

BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Fall 2021



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District-wide summer bond projects helped provide a safe, inclusive learning environment for all Bronchos.

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Summer learning programs helped create the inventors of tomorrow, introduce students to the joys of reading.



Superintendent Scott Roper

Welcome to the Fall 2021 edition of the Broncho Press!

There has truly never been a better time to be a Broncho — and you’ll see why in this edition of the Broncho Press.

I’d like to take a moment to thank our incredible students, families, staff and school board for such an amazing start to the new school year. Thanks to you, #BronchoPride has never been stronger.

In this edition, you’ll learn about voter-approved 2018 bond projects completed over summer, including additions and renovations at Holly and Patterson Elementary Schools, Holly Middle School and Holly High School. These projects are yet another reminder of the generosity of our community and its investment in the success of all Bronchos. Inside, you’ll also read about our summer learning programs that helped keep the minds of our Bronchos sharp.

Also in this edition, we take a look at our new course offerings that help provide Bronchos with real-life skills that prepare them for in-demand careers. Those programs include our new Construction Trades course and the return of our theater program. These learning opportunities and more play a key role in providing a well-rounded education that prepares all Bronchos for the real world.

Again, thank you to our amazing Broncho community for everything you do to help ensure all Bronchos achieve and succeed. Working together, we will continue promoting a culture of kindness, compassion and respect that encourages #BronchoPride before, during and after school.

#BronchosUnited!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Scott M. Roper

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

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Bronchos in the HEADLINES

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



Holly schools welcomes students back Aug. 30

— (Tri-County Times, Aug. 25)

A message from the superintendent: Broncho community’s health, wellness top of mind as new school year nears

— (Tri-County Times, July 30)

A Broncho senior class like none other

— (Tri-County Times, June 11)

Holly Area Schools offering summer learning programs

— (Oakland County Times, June 8)



Schools receive major upgrades over summer

Thanks to the generosity of our Broncho community, we completed a wide range of voter-approved bond projects this summer.

The projects are part of our continued commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and nurturing learning environment for all Bronchos.

We completed safety additions and renovations at Holly Elementary, Patterson Elementary, Holly Middle School and Holly High School. The safety improvements included renovations of office areas at all four schools to help ensure safe and secure entry. To help ensure safe student drop off and pickup and improve traffic flow, new front and back parking lots were added at Holly Elementary, along with new sidewalks and lighting.

Failing exterior brick at Holly High School was replaced, new variable air volume units were installed, and the building management system was updated throughout the building. To help with the flow of students at Holly

Middle School, a new ornamental fence was installed outside the school. New carpet, countertops, sinks and windows were replaced in classrooms at Patterson Elementary and Holly Elementary.

The projects included several structural upgrades.

At the elementary and high schools, portions of roofing were replaced. At the elementary schools, select rooftop mechanical units, new cabinet unit heaters, fin tube radiators and digital signage were installed. At Patterson Elementary, a new boiler and pumps for hot water heating were installed.

“These projects help us continue to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment for all Bronchos as well as new and innovative learning opportunities that prepare all students for success,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. “We will continue to keep our community updated on our bond projects in the months ahead.”



All the world's a stage at Holly High School

Holly High School is proud to announce the return of its theater program and introduce



Lu Harding

Lu Harding, the high school's new theater and music teacher.

Harding is instructing theater classes at the high school. The program's first, yet-to-be-announced production is being planned for November.

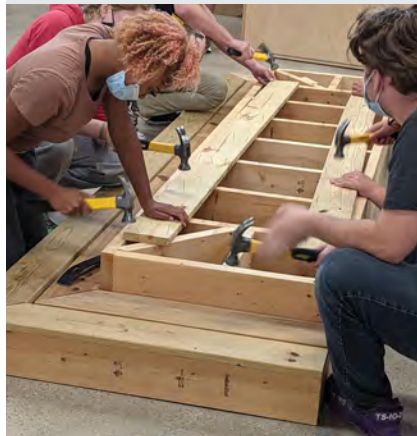
"I am excited to bring my many years of experience to the Holly community to launch a theater program that helps students explore their creativity and develop a love for the stage," Harding said. "I am proud to be part of ongoing efforts to provide new opportunities for Bronchos to develop an appreciation for the fine arts."

Harding has Holly area roots, formerly serving as entertainment director for the Michigan Renaissance Festival and vice president of the Detroit Puppeteers Guild. She has returned to Michigan from Texas, where she taught theater in the Denton Independent School District. She has also worked and studied music and theater in Chicago, New York and London.

"We are excited to have this fine arts program return to Holly High School, and to welcome Louetta to our Broncho family," said **Peter LoFiego**, Holly High School principal. "Our new theater program will help provide a well-rounded education that helps our Bronchos achieve and succeed on and off the stage."



Lu Harding's students do a variety of warmups to prepare for theater class.



District launches Construction Trades program

This fall, Holly High School introduced the Construction Trades program, providing hands-on experience that helps prepare Bronchos for successful careers in the skilled trades.

The new course teaches basic woodworking skills, knowledge and safety for grades 9-12, including hands-on experience with hand and power tools, opportunities to earn industry certifications and more. The program helps prepare students for in-demand careers including construction management, carpentry, architecture, masonry, heating and cooling, plumbing and pipefitting, and facilities management.

Construction Trades teacher **Anthony Ceccacci** brings more than 30 years of building trades experience to Holly High School. Mr. Ceccacci previously taught in other districts in Genesee and Oakland counties. Many of our Bronchos may recognize Mr. Ceccacci from his past experience in the district as a former mentor for the Broncho Truck Town Thunder Robotics team.

"I look forward to utilizing my experience to provide students with skills that prepare them for successful careers in the skilled trades," Ceccacci said. "I'm excited to make professional connections in the Holly community and collaborate on projects and opportunities that help Bronchos succeed."



Summer camps spur Broncho inventors, readers

Learning is a year-round activity at Holly Area Schools. It can also be engaging and fun, as students learned in educational camps held throughout summer.

Innovation Camp

Holly Middle School students developed board and video games, built robots and more at Innovation Camp. Students presented their inventions to the “Shark Tank,” modeled after the ABC game show of the same name. The Sharks were Holly Middle School teachers **Christopher Cole, Ryan Smith, Marc Loria, and Matt Weisdorfer**.

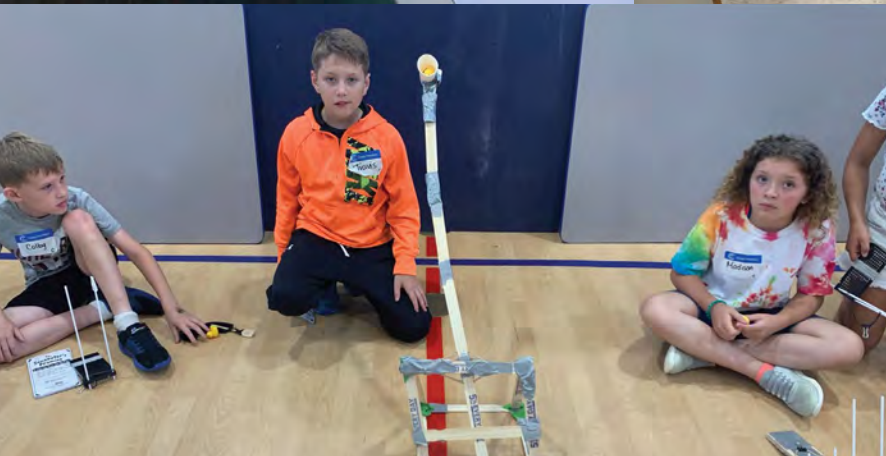
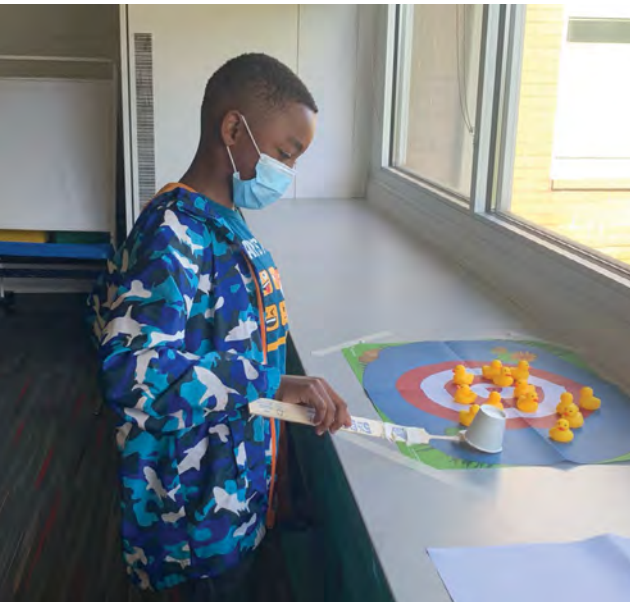
As part of the challenge, students requested an investment from the Sharks to start their business. Once the offers rolled in, teams negotiated terms and ultimately decided whether to accept or deny offers from the Sharks.

Camp Invention

Bronchos in kindergarten through fifth grade had the opportunity to participate in Camp Invention. The program includes hands-on STEM activities utilizing problem-solving skills to design solar-powered crickets, test rubber duck launch devices and more. Camp Invention is a nationally recognized program affiliated with the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Kids Read Now

Bronchos in kindergarten through third grade participated in Kids Read Now, a program that provides a wide selection of books over summer to spark a lifelong love of reading. A total 7,393 books were delivered to 930 students this summer, with eight books delivered per student on average.



Bronchos accept ST Math Challenge

This summer, Broncho Young Fives through fifth-grade students entered the ST Math Challenge with Jiji the penguin.

The challenges included “Become JiJi” and “Take JiJi With Me.” Students were rewarded with prizes based on their performance in the math challenge. This summer, students completed nearly 97,000 math puzzles. For every 10 puzzles completed, students earned one entry into the raffle for prizes.

Our Broncho mascot, Snorty, even made an appearance to deliver the final prizes!

This year’s ST Math Challenge was made possible by the support of our community, including sponsors Target, the Springfield and Holly Libraries, Hungry Howie’s, Captain Phogg, the Red Zone School Store, McDonald’s and Holly Donuts.



This summer, students completed nearly
97,000 math puzzles

HAS Health and Enrollment Fair draws 500+



The Aug. 7 Holly Area Schools Health and Enrollment Fair drew more than 500 people to meet with health professionals, enroll in school and pick up supplies for the 2021-2022 school year at the Karl Richter Campus. The strong turnout reflects the valuable partnership our school district has with our Broncho families.

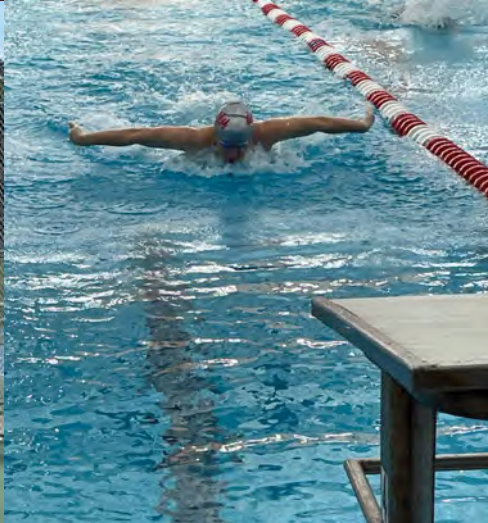
The fair provided a one-stop shop to help meet the individual physical and mental health needs of all Bronchos. About 300 backpacks were handed out to students and 430 lunches were served during the free event. Current and prospective Broncho families also had the opportunity to enroll their children in Early Childhood Preschool, Latchkey and Young Fives through 12th grade.

“I’d like to personally thank all Holly Area Schools staff and our health, food and other vendors for making this year’s fair a success,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. “Hosting the fair is a point of pride for our district, and part of our continued investment in the health and well-being of our entire Broncho community.”





The Bronchos are having a stellar fall athletics season! Pictured here, you'll see our Bronchos in action on the football field, swimming pool, tennis court and more. Go Bronchos!





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