veterans Day," said teacher **Jean Bertram**.

Rose Pioneer Elementary students hosted an assembly honoring local veterans, followed by a reception in the school library. The students also wrote letters of thanks to local service men and women through the "Hometown Support of All on Active Duty" campaign. Holly Middle School homerooms also participated in the letter writing effort.



# Important upcoming dates

Date of event	Information about the event
Feb. 14, 6 p.m.	Snowcoming girls basketball game vs. Flushing
Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.	Snowcoming boys basketball game vs. Flushing
Feb. 15, TBD	Snowcoming Dance
Feb. 17-18	Mid-winter break
Feb. 18	All staff districtwide professional development
Feb. 21, 6 p.m.	Rose Pioneer Family Dance
March 11, 5 p.m.	Leadership/Sixth-Grade Orientation Night
March 13	Half-day students and staff, end of second trimester
March 20	Half-day students, half-day staff professional development
March 25, 6 p.m.	Professional Trades Open House, Holly High School
March 30-April 3	Spring holiday break
April 10	Good Friday holiday break
April 13, 5:30 p.m.	K-12 District Art Show and Empty Bowls, Karl Richter Campus
May 1, 6 p.m.	Rose Pioneer Elementary Carnival
May 8	Half-day, students and staff
May 25	Memorial Day holiday break
June 5, 7 p.m.	Graduation, Athletics Center O'rena, Oakland University
June 12	Half-day students and staff, last day of school





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